

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL
MEETING APRIL 30, 2025
7:00 PM**

The April 2025 Borough Meeting was on Wednesday, April 30, 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, Mr. Bob Sheils, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Gene Hallinan, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak and Junior Council woman Ms. Siddiqui. Mayor Harry Kelly arrived at 7:06. Mr. McVety and Ms. Roni Lopez were absent.

1. WORKSESSION:

President Carey

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Carey

Susan Dapsis from Clark Street addressed Council regarding the feral cats in the area. She asked if Council could assist in funding to spay/neuter the cats. The Council cannot help with that. She also sent Mr. Krowiak ordinances from other areas for ideas and he will look into them.

3. DISCUSSION:

President Carey

- Clock Tower – Rotary Club – Bob Sheils – Decker: Ms. Basalyga received a quote to repair the clock tower for \$18,000.00. She is still waiting for other quotes. Ms. Basalyga stated the Rotary Club is interested in repairing or purchasing a new clock. Mr. Sheils mentioned there may be people interested in donating money towards the clock. Mr. Guza suggested acquiring quotes for a new clock to compare prices. Council agreed. Mr. Sheils spoke with Mr. Decker and said he is willing to cooperate and would like to be kept informed about the clock issue. Ms. Basalyga will also get estimates for a new clock.
- CDBG money – Housing – **Public Hearing 05/28 before meeting:** Joe Rovinsky from Lackawanna County said that putting the money into housing rehabilitation would not be possible. The state tries to steer away from it. Mr. Rovinsky will research the housing rehab requirements further and get back to her. He also mentioned that the funds may be able to be used for sidewalks/ crosswalks in areas of higher age groups or lower income. Ms. Basalyga is waiting for further information on how to go about this proposal. So far some of this money has been used to work on the Senior Center and there will be upcoming projects there as well. The CDBG will hold a public hearing at the beginning of the next work session.
- Code/Zoning Officer: Currently Ms. Basalyga is issuing building permits but is still looking for a code officer to perform both jobs. Ms. Basalyga stressed how important the work is and how knowledgeable and organized the employee needs to be. Mr. Sheils mentioned he was told it is more clerical but that is incorrect. Ms. Basalyga explained the

duties of the job to the council. As of today, we do not have any applicants.

- Columbia/Waverly Ave Stop Sign/Speed Bump: Council would like to wait and speak with the Chief at the next meeting regarding this concern.
- South Abington Paving Proposal: JoAnn Pane from South Abington broke down the grant for Ms. Basalyga. An area of Noble Rd, (900 feet), Timber Lane to Teaberry, is under the borough jurisdiction. Ms. Pane stated it would cost around \$70,000 to complete this portion but Ms. Basalyga says that money would have to come out of our paving projects. Mr. Mitchell restated we are not under obligation. 17% seems to be the boroughs' portion, which is considerably less than the \$70,00 they have suggested. Ms. Basalyga will speak again with JoAnn and get more details.
- New DPW Spreader \$6880 – Use Savings \$5000 then Municibid: The DPW made equipment purchases and saved the borough \$5000 and therefore would like the council to approve a new spreader to replace its current one. The current spreader would be placed on Municibid.
- Electronics Recycling - CSE 05/03/2025, 9:00 am – 11am: Virginia Kehoe oversees the recycling event. Ms. Simrell will be helping also.
- Budget Issues – Taxes: Many residents have called questioning the high amount of the borough tax. Ms. Carey explained the reasons why Clarks Summit has one of the highest taxes in the area. It is due to the trash being included in the Clarks Summit taxes. The police department being 24/7 which takes up 30% of the budget. Also if we were to cut expenses, we would have to cut services for our residents. Basically, comparing the borough's taxes to surrounding areas is inaccurate and not feasible.
- SSES Sewer Specialties – sewer and manholes: Ms. Basalyga stated that this is just a heads up for council that the sewer Specialties Company will be going around and will camera lines and check manhole covers too. Mr. Sheils asked if we have our paving projects for the summer and Ms. Basalyga said that we do and everything is ready to be bid.
- Stream Restoration Grant 15% match Resolution May: Ms. Basalyga mentioned that our borough engineer has the grant application ready to be submitted by the end of May. Ms. Carey can sign a resolution to begin this work at the next meeting with a 15% match, which comes to around \$46,000. This money will come out of the sewer storm water fund, normally it would be used for paving, but this is a project that needs to be done to comply with our MS4 Agreement. The stream runs from Miles Street to Marion Street. Ms. Basalyga has all the easements written and ready to be sent to neighboring property owners. Mr. Mitchell again stated for confirmation that the engineer is submitting the grant and when approved the borough will have a 15% match which will come out of the sewer fund.

4. REVIEW May 7, 2025 AGENDA: No questions on agenda. Ms. Basalyga said she will acquire more quotes on repairing and also the purchasing of a new clock. Mr. Sheils mentioned June 15 is Clarks Summit Day at the Rail Riders Ballpark. Ms.

Simrell mentioned the Recycling event will be held on Saturday at Clarks Summit Elementary from 9-11am.

5. ADJOURN:

President Carey