

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 5, 2024**

The June 2024 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, June 5 2024 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. Frank Besten, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Robert Sheils, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Mayor Harry Kelly, Borough Manager Ms. Virginia Kehoe, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak and Kevin Yetkowskas. Junior Councilperson Mr. McVety and Junior Councilperson Ms. Siddiqui were also in attendance.

Council went into an executive session.

MEDITATION:

President Carey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Carey

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

President Carey

Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Frank Besten, vote was 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Carey

N/A

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:

President Carey

Joyce Delonti, from 205 Marion Street went before council to discuss a neighbor who has put out muskrat traps. It accidentally caught a cat. Officer Kevin Yetkowskas was called to that issue. The game commission cited the owner of that property.

4. POLICE REPORT:

Mayor Kelly

Frank Besten made the first motion to hire Officer Kerrigan as a full time police officer with the Borough of Clarks Summit immediately, seconded by Roni Lopez. Bob Sheils asked about the civil service list and if anyone on that list has been contacted. Officer Yetkowskas stated that the position was advertised. But he was not aware of the members on the civil service list and if they have been notified. Bob Sheils asked if Officer Yetkowskas would recommend Officer Kerrigan for a full time position. Officer Yetkowskas stated that Officer Kerrigan has been an incredible asset to the borough for the past several years. He is police officer, an EMT, someone who is trained in the fire department and is well versed with fire company and ambulance equipment. Josh Mitchell stated that he thinks council is aware of the budget implications with the additional hire. He asked council to please bear those in mind as they go through the rest of the year. Steve Guza stated that he is not against the police and he is not against the hiring of Officer Kerrigan. He is concerned as

they are in the middle of the collective bargaining agreement. We are in a safer community than others. The police all have each other's back. One officer should not have that big of an impact. After the contracts we can act with more certainty. We will have to look into the budget and he would be vehemently opposed to a tax increase. Bob Sheils stated that we did have an executive session concerning the collective bargaining agreement, they are moving forward, but far from an agreement with the police and the DPW. For the first year officer would earn 75% of their base wage. 90% their second year and 100% of their base wage for the third year which comes to approximately \$85,000 - \$95,000, without health insurance and benefits. He agrees that we need answers to the unknown questions. Josh Mitchell stated that he also believes that there are still some unknowns with the collective bargaining agreement. Mr. Mitchell has taken the approach of can he get to a point where the range of what's possible makes him comfortable enough that he can move forward; he stated that standard has been met. Be believes that this has been an acute enough issue with the staffing level and to delay any further, he does not feel is advisable. He is committed to cutting what they need to fully staff our police office. He will support this. Kathleen Simrell stated that they have been putting it off and the chief has said he is short staffed and we need to vote.
vote was 5-2 with Bob Sheils and Steve Guza voting nay.

Accept LSA grant for police vehicle: Josh Mitchel made the first motion to accept that bid and we cover any unfunded balance from the LSA with capital reserve funds, seconded by Stever Guza, the money will go into the Capital Reserve

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: President Carey

2024 Paving – Award Pennsy Supply \$318,202.50: Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the paving award to Pennsy Supply, seconded by Bob Sheils, vote was 7-0. We budgeted \$350,000.

6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT: President Carey

March 2024

April 2024

May 2024

They are actual bank balances. They are not reconciled. The plan is for her to have them reconciled by the next meeting. With the motion they will be acknowledging what the balances are. Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as they are unreconciled accounts, which will be reconciled in 30 days at the next council meeting, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED: President Carey

MAY: Roni Lopez made the first motion to pay the bill, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

8. **OLD BUSINESS:**

President Carey

Sewer Report – MAY: Jenn Basalyga stated that she will be sending out delinquent letters at the end of June.

Trash report – May: Discussed the billing and aging. We have not sent delinquent letters yet. Ms. Kehoe stated that she will address this when she comes back. Mr. Mitchell stated that we have given enough of a grace period for people to pay their bill. Bob Sheils asked what remedy there is for trash delinquencies. Ms. Kehoe said that is a question for council. There are penalties built into the ordinance. Aging greater than 90 days is around \$20,000. We could cite people who have garbage piling up with the QOL Ordinance.

Resolution 2024-5: Pave Cut fees: Solicitor Krowiak will draft a resolution for next month. Table this.

Vote on new police officer

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Carey

- **Resolution 2024-06: Parking Suspension:** Frank Besten made the first motion to approve Resolution 2024-06, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.
- **Marc Altier resignation:** We do anticipate another retirement coming into our busiest season with the DPW. Bob Sheils asked for the end date. Mr. Altier has asked to stay on until we do not need him or when he sells his house. They can vote to accept the resignation and then they can advertise the worksession if we feel there is a need to keep him on and feels he is going to need it. Josh Mitchell stated that he is not in favor of advertising for a replacement yet. This is one of the variables they need to look at in the context of the increased police expenses that they have just undertaken. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to accept Mark Altier's resignation on June 30, 2024, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.
- **ABPA Summer Solstice special event application:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the event, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.
- **YouTube and Virtual Participation in Meetings:** Josh Mitchell stated that since COVID we have run all of our meetings on You Tube, streamed them live. He has been of the opinion that he has felt somewhat uncomfortable in the level of virtual participation that we have, that it has become a bit of a crutch. Solicitor Krowiak stated that You Tube is not required, it is more of a convenience. The meetings are open to the public and publicized. If council does want to forgo broadcasting the meetings live, council is able to do that. Josh Mitchell stated that he thinks they have leaned too heavily on You Tube when they don't need it. We should use this only if there is an extenuating circumstance. We want to be transparent. Bob Sheils believes transparency is the best form of government. He suggested discontinuing it for the short term, but he would ask anyone who cannot making it to the meeting, write to the borough or call and let us know that you like watching the meetings on You Tube. Josh Mitchell agreed. Josh Mitchell made the motion that the borough no longer use You Tube and stream for every meeting, unless necessitated to allow participation for a justifiable reason, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT: Nothing

11. CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing

N/A

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| • Prior-bargaining | N/A Last Meeting concerning collective |
| • During-bargaining | N/A During this meeting concerning collective |
| • Subsequent- | N/A |

RECESS:

President Carey

(RECONVENE 6/26 TO VOTE ON INSURANCE, POLICE CONTRACT)