

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 2, 2021
RECONVENED JUNE 17, 2021
RE-RECONVENED JUNE 30, 2021**

The June 2021 Council Reconvene from June 17, 2021 which was reconvened from June 2, 2021 was on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in Council Chambers, 304 South State Street, Clarks Summit, in the County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, Mrs. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Harry Kelly, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Mr. David Jenkins, Mayor Herman Johnson, Jr. Council Ron Thomas, Solicitor Kevin Hayes, and Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe.

1. **RESOLUTION 2021-12 CLARKS GREEN POLICE CONTRACT:** This was discussed on June 17th. Solicitor Hayes stated that Chief Yarns was authorized to negotiate a renewal of the existing contract with the Borough of Clarks Green. Chief Yarns had submitted a proposal which was rejected by Clarks Green's borough council. Clarks Green submitted a counter offer and Clarks Summit Borough Council majority voted to approve and accept their offer. The offer runs January 1, 2022-December 31, 2026. This resolution would authorize our Borough President to enter into a contract with Clarks Green for police protection. Harry Kelly made the first motion to adopt Resolution 2021-12, seconded by Roni Lopez. On the question, Josh Mitchell stated that the bottom line for him is this contract is terribly undervalued. Mr. Mitchell stated that he believes the Clarks Summit Borough was held hostage by our haste to get this done. He believes it was unreasonable to accept what Clarks Green countered with. Mr. Mitchell also believes that the contract was too low from the beginning. He looked at the budget and he wanted to ascertain what the Clarks Summit Borough residents spends on police serves vs what we are charging Clarks Green. He did the calculations and he believes that they are paying pennies on the dollar to provide Clarks Green the same level of protection that the Clarks Summit Borough residents pay. We have a 3% annual increases built into our annual police contract, we should never have gone below that amount as an annual increase on this contract. David Jenkins asked if the contract is the same concerning the time spent patrolling. The answer was yes, it's the same contract as last year. Mr. Jenkins stated that he thinks Clarks Green is getting a good deal with this contract. The vote was 5-2 with Josh Mitchell and David Jenkins voting no. The motion passed.

BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 30, 2021

7:00 PM

The June 2021 Borough Council Special Meeting was on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in Council Chambers, 304 South State Street, Clarks Summit, in the County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, Mrs. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Harry Kelly, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Mr. David Jenkins, Mayor Herman Johnson, Jr. Council Ron Thomas, Solicitor Kevin Hayes, and Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe.

2. WORKSESSION: President Carey

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Request to vacate “Grove St” – PUBLIC HEARING:** Solicitor Hayes stated that the Borough of Clarks Summit received a petition from the Emiliani’s who live at 431 Columbia Avenue, Clarks Summit requesting that a portion of Grove Street be vacated. Pursuant to the borough code, a notice was given to the petitioners that we would be conducting a public hearing. Attorney Greg Pascale represented the Emiliani’s. He stated that this piece of land serves no purpose for the borough; he thinks the logical result would be to vacate this property. Bob Sheils asked if the Emilian’s had any plans for the property. It looks like their side yard and they do maintain it. They may increase the size of their deck. David Jenkins asked if the Borough would be compensated for this. Ms. Kehoe stated that there is no actual evidence that we own the property. Solicitor Hayes will draft an ordinance and council will then be able to vote. They would be asked to sign a release.
- **Ordinance 2021 – 03 - No parking on Claremont:** Ms. Kehoe stated that this is up for a vote next week. A letter has been sent to the residents on Claremont Avenue. This has been advertised for a public hearing.
- **Insurance Renewal – Trident vs McKee:** Ms. Kehoe stated that this needs to be agreed on that evening and ratified at the meeting. Our insurance agent reached out to give a comparison on costs. There is a \$5,000 savings on going with Trident. Heart and Lung coverage is not covered in McKee’s plan and we have to have that.

Josh Mitchell stated that he believes there should be police regionalization. We have a window to do this with the chief retiring in 5 years. He believes that the Borough should create an ad hoc committee to study the topic and take it from there. David Jenkins and Gerrie Carey volunteered to be on the committee. The state will pay for someone from the state to work with the committee on prepping, studying and negotiating. David Jenkins stated that he would relinquish his seat on the committee if Bob Sheils was interested in it, stating that Bob Sheils could give another legal standpoint.

Gerrie Carey thanked Artie Frank for the flag and the sign right outside Council Chambers.

4. REVIEW OF JULY 7, 2021 AGENDA

5. ADJOURN:

David Jenkins made the motion to adjourn.

President Carey