

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 4, 2020**

The March 2020 Borough Council Meeting was conducted on March 4, 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. Robert Sheils, Mr. Harry Kelly, Mrs. Kathleen Simrell, Police Chief Chris Yarns, Solicitor Kevin Hayes, Mayor Herman Johnson and Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe. Mr. David Jenkins was absent.

MEDITATION: **Mayor Johnson**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **Mayor Johnson**

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 6-0.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

President Carey

- **January 29, 2020 Council Work Session:** Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 6-0.
- **February 5, 2020 Council Regular Meeting:** Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 6-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:**

President Carey

Dori Waters updated council with pamphlets for the Gathering Place and the essay contest.

David Moher from 530 Knapp road asked about the helicopters which here in the area in February. They were doing military exercises.

4. **POLICE REPORT:**

Mayor Johnson

5. **BIDS & QUOTATIONS:**

President Carey

6. **BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT**

President Carey

Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the borough treasurer's report, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 6-0.

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 – new part-time officer
- **Public Safety/Works** Pat Williams, Chair
Pat Williams stated that he, Bob Sheils and David Jenkins will meet Friday at 3pm to discuss road issues etc.
- **Recreation** Bob Sheils, Chair
- **Sewer Billing** Bob Sheils, Chair
Jenn Basalyga stated that there is a list of names and address where the water was shut off. Some of the homes were turned back on very quickly. The shut off list was updated.
- **ACOG Representative** Bob Sheils/Gerrie Carey
- **Veteran’s Banners Committee** Gerrie Carey/Herman
Johnson/Pat Williams: Applications need to be in by March 15th.
- **Building plans committee** Gerrie Carey/ Kathleen Simrell: There will be a meeting on 3/11 concerning grants.
- **Additional comments from Council**

8. **VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:** **President Carey**
Vince Cruciani made the first motion to approve the vendor payments, seconded by Harry Kelly, vote was 6-0.

9. **OLD BUSINESS:** **President Carey**

- **Lackawanna County Conservation District MOU:** Pat Williams made the first motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Harry Kelly, vote was 6-0. Vince Cruciani asked if this is binding, the answer was no.
- **CDBG for low income rehab:** Gerrie Carey stated that Jim Wansazk wants to discuss this. Vince Cruciani asked about using the money for ADA accessibility for businesses in the borough. Most businesses should be to code but the upgrades are not mandatory unless they invest so much money into remodeling for ADA. Ms. Kehoe would research this. Neighborworks was also discussed.
- **Haven Ln Parking:** Ms. Kehoe stated that the tally is 7-7. 7 to keep the signs and 7 to remove the signs. Solicitor Hayes stated that David Jenkins asked him to report that he (Mr. Jenkins) is in favor of removing the signs. He is a resident who lives on Haven Lane and he had said that his neighbors generally would like the signs removed also. With Dave Jenkin’s vote that brings the tally to 8-7 in favor of removing the signs. Years ago the signs were put up because of the high school kids and the lack of parking. The school did put in additional parking since then. Ms. Kehoe stated that the signs either need to be removed or replaced at this point. Pat Williams stated that this is a non-issue, nothing to talk about or vote on. Mr. Williams stated that this is an 18-20 year program, set up to work the sign replacement in as needed. Mr. Williams wants no parking on the street. The police chief stated that would be difficult. The parking passes at the high

school are for the juniors and the seniors. Mr. Williams stated that the 9th and 10th graders don't have parking passes and there's not enough parking for the students. Vince Cruciani stated that the 9th graders aren't old enough to drive. Pat Williams disagreed. Mr. Williams stated that if you take the signs down the students will be parking issues. Mr. Williams stated that he doesn't know why this is so hard to understand. Mr. Williams stated that 2 of the signs need to be replaced because they have graffiti on them. He stated that the street is too narrow and it is a residential area and there should not be any parking on the street. Pat Williams made the first motion to make the signs stay. Gerrie Carey asked Ms. Kehoe when the signs need to be replaced. Ms. Kehoe stated that retro-reflectivity was supposed to have been completed by 2015. Mr. Williams stated that is wrong stating that it goes 18-20 years from when the signs were put in, the motion was seconded by Bob Sheils. On the question Vince Cruciani asked if we took out the signs because we had to replace them but we didn't amend the ordinance for a trial period, is there any liability. Solicitor Hayes stated that there is an ordinance on the books and it has to be enforced. Mayor Johnson suggested that the Safety Committee look into this. The vote is to do nothing, no change at all at the moment. The vote was 6-0. The Safety Committee will look into this. Mr. Cruciani stated that if the signs need to be replaced for legal reasons, the ordinance should read that parking would be allowed in July and August as a courtesy to residents who want people over when there is no school. Pat Williams disagreed saying that the roads are too narrow for people to be parking on the street.

10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Carey

- **Replacement of Alternate on Zoning Hearing Board – Carol Rubel:** Tabled
- **Filling seat on Shade Tree Commission – David Gaspar:** Pat Williams made the first motion to appoint David Gaspar, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 6-0.
- **EMA Director:** Jake Hoinowski was appointed but he has stepped down. Tabled. Vince Cruciani stated that they need to create a stipend for the EMA Director. Council needs to find an amount for the stipend at the worksession. Artie Frank is a strong possibility for an EMA Director.

11. **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Rogan

Solicitor Hayes stated that at the last meeting the Young Lungs at Play was discussed and Councilman Cruciani asked if the ordinance was enforceable. Solicitor Hayes stated that smoking and vaping are enforceable in the borough. It would ban smoking and vaping (tobacco products) in playgrounds, parks, and athletic fields that are owned by the borough. It would be a \$50 fine. Vince asked about the health risks. Solicitor Hayes stated that there is also a littering issue. This will not apply public sidewalks and roadways adjacent to such. Also, remove facilities from the ordinance. Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to advertise the ordinance, seconded by Pat Williams, vote was 6-0. Vince Cruciani asked to see the draft ordinance before the final vote. This is for borough owned land and the parks and properties need to be identified. Clarks Summit Police Department will enforce this ordinance.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- **Planning Commission Year End Report:** Last year was very quiet for the Planning Commission except for SAPA meetings. Ms. Kehoe discussed SAPA timeline.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

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

ADJOURN:

President Carey

Vince made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Pat Williams, vote was 6-0.