

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 6, 2020**

The January 2020 Borough Council Meeting was conducted on January 6, 2020 at 7:00 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. Patrick Williams, Mr. Vincent Cruciani, Mr. David Jenkins, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mayor Johnson, Police Chief Chris Yarns, Solicitor Kevin Hayes, and Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe.

MEDITATION: **Mayor Johnson**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **Mayor Johnson**

OATH OF OFFICE:

JUDGE JULIA MUNLEY **David Jenkins**
Kathleen Simrell
Harry Kelly

JUDGE JAMES GIBBONS **Robert Sheils**
Shirley Skinner

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT: **Mayor Johnson**

Bob Sheils made the first motion to elect Gerrie Carey as Council President, vote was 6-0-1 with Gerrie Carey abstaining.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT: **President of Council**

Pat Williams made the first motion to elect Harry Kelly as Vice President, vote was 7-0.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM: **President of Council**

Vince Cruciani made the first motion to elect Bob Sheils as President Pro Tem, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF VACANCY BOARD CHAIR: **President of Council**

Tabled by Gerrie Carey

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL SOLICITOR

Vince Cruciani made the first motion to appoint Kevin Hayes as the General Solicitor, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON ABINGTON AREA JOINT RECREATION BOARD

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint June Burns on the AAJRB, vote was 7-0. David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Josh Mitchell on the AAJRB, vote as 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON PLANNING COMMISSION

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint John Durdan to the Planning Commission, vote was 7-0. Pat William made the first motion to appoint John Kazista to the Planning Commission, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE 1 SEAT ON ZONING HEARING BOARD

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Joe Axtell to the ZHB, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE 1 ALTERNATE SEAT ON THE ZONING HEARING BOARD

Pat Williams made the first motion to appoint Bruce Arrowood to the Alternate seat on the ZHB, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE 2 SEAT ON THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION –

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Bob Bennett to the Civil Service Commission, vote was 7-0. David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Gerald Seibert to the Civil Service Commission, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Pat Williams made the first motion to appoint Sally Mahady to a seat on the Shade Tree Commission, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE 3 SEATS ON THE UCC APPEAL BOARD

Tabled

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON LACKAWANNA TCC

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Virginia Kehoe as the alternate, vote was 7-0.

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Ben Pisanchyn for a seat on the TCC, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF EMA DIRECTOR

Mayor Johnson suggested leaving the EMA Director open, we have not received any reports or any follow ups from Mr. Ames. Council discussed having the Clarks Summit Fire Chief as the interim EMA director. Mr. Cruciani did suggest that the EMA Director should be paid a stipend. Gerrie Carey suggested tabling this. Mr. Cruciani suggested always having the Clarks Summit Fire Chief as the EMA Director and give that person a stipend. This was tabled until the work session.

LIAISON: ABINGTON C.O.G. Gerrie/Bob
LACKAWANNA C.O.G. Gerrie/Pat
SENIOR SITE COUNCIL Warren Watkins, Bob Gilbert: Council voted 7-0 to appoint Warren Watkins. Council voted 7-0 to appoint Bob Gilbert.
WALES/SISTER CITY Warren Watkins: Council voted 7-0 to appoint Warren Watkins.
ABPA (AB. BUS. & PROF. ASSOC.) Gerrie and Warren Watkins: Council voted 7-0 to appoint Gerrie Carey. Council voted 7-0 to appoint Warren Watkins.

APPOINTMENT OF MANAGER/SECRETARY

Vince Cruciani made the first motion to appoint Virginia Kehoe as the Borough Manager/Secretary, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF PART TIME ASSISTANT SECRETARY

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Jenn Basalyga as the Borough Assistant Secretary, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

Vince Cruciani made the motion to appoint Bonnie Flaherty as the Borough Treasurer, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER

Gerrie Carey made the first motion to appoint Jenn Basalyga as the Borough Code Officer/Zoning Officer, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CHIEF

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Chris Yarns as the Borough Police Chief, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF SEWERAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Gary Wilding as Sewerage Enforcement Officer, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF LABOR SOLICITOR

Gerrie Carey made the first motion to appoint Joe O'Brien as the Borough Labor Solicitor, vote was 6-1 with Pat Williams voting no.

APPOINTMENT OF ZONING HEARING BOARD SOLICITOR

Gerrie Carey made the first motion to appoint Bob Sheils Jr as the ZHB Solicitor, vote was 6-0-1 with Bob Sheils abstaining.

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION SOLICITOR

Gerrie Carey made the first motion to appoint Michael Cowley as the Planning Commission Solicitor, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR

Gerrie Carey made the first motion to appoint Murphy Dougherty as the Borough Auditor, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Colwell Naegele as the Borough Engineer, vote was 7-0.

David Jenkins nominated Jake Hoinowski as the Clarks Summit Borough EMA Director, vote was 7-0.

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by David Jenkins, vote was 7-0.

Mr. Cruciani asked where it is in the rule of order that they don't need a second for appointments. Solicitor Hayes stated that this is not a procedural vote but a nomination and that is why they don't need a second.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President of Council

- **November 27, 2019 Worksession**
- **December 6, 2019 Regular Council Meeting:** David Jenkins made the first motion to approve both minutes, seconded by Vince Cruciani, vote was 5-0-2 with Harry Kelly and Kathleen Simrell abstaining.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:**

President of Council

Kayleigh from Lackawanna County Public Relations Department introduced herself.

4. **POLICE REPORT:**

Mayor Johnson

David Jenkins made the first motion to approve the interviews for 2 new part time police officers, seconded by Vince Cruciani, vote was 7-0. Mayor Johnson stated that he would like to have another full time police officer.

5. **BIDS & QUOTATIONS:**

President of Council

6. **BOROUGH TREASURER’S REPORT** **President of Council**
Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the Borough Treasurer’s Report, seconded by David Jenkins, vote was 7-0.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Building & Plant** Pat Williams, Chair
- **Finance Committee** Germaine Carey, Chair
- **Grant Committee** Dave Jenkins, Chair
- **Recycling Committee** Kathleen Simrell, Chair
- **Insurance Committee** Vince Cruciani, Chair
- **Personnel Committee** Gerrie Carey, Chair -
resignation of Angelo Rudolphi and Thomas Leach
- **Public Safety/Works** Pat Williams, Chair
- **Recreation** Bob Sheils, Chair
- **Sewer Billing** Bob Sheils, Chair
- **ACOG Representative** Bob Sheils/Gerrie Carey
- **Veteran’s Banners Committee** Gerrie Carey/Herman
Johnson/Pat Williams: Pat Williams will be the one who is accepting the applications for the banners.
- **Building plans committee** Gerrie Carey/ Pat Williams
- **Additional comments from Council**
David Jenkins suggested the DPW go around with cold patch and patch up potholes.

8. **VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:** **President of Council**
Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the payments to be ratified, seconded by Harry Kelly, vote was 7-0.

9. **OLD BUSINESS:** **President of Council**
Solicitor Hayes stated that Sheridan Avenue field was sold to Mike Noto, after years and years of minimal use. Solicitor Hayes stated that it has been a hassle to get the quiet title. The county has relinquished any ownership of the property. At the December 2019 public meeting Council agreed to extend the deadline for an additional 30 days, Gerrie Carey signed an amendment to the agreement. Solicitor Hayes was requesting a motion to permit Council President to amend the escrow agreement to extend the closing date to February 26, 2020. Vince Cruciani made the first motion to provide the Council President the authority to extend the escrow approval until February 26, 2020 at the close of the Borough Council Work session which can be left open for that vote, seconded by David Jenkins, vote was 6-1 with Pat Williams voting no. Mr. Cruciani stated that the funds are being accepted into the Capitol Reserve Fund with the intent of having it go into the rehabilitation of the building.

10. **NEW BUSINESS:** **President of Council**

- **Resolution 2020-01 Police Withholding:** David Jenkins made the first motion to approve Resolution 2020-01, seconded by Vince Cruciani, vote was 7-0.
- **Resolution 2020-02 Fund Bank Accounts:** David Jenkins made the first motion to approve Resolution 2020-02, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 7-0.

11. **SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

Solicitor Rogan

Solicitor Hayes stated that the lease with Telespond expired on 12/31/2019. Telespond received notification from Lackawanna County Agency on Aging that they were not renewing their contract. We are working with the AAJRB to transfer control of the Senior Center to that Board. The Borough passed a resolution terminating our land lease which would basically say that the AAJRB has the ability to control the Senior Center. We have spent the most time educating Clarks Green on the operational costs associated with the Senior Center. The benefits of transferring the Senior Center have been explained. Clarks Green has not approved the termination of the lease agreement. Vince Cruciani stated that our position is that we have terminated the lease. The AAJRB’s position is that they cannot govern the Senior Center building without the approval of the municipalities. Mr. Cruciani stated that the Clarks Summit Borough is no longer the lessee is unilateral and fulfilled.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **Letter from Planning Commission:** Ms. Kehoe stated that the Planning Commission was upset about the vote on the crematorium. David Jenkins stated that their hands were tied because of state law, end of story. Mr. Cruciani stated that there is public comment at every meeting, ordinances are advertised, and they have every right to come here and stand in front of Council and say that they would like it to be sent to the Planning Commission before it gets voted on. Solicitor Hayes stated that the ordinance that we had didn’t conform with state law, and we wanted to avoid a situation in the future. The Borough did follow the MPC on that. There was a robust public comment during that meeting.
- **Letter from Joseph Riley:** David Jenkins stated that he didn’t even think that this needed to be addressed. Vince Cruciani stated that if he pays his principal he can be on a payment plan for the fees and penalties. This can be discussed further in February if the account isn’t current.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President of Council

- **Prior-** N/A
- **During-** N/A
- **Subsequent-** N/A

ADJOURN:

President of Council

David Jenkins made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 7-0.