

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2024**

The October 2024 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, October 2, 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, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Steve Guza, Borough Manager Ms. Virginia Kehoe, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak and Police Chief Chris Yarns. Junior Councilperson Mr. McVety and Junior Councilperson Ms. Siddiqui were also in attendance. Mr. Frank Besten, Ms. Kathleen Simrell and Mr. Joshua Mitchell were absent

MEDITATION: **President Carey**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **President Carey**

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **President Carey**
Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 4-0.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** **President Carey**

8/28/24 Work Session

9/4/24 Council Meeting: Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve both sets of minutes, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 4-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:** **President Carey**

4. **POLICE REPORT:** **Mayor Kelly**
Chief Yarns discussed the grants for aggressive driving, DUI, and seatbelts. Ms. Kehoe stated that she was looking through her records and back in 2010, the police overtime was \$70,000 a year. We are averaging the same amount at this time. She gave the chief credit for keeping the overtime down, many years later. Mayor Harry Kelly brought up the extra high number of police calls within the last year.

5. **BIDS & QUOTATIONS:** **President Carey**

6. **BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT:** **President Carey**

September 2024: Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the Borough's Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 4-0.

7. **VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:** **President Carey**

September: Roni Lopez made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 4-0

8. OLD BUSINESS: President Carey

CDBG projects – Hillside? No update. We have until next fall to spend the CDBG money.

9. NEW BUSINESS: President Carey

- **Ratify hiring of new treasurer – Kevin Baumes:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to ratify the hiring of Kevin Baumes, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 4-0.
- **Resolution 2024-09 – Berkheimer:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve Resolution 2024-09 and authorize Gerrie Carey to sign, seconded by Steve Guza
- **Resolution 2024-10 – LSA:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve Resolution 2024-10 – LSA Grant, and authorize Gerrie Carey to sign, seconded by Steve Guza. Ms. Kehoe is working on a statewide grant, we have until November to apply, we can ask for up to \$130,000. This could be for the DPW truck and jackhammer that they were asking for next year. Bob Sheils stated that this is not a matching grant.
- **Accept resignation of Frank Besten:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to accept Frank Besten's resignation, stating that Mr. Besten is a great guy, and they will miss him greatly, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 4-0. He should receive recognition.
- **Schedule interviews for replacement – Gene Hallihan, Linda Besten, Doug Craig:** Steve Guza suggested advertising on the billboard and in the borough building. We are hoping the newspaper would write a public service announcement. We could do an interview for the worksession. They can accept applications, resumes the Friday before the worksession. We have 30 days to make a vote for a new councilperson or this would go to the vacancy committee, and they would make the decision. Ms. Kehoe will need to run an ad for a public hearing for the Comcast renewal agreement, that has to be at our next meeting. We can put in an ad for the new councilperson. Then Council can vote at the worksession.
- **Replacement for ARWA:** We need to replace Frank Besten's position with ARWA. Ms. Kehoe stated the Clarks Summit has 3 representatives, Clarks Green has 1 and South Abington has 5. It is a very important position. The representative does not have to be on council. We need someone qualified. Ms. Kehoe stated that she will advertise this. Roni Lopez suggested putting in the criteria needed when we advertise. The meetings are once a month.
- **Excess State Aid Deposit (\$101,056.96 vs \$71,000 budgeted):** Roni Lopez suggested putting the money in Capital Reserves, Bob Sheils disagreed due to the budget situation. Ms. Kehoe also stated that she needs the Finance Committee to meet about the budget.

- **Change in Worker's comp coverage – from MRM/SWIF to AmTrust:** Mark Young is our insurance broker and reviewed this and the coverage is applies to apples. Bo Sheils made the motion to accept the change to make our worker's compensation with AmTrust, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 4-0.
- **Change IT provider to MBC:** Ms. Kehoe stated that we have had some major issues with Site 2. Ms. Kehoe described a situation where the office staff was not able to work online, Site 2 said it was an issue with Comcast. Jenn Basalyga got on the phone with Comcast, within about 2 minutes the situation was resolved. Ms. Kehoe stated that the borough is paying them \$1,600 a month. We are beyond frustrated. We are not ready to take action tonight. She asked Solicitor Krowiak to see if Site 2 would release us from the contract early. MBC is used by South Abington, Clarks Green and Glenburn. They highly recommend MBC. We could look into the other people who applied to handle our online system. Mr. Mitchell may have more information about this. Solicitor Krowiak stated that he was looking into this.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

Ms. Kehoe stated that in 2009 the borough was sued by the Noone's' who live at 1000 Carnation Drive for stormwater damages. We lost the lawsuit and now they are trying to settle on the amount of the loss/the damages. Attorney Lavelle reached out again. They sent a letter asked for \$130,000. Our insurance company already offered them \$60,000. The insurance company is handling it. Ms. Kehoe was just updating council.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Stacy Frank:** Ms. Kehoe stated that Ms. Frank wrote an email concerning the parking situation in the borough. She was interested in buying a parking permit every year. Ms. Kehoe stated that she would look into options.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

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| • Prior- | N/A |
| • During- | N/A |
| • Subsequent- | N/A |

ADJOURN:

President Carey

Roni Lopez made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 4-0.