

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2022**

Herman Johnson conducted the meeting at the beginning, before the swearing in happened.

JUDGE JULIA MUNLEY

**Germaine Carey
Josh Mitchell
Ronisha Lopez-Thomas
Mayor Herman Johnson**

The three above named council people were sworn in. Mayor Herman Johnson was also sworn in.

BLESSING

Msgr. Delaney

The Mayor took roll call.

The January 2022 Borough's regular meeting was conducted on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00pm. 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, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Mrs. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Harry Kelly, Mr. David Jenkins, Police Chief Chris Yarns, Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe, Attorney Hayes, and Mr. Ron Thomas (Junior Council)

Herman Johnson called the meeting to order. Councilman Jenkins and Councilman Kelly are participating in the meeting virtually in compliance with Section 1001 © of the borough code. An executive session of the Council of Clarks Summit was held on Thursday, December 30, 2021, at 7pm for purposes of reviewing the applications submitted for the position of Borough Solicitor.

MEDITATION:

Mayor Johnson

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Johnson

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mayor Johnson

Mayor Herman called for nominations for the Borough Council President. Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to elect Gerrie Carey. No other nominations were given.

Roni Lopez: voted yes

Josh Mitchell: voted yes

Kathleen Simrell: voted yes

Bob Sheils: voted yes

Harry Kelly: voted yes

Dave Jenkins: voted yes

Gerrie Carey: Abstained because Council president receives additional compensation.

The vote was 6-0-1, the vote passed.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT: Mayor Johnson

Mayor Johnson called for the nomination of the Council Vice President. Harry Kelly nominated Josh Mitchell, no other nominations were made.

Roni Lopez: voted yes

Josh Mitchell: abstained

Kathleen Simrell: voted yes

Bob Sheils: voted yes

Harry Kelly: voted yes

Dave Jenkins: voted yes

Gerrie Carey: voted yes

The vote was 6-0-1, the vote passed.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEM: President of Council

Mayor Johnson called for the nomination of President Pro Tem. Harry Kelly nominated Robert Sheils, no other nominations were made.

Roni Lopez: voted yes

Josh Mitchell: voted yes

Kathleen Simrell: voted yes

Bob Sheils: abstained

Harry Kelly: voted yes

Dave Jenkins: voted yes

Gerrie Carey: voted yes

The vote was 6-0-1

Gerrie Carey now presided through the end of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF VACANCY BOARD CHAIR: President of Council

Roni Lopez made the first motion to have Jim Klein as the Vacancy Board Chair, no other nominations were made, seconded by Bob Sheils. The vote was unanimous.

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL SOLICITOR – Mariclaire Hayes – Robert Cohen – William Rinaldi – David Cherundolo – Andrew Krowiak – James Greco – Kim Kost Scanlon

David Jenkins made the first motion to nominate Mariclaire Hayes as the Borough's General Solicitor, seconded by Harry Kelly, the vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE 1 SEAT ON ABINGTON AREA JOINT RECREATION BOARD – Josh Mitchell reappointment

Bob Sheils made the first motion to nominate Josh Mitchell to the AAJRB, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, the vote was 6-0-1 with Mr. Mitchell abstaining.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE 1 SEAT ON PLANNING COMMISSION – Bill Burnell new appointment

Bob Sheils made the motion to nominate Bill Burnell to the Planning Commission, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON ZONING HEARING BOARD – John Jeffrey and Geoff Brock reappointment

Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to appoint John Jeffrey to the ZHB, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0. David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Geoff Brock to the ZHB, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE 1 SEAT ON THE ABINGTON REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY – Paul Murphy reappointment

Roni Lopez made the first motion to reappoint Paul Murphy to ARWA, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION – Molly Philbin and Mark Taffera reappointment

Bob Sheils made the first motion to appoint Molly Philbin to the Shade Tree Commission, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 6-1 with David Jenkins voting no. Roni Lopez made the motion to appoint Mark Taffera to the Shade Tree Commission, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ONE SEAT ON THE IPMC APPEAL BOARD – Joe Guzek reappointment

Bob Sheils made the first motion to reappoint Joe Guzek to the IMPC Appeal Board, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO 2 SEATS ON LACKAWANNA TCC – Ben Pisanchyn and Virginia Kehoe reappointment

Bob Sheils nominated Ben Pisanchyn to one of the seats on the Lackawanna TCC, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0. David Jenkins made the first motion to reappoint Virginia Kehoe to the second seat on the Lackawanna TCC, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF EMA DIRECTOR – Art Frank reappointment

David Jenkins made the first motion to reappoint Art Frank as the EMA director, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

LIAISON: ABINGTON C.O.G. Gerrie/Bob
LACKAWANNA C.O.G. Gerrie
SENIOR SITE COUNCIL Warren Watkins, Bob Gilbert: Josh Mitchell stated that he does not believe the Borough needs a Senior Site Council any longer, Attorney Kevin Hayes agreed.
WALES/SISTER CITY Warren Watkins
ABPA (AB. BUS. & PROF. ASSOC.) Gerrie and Warren Watkins

APPOINTMENT OF MANAGER/SECRETARY – Virginia Kehoe

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to appoint Virginia Kehoe as the Borough Manager/Secretary, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF FULL TIME ASSISTANT SECRETARY – Jenn Basalyga

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Jenn Basalyga to the Full Time Assistant Secretary, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER –Sara Lodwick

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Sara Lodwick as the Treasurer, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT/ZONING OFFICER – Jenn Basalyga

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Jenn Basalyga as the Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, Vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CHIEF – Chris Yarns

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Chris Yarns as the Police Chief, seconded by Bob Sheils, 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF SEWERAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER - Gary Wilding

Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to appoint Gary Wilding as the Sewerage Enforcement Officer, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF LABOR SOLICITOR – Joe O’Brien

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to appoint Joe O’Brien as the Labor Solicitor, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF ZONING HEARING BOARD SOLICITOR – Bob Sheils, Jr.

David Jenkins made the first motion to appoint Bob Sheils, Jr. as the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION SOLICITOR – Michael Cowley

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to appoint Michael Cowley as the Planning Commission Solicitor, seconded by Harry Kelly, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH AUDITOR – Dougherty Murphy

Roni Lopez made the first motion to appoint Dougherty Murphey as the Borough Auditor, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0.

APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ENGINEER – Colwell Naegele

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

- 1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **President of Council**
David Jenkins made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.
- 2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **President of Council**

N/A
- 3. **PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:** **President of Council**

4. POLICE REPORT: **Mayor Johnson**
Josh Mitchell updated Council concerning the regionalization of the police. He suggested that the Clarks Summit Borough talk to Clarks Green Borough due to the contract between both. South Abington needs to talk to Newton, as Glenburn needs to talk to Waverly and North Abington. They need to be part of the study being conducted. There will be a formula to follow; therefore there should not be an issue with payments. David Jenkins asked whose idea it was to bring in the outside municipalities. Josh Mitchell stated that there was not one decision maker. The discussion was how they deal with regionalization without involving other communities. Mr. Mitchell stated that this is a data driven process. David Jenkins told Josh Mitchell that he appreciates the work being done.

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: **President of Council**
N/A

6. BOROUGH TREASURER’S REPORT:
December 2021: **President of Council**
Ms. Kehoe stated that the borough treasurer’s report is not reconciled as this is the first business day of January 2022. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:
December 2021 **President of Council**
Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the vendor payments to be ratified, Josh Mitchell seconded the motion, the vote was 7-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS: **President of Council**
Sewer Report – December: Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the Sewer Report, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.
Police Regionalization – Josh Mitchell: Already discussed
Resolution 2022-01 – Disposition of Surplus Personal Property: David Jenkins made the first motion to approve Resolution 2022-01, seconded by Harry Kelly, vote was 7-0. Limit of \$1,000.

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

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: **President of Council**

- **Prior-** **December 30, 2021 Professional Services:**
reviewing applicants for the borough solicitor.
- **During-** N/A
- **Subsequent-** N/A

David Jenkins stated that he would prefer to go virtual though March and possibly April. Josh Mitchell stated that with a hybrid meeting they could meet both virtual and online. Ms. Kehoe stated that she thinks that they should meet virtually, as she would have to be at the meeting if anyone was coming in to do the meeting in person. It ultimately is up to the Council President, Gerrie Carey as to how the meetings are to be conducted. Gerrie Carey suggested making the decision meeting to meeting.

ADJOURN:

President of Council

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was unanimous.