

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2017
7:00 PM**

The November Borough Council Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 7:25 P.M. The Meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, Mr. Dominic Scott, Mr. Frank Besten, Mr. Vincent Cruciani, Mr. Patrick Williams, Mr. Bob Bennett, Mr. David Jenkins, Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe, Solicitor Kevin Hayes, Mayor Johnson, and Jr. Council member Will Carey and Nacole Leonhart.

1. WORKSESSION: President Carey

2. PUBLIC COMMENT President Carey

- **Introduction – Borough Treasurer Bonnie Flaherty:** Bonnie Flaherty introduced herself to the Borough Council. She is the Borough’s new Treasurer.
- **Thank you Molly Philbin/Pete Giermanski:** Pictures were taken. Gerrie Carey read off a thank you to Mrs. Philbin and Mr. Giermanski and to Clarks Summit and Clarks Green Shade Tree Commissions. Trees were planted at the Clarks Summit Elementary School. Molly Philbin thanked Council for the recognition. The quarterly sewer billing insert asked residents to call and let the Borough know if they planted trees. She wanted Josh Arp to thank the residents who did plant trees in his article in the Suburban. They adopted the island at Highland Avenue to make improvements. Talked to PPL as they trim trees along power lines. Got tree vitalize grant. Discussed possibilities for 2018.
- **Open TAN Bids:** Virginia Kehoe opened the TAN bids, 5 bids. Fidelity at 1.1% was the lowest bid. Ms. Kehoe will review the bids and update Council for next week.
- **2018 Budgets:**
- **Ordinance 2017-05 Quality of Life**
- **Ordinance 2017-06 TAN**
- **Ordinance 2017-07 General Fund Millage**
- **Ordinance 2017-08 Sewer Billing**
- **Ordinance 2017-09 Debt Service Millage**
- **Ordinance 2017-10 Fire Service Millage**
- **Ordinance 2017-11 Pension Ordinance Amendment**
- **Debt Service \$66,000 Journal Entry:** Ms. Kehoe stated that Janice noticed that in 2013 the Borough had made payment for the Debt Service loan, but the payments were made out of the General Fund. The Auditor in 2013 noticed this and made a journal entry. The journal entry is like an I.O.U. note which has been there for a few years. The Debt Service owes the General Fund \$66,000. Council can vote next week to leave it as is, no money back and forth, just write it off.
- **Borough Building Options:** Ms. Kehoe stated that remodeling the current Borough building would cost about \$890,000. The estimated cost for a new building was \$2.1 million. That does not count land development, etc. parking lots and landscaping etc. There are grants to apply for, need to decide which direction to take. David Jenkins

asked if there was anything in the plans for a new elevator. Ms. Kehoe stated that she does not believe that a new elevator is in the plans. Mr. Jenkins suggested looking into a new elevator. Ms. Kehoe stated that there are grants to look into. The plan does keep the police department in the cellar but it does remodel it and adapt it to their needs. Mayor Johnson stated that he doesn't think there is enough room in the police department. He stated that as a Council they should get a committee together to discuss this. He thinks when you are looking to remodel this building you need to do this building so it lasts for another 50 years. Vince Cruciani stated that if the police department grows he highly doubts that it will just be the Clarks Summit Police Department; Mayor Johnson stated that it would probably be regional. Mayor Johnson stated that he was talking about safety factors. The rooms are small and if you have a couple of prisoners down there trying to interview them that could be a dangerous situation. Mr. Cruciani stated that if you look at any adaptations being made, they need to be multipurpose. Committee members are Gerrie Carey, Frank Besten and Pat Williams.

- **Borough Manager's Contract:**
- **Sergeant's Position:** Ms. Kehoe stated that the Sergeant's position ends December 31, 2017, do we want to start the process to make a formal sergeant's position in which case the union has expressed their opinion on it because it would be an amendment on the union contract. Vince Cruciani stated that if they don't renew the Sergeant's position then there is no collective bargaining issue and that is what he favors. Council went into an Executive Session at 7:42pm. Council returned from Executive Session at 8:18pm. Roll call was taken. Bob Bennett said no, he has concerns, Vince Cruciani stated that he is saying no because they can always go with yes at any point in the future. They can go yes in February if the needed to. Frank Besten said yes, Dominic Scott said no, David Jenkins said no, Gerrie Carey said her position is teetering on if OIC would come out of the contract. Pat Williams said no, he thought the Sergeant position might be a good idea, unless there was a chance for 2 Sergeants, a Sergeant on each rotation. The tally was 5 no's and 2 yes's.
- **Tree at Decker Property:** David Jenkins suggested contacting the ABPA. That area is a center point of the Borough. Ms. Kehoe stated that she will update Council. This tree is not on Borough property.
- **Stormwater Information Session Wednesday (Feb 28 at 6:30):** Information session, see if Bob Naegele will voluntarily attend that meeting.
- **Resolution 2017-19 To Prohibit category 4 Casinos Inside the Municipality:** This is a non-issue. Mr. Williams suggested voting on this so it doesn't come up again. Vince Cruciani suggested putting it on the agenda for a vote next week.
- **Resolution 2017-20 State & Grove:** This is for the permit to not put up the mast arm and to put up the sensor on one of PP&L's existing poles.
- **Resolution 2017-21 Police Chaplin:** Dave Jenkins suggested they move forward with this and put it on the agenda.
- **Location of Handicapped Parking:** DPW marked out the area where the sign would go.
- **Heart & Lung Update:** Executive Session

David Jenkins stated that he is not in favor of closing the Borough offices on Friday, December 1st. He does not think that the Borough office should be closed to go to a Christmas party and the employees to get paid for the day. Bob Bennett agrees with Mr.

Jenkins to give one of the three departments the day off is not right. Vince Cruciani stated that the other two departments are with collective bargaining. Pat Williams agreed with David Jenkins. Mr. Cruciani asked if the new treasurer could come in that day, he has more of an issue with closing the office than with Jenn and Virginia going. Ms. Kehoe stated that she would ask Bonnie to come in on that day. Frank Besten stated that email was sent out on November 17, 2017, how many people replied to that email. Mr. Besten stated that he did. Mr. Besten stated that Council should have replied to the email if they had an issue with this. Vince Cruciani stated that he replied in favor of it. Ms. Kehoe stated that for the record we did not ask for this day, it was offered by Ms. Carey. Pat Williams stated that this does not make a good impression. Solicitor Kevin Hayes offered to cover the office for a few hours.

3. REVIEW OF DECEMBER 6, 2017 AGENDA

4. ADJOURN

President Carey

David Jenkins made the motion to adjourn the meeting.