

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2025**

The April 2025 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 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, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Steve Guza, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak (via zoom), Police Chief Chris Yarns, Mayor Harry Kelly and Ms. Jenn Basalyga, Borough Manager. Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Gene Hallinan and Mr. Joshua Mitchell were absent. Junior Councilperson Mr. McVety and Junior Councilperson Ms. Siddiqui were absent.

MEDITATION:

President Carey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Carey

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

President Carey

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Steve Guza seconded by Roni Lopez. Vote was 4-0

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

0President Carey

February 26, 2025 Work Session Meeting

March 5, 2025 Borough Council Meeting

Motion to approve both sets of minutes was made by Roni Lopez Steve Guza, seconded by Steve Guza. Vote was 4-0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:

President Carey

Mark Cordell from Lackawanna County. Talked about many events happening in our local area over the next few months. Ms. Carey mentioned Clarks Summit Day at the Rail Riders on Sunday June 15.

4. POLICE REPORT:

Mayor Kelly

Chief Yarns stated the Aggressive Driving Grant funds are almost depleted so he reached out to the DA's office asking for additional funds.

- **New Part-Time Police Officer**

Personnel Committee recommends hiring the part-time officer interviewed. Bob Sheils made the first motion to hire the new part-time officer, seconded by Roni Lopez. Vote was 4-0

- **Parking Fines: \$5 Increase**

Chief Yarns suggested that council consider increasing the parking meters \$5.00 since they have not been increased in many years. Council expressed their concerns. Ms. Basalyga suggested putting the increase on the agenda for next year. Mr. Sheils suggested sending a letter to businesses for feedback. Chief mentioned he's still waiting to get information about legislation in opting out of the Civil Service Commission. He also discussed the radar issue is still ongoing for local police.

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

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

- **MARCH 2025**

Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Steve Guza. Vote was 4-0

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

- **MARCH 2025**

Roni Lopez made the first motion to pay the vendor bills, seconded by Steve Guza. Vote was 4-0

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** **President Carey**

- **Cable Franchise Agreement Resolution 2025-02**

Bob Sheils made the first motion to authorize Gerrie Carey to sign the Cable Franchise Resolution, seconded by Roni Lopez. Vote was 4-0

- **CDBG: Housing Rehabilitation**

Ms. Basalyga did not hear back from Joe Rovinski on this issue.

- **Clock Tower estimate**

Ms. Basalyga is waiting for the clock tower estimate from Coastal Clock.

- **Carol Drive Pavilion: Eagle Scout** – Ms. Basalyga said Josh Mitchell reached out and his son would like to take on this project as an Eagle Scout. Ms. Basalyga will update when she knows more.

- **Decker Property long term lease:**

Mr. Sheils mentioned he's waiting for the clock tower estimate to see if council is willing to and can afford to repair the clock, then he will speak with Mr. Decker. Ms. Carey said the Rotary wants to take this project on. Knowing that Mr. Sheils will reach out to Mr. Decker and discuss an easement.

- **IT Change – MBC**

Ms. Basalyga stated to council that the existing IT company, Site 2, has not been working efficiently for a long time. MBC has a prepaid block of time for \$3000.00 and then \$600.00 a month for service. It would be beneficial to switch to MBC. Mr. Krowiak urged the council to vote on the matter as soon as possible so he can give notice to Site 2 that we are not renewing their contract. Bob Sheils made the first motion to terminate Site 2 and, Roni Lopez seconded the motion. Vote was 4-0. Bob Sheils also made a subsequent motion to approve the contract for IT services with MBC subject to review by Mr. Krowiak. Seconded by Roni Lopez. Vote was 4-0

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** **President Carey**

- **Stream Restoration Grant 15% match – Resolution in May**

Ms. Basalyga met with Mike Fennick, our engineer, he said this project was introduced in 2018/2019 but not completed. Ms. Basalyga showed the council a map of the stream running from Miles to Marion Street and talked about the need for its restoration. The stream needs assistance. It has historically been a problem and is continuing to deteriorate. This project will realign and clean out the

stream, it will be armoring the banks, and restoring it to its natural flow, all of which will comply with our MS4 Agreement. Mr. Fennick prepared an explanation regarding the funding for the project with a grant for approximately \$300,00.00 and the borough will have to match 15%, which is around \$26,000-\$27,000.

Janine Port spoke about the stream jamming up around the Miles area and the necessity of it being fixed. Mr. Sheils made the motion for our borough engineer to seek the Stream Restoration Grant with a 15% match from the borough, seconded by Roni Lopez. Vote was 4-0

- **Playground Set**

Resident Amelia McCormack bought a slide and bumble bee two-seater for the playground on Lewis Lane. Ms. Basalyga put together an estimate of all the materials that are needed to complete this project. Costs would be around \$4000.00. Ms. Basalyga spoke with Johnson College to see if any students or class would help take on the project. Ms. Carey spoke with someone at Abington Heights to see if they can help with the purchase of materials and if students can help also. She stated work must be done during DPW work hours so they can help and oversee. Ms. Lopez suggested that in the future before accepting gifts, council should look at the logistics and costs associated with that gift. Ms. Basalyga will update council with information on the project.

Proclamation from 811 for council to sign. Contractors and anyone who will be digging in the area has to call 811. Ms. Basalyga will sign the proclamation.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

- **Prior-** N/A
- **During-** N/A
- **Subsequent-** N/A

ADJOURN:

President Carey

Steve Guza made the first motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Roni Lopez.