

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2021
7:00 PM**

The January 2021 Borough's Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting is usually held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Council members Ms. Gerrie Carey, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Mr. Harry Kelly (7:06), Mr. Bob Sheils, Borough Manager Ms. Virginia Kehoe, Mayor Herman Johnson, Solicitor Kevin Hayes, and Jr. Council Person Ron Thomas. Dave Jenkins was absent.

1. WORKSESSION:

President Carey

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Senior Center Plowing:** Josh Mitchell, a representative on the AAJRB for Clarks Summit spoke about the plowing. Mr. Mitchell stated that it would cost the Senior Center about \$5,000 a year to pave the center. He is asking if the Clarks Summit Borough would be able to plow the center. We contribute to the AAJRB as we are the 2nd largest. It is a slim budget that they work on. He wants the borough to defray costs by helping with the plowing of the Senior Center. Solicitor Hayes stated that he was very involved with having the Senior Center agreement to have it transferred over to the AAJRB. For many years the Clarks Summit Borough took responsibility for the center. He wants an agreement between the AAJRB and the Borough for the plowing. The center is technically outside the borough and he would need an agreement that if there is an issue they wouldn't sue the borough. Solicitor Hayes is also concerned that if there are any other non-profits that ask for the same thing. He worries that it can open the door to other to other non-profits. Bob Sheils suggested each borough put in \$1,000 for the paving. That would come to \$5,000. Gerrie Carey suggested a year to year contract.
- **Letter from Mr. Blau:** Gerrie Carey stated that the concern was the wire that was hanging off a West Grove Street pole. The DPW coiled up the wire and strapped it to the pole. We should have a contract with the utilities so that if this issue happens again they will take care of it. Wire started sagging a few months ago, we called the utilities and the police, homeowners and DPW were out to check on it. It was not a power line so it was either Frontier or Comcast. They do not rush out to fix these problems. The question is if the borough caused damage would the borough be liable. Solicitor Hayes stated that he wrote the companies a letter, this needs to be addressed. Ms. Kehoe stated that if she had contact names and phone numbers to contact if this happens again.

Gerrie Carey updated Council about the Ice Festival.

Bob Sheils asked about the truck traffic on Sleepy Hollow Road. Chief Yarns might be able to give Council guidance. Identify all the roads in question and put them all into one ordinance.

Ron Thomas addressed Council. He was absent on 1/6/2021 as the Capitol Riot happened. He stated that he read an article about a local white supremacist in the Clarks Summit Borough. He wants himself, his family and all other minorities to be safe. Our local police are doing a good job but he doesn't think it's enough. He thinks we need more of a police presence in town especially along State Street. There aren't many minorities in town. The past year has been very difficult with the pandemic and the racial violence. Gerrie Carey stated that the Mayor can talk to Chief Yarns about this. Ms. Carey inquired about the article he read. The article was in the Sunday Scranton Times 1/17/2021, an article with Chris Kelly. Mayor Johnson stated that we are aware of it. There are more police patrols in the area and other departments are checking on it too. Mayor Johnson stated that they had a meeting with Lackawanna County's police and sheriff's department after the 1/6/2021 riots at the Capitol. He will talk to the chief and get further information. He wants people to know they are safe in the Borough. Chief Yarns is doing a commendable job. Ron Thomas asked about the security at the Borough Building. Ms. Kehoe stated that the Borough Building is on lockdown. We are not open to the public. If someone needs to see the staff, we will set an appointment. The general public cannot just walk in. That started with COVID and has continued on as deemed necessary. Gerrie Carey stated that we have a bulletproof glass at the window at the borough as well as steel office doors.

3. REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 3, 2021 AGENDA

4. ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned.

President Carey