

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 2, 2024 RECONVENE**

The June 2024 Borough Meeting was recessed and reconvened Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, and Junior Council people Mr. McVety and Ms. Siddiqui. Frank Besten and Chief Yarns were absent.

- **Insurance:** Ms. Kehoe stated that the borough can stay with Trident for \$52,635 or we can switch to McKee for \$67,041. Trident has dropped the heart and lung insurance. The \$15,000 difference would not even be entertained except that, if we switch to McKee, we will have heart and lung coverage for police officers effective immediately. If we don't, we will not be able to get heart and lung until October. We have worker's comp insurance that covers 2/3 of their salary. It would be 1/3 of their salary for 3 months. Roni Lopez stated that she does not want to take that gamble. Josh Mitchell stated that he thinks the gamble is worth it. If an officer went out on heart and lung, the borough would pay around \$7,000. Even if 2 went out that would be a break-even proposition. Kathleen Simrell asked how often this happens. Ms. Kehoe stated that heart and lung can last for a few days or a couple of weeks. Every few years we have had somebody out for around 2 years before it is resolved. What happened with Eric happened 3 times before, in 20 years. Ms. Kehoe stated that adding the workers comp to the current policy will cost something, but we do not have that number. We use CC Young and Henkelman as our insurance broker. Mr. Mitchell stated that the likelihood that we would have 3 out on heart and lung at the same time is very slim. Ms. Lopez agrees. We do not know what the additional charge would be. Ms. Kehoe stated that the choice is the borough goes with the lower price and go with the workers comp heart and lung or we are going to take the higher price to cover ourselves effectively immediately for heart and lung. Bob Sheils stated that it is the borough's responsibility to have insurance coverage. With any lapse, you have to expect the worst is going to happen. He thinks the borough should have insurance if something goes wrong. Josh Mitchell disagrees stating that the likelihood is we would end up paying a premium to protect ourselves from something that is not likely to be worth the additional expense. Bob Sheils made a motion that the borough switches ,to McKee for \$67,041, the motion was seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 4-2 with Gerrie Carey and Josh Mitchell voting nay. Josh Mitchell asked if we can ask our worker's comp insurer for a quote that includes heart and lung.
- **Adjourn:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Guza.

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2024  
7:00PM**

The June 2024 Borough Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, June 26 2024 at 7:25 P.M. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, 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. , Mr. Frank Besten was absent.

**1. WORKSESSION:**

**President Carey**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**President Carey**

Artie Frank. 409 Carnation Drive stated that he did not know there was a 5-minute rule for public comment and he was not aware. He apologized.

**3. DISCUSSION:**

**President Carey**

- Resolution 2024-05 Pave Cuts: Ms. Kehoe stated that council will vote on this next week. The committee that handled the pave cuts, Bob Sheils, Steve Guza and Josh Mitchell recommend that we go with the quote that we match with what Carbondale is doing. Ms. Kehoe did incorporate that in with Schedule A. If everyone is ok with that they can move forward and vote on this for next week. Josh Mitchell said that the ordinance has to be updated to reference and incorporate Schedule A. Yes, that is correct. Mr. Mitchell stated that this can always be reassessed next year because we need to see where we stand with the pave cut fees. This does not need to be voted on because it is a resolution.

Council would like to move the work session to July 10<sup>th</sup> due to the Fourth of July holiday. This would need to be advertised.

Josh Mitchell inquired about Mark Altier, Ms. Kehoe stated that he did sell his house and will be leaving. Doug Craig has submitted his resignation. He have 8 hours' notice before he retired. The DPW is down to 2 people. Brush pickup is going to happen less often, and it will be slower and the mowing of the parks is going to be tough. Josh Mitchell said this will be interesting as to what can get done with a smaller staff. Is there trimming on the margins that they could do. Ms. Kehoe stated that things have changed over the year and the spreadsheet with the hours and staff needed for the work is still accurate. Mr. Mitchell would like to see us drop from 6 to 5 full-timers. Then hire seasonal workers. Ms. Kehoe stated that the residents do appreciate the snow plowing. Summer is considered as the time for seasonal workers. We could move forward with advertising for one DPW worker. Steve Guza asked about contracting for snow plow drivers. Ms. Kehoe stated that we reached out to local people that had CDL's if we had an emergency. We didn't need them as it turned out. These are the options that need to be considered. We can advertise for one full timer and a seasonal worker. Leaf pickup is a 10 hour a day plus Saturdays. Josh Mitchell said we could look for a seasonal worker for leaf pickup.

Ms. Kehoe stated that we are getting caught up on the minutes. The treasurer is getting caught up also.

Bob Sheils discussed a dead ash tree on Highland Avenue. The tree is in the right of way. All tree growth in the row is the responsibility of the owners of the property, that has been an ordinance from 2006. Bob Sheils suggesting notifying the owner, Ms. Kehoe said she did and did not receive a reply. The tree is dead and dangerous.

Bob Sheils suggested some kind of recognition for Eric Williams. Kathleen Simrell stated that she was appalled by his behavior at their meeting, stating that it was horrible the way he behaved. Roni Lopez agreed stating that he was completely disrespectful. He was disrespectful and arrogant. Gerrie Carey agreed and said that he would not stand at the podium. Josh Mitchell agreed with Bob Sheils.

**4. REVIEW July 3, 2024 AGENDA**

**5. ADJOURN:**

**President Carey**