

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
June 4, 2025**

The June 2025 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, June 4, 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 (7:06), Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Mr. Steve Guza, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Borough Manager Jenn Basalyga, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak (on zoom), Police Chief Chris Yarns, Mayor Harry Kelly Junior Councilperson Mr. McVety and Junior Councilperson Ms. Siddiqui were all in attendance. Mr. Gene Hallinan was absent.

MEDITATION:

President Carey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Carey

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

President Carey

Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Carey

**April 30, 2025 Work Session Meeting
May 7, 2025 Borough Council Meeting**

Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:

President Carey

- **Gail Reese-ABPA:** Gail spoke to council regarding the June 14th Summer Solstice Strawberry festival. They want to have a more consistent presence at the council meetings.
- **ABPA Summer Solstice Special Event vote:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the Special Event Permit for the ABPA, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 6-0.
- Owen McVety and Hannah Siddiqui both thanked council for the opportunity to attend the meetings as junior council people. Very kind words were spoken.

4. POLICE REPORT:

Mayor Kelly

Chris Yarns informed council that the Chaplin will be resigning. The borough has a state regulated Chaplin program. He will be looking for a replacement.

- **Police Car LSA Vote:** LSA Grant covers \$66,211. Police Car cost \$67,095.37. Total amount not paid through the grant = \$884.37: Chief Yarns stated that he would like to sell one of the old police cars. He believes we should be able to get about \$9,000 for it. Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the purchase for the new police car, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.

Chief Yarns discussed looking into grants for solar lit crosswalks. Josh Mitchell mentioned the additional costs that would go along with new crosswalks.

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: President Carey

6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT: President Carey

- **MAY 2025 :** Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

- **MAY 2025:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 6-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS: President Carey

- **CDBG Resolution 2025-04 vote:** Bob Sheils asked Solicitor Krowiak if he heard back from the County Solicitor about the language in the agreement stating that the borough shall pay anything in excess of the approximate \$69,875. Solicitor Krowiak stated that he did speak with Solicitor Don Frederickson, that money would come from the excess \$400,000 that the borough has allotted to it from the CDBG fund. He stated if the work was to go over the \$69,000, those monies would not come from the borough's budget. It would be taken from the \$400,000 which is in the CDBG funds. Bob Sheils asked if Solicitor Fredrickson was agreeable to putting anything in writing. Solicitor Krowiak stated that Solicitor Fredrickson said it was a moot point, due to the fact that the project will not go over \$400,000. Solicitor Krowiak agreed with that assessment. This vote is authorizing Gerrie Carey to sign the agreement. Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the CDBG Resolution 2025-04. Bob Sheils stated that he would be voting against it based on the language in the agreement that he finds to be ambiguous. The motion was seconded by Josh Mitchell, the vote was 5-1 with Bob Sheils voting no.
- **CDBG Cooperation Agreement vote:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the Cooperation Agreement, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 5-1 with Bob Sheils voting no.

- **CDBG Modification to CDBG Contract 2021 & 2022:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the modifications, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-1 with Bob Sheils voting no.
- **Decker Property long term lease:** Gerrie Carey stated that the Rotary Club is looking into a solar clock. Bob Sheils stated that he spoke to Mr. Decker and told him the Rotary will be in contact. Jenn Basalyga asked about the continued maintenance of the Decker property, the electric box and the 911 Memorial. The only PPL record was from 2016. Josh Mitchell stated that we should continue to mow the lawn if we have been doing that consistently. We should not spend any money on the clock tower until there is a written agreement. Bob Sheils will reach out to Mr. Decker concerning the property maintenance until there is some agreement. Jenn Basalyga will look into removing the electric box and replacing with one on borough property.
- **Clock Tower estimates: Fix, tear down, or replace:**
- **South Abington Noble Road Paving and Sidewalk Replacement Proposal Vote: \$15,838:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to commit to contributing to \$15,838 for the Noble Road paving project, which is a prorated number of the amount not covered by the grant received. Bob Sheils asked if Jenn Basalyga reached out to JoAnn Payne with South Abington Township to see if they were agreeable. They were asking for more financially. Roni Lopez seconded the motion. The vote was 4-2 with Bob Sheils and Steve Guza voting no.
- **Noble Road Clarks Summit Borough Sidewalk Replacement vote-\$2,430:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the \$2,430 for the sidewalk tie in associated with the Noble Road project. Roni Lopez seconded the motion the vote was 4-2 with Bob Sheils and Steve Guza voting no.
- **Approval of Municibid Sale: \$2,500:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to accept the Municibid sale, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.
- **DPW Spreader \$6880:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the DPW Spreader, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 6-0.
- **Act 167 Countywide Stormwater Management Plan-MOA vote:** Bob Sheils stated that most of the municipalities involved in this are located near the Lackawanna River with flooding issues. Jenn Basalyga stated that South Abington and Ransom signed on. Solicitor Krowiak stated that if council approves to this and agrees to participate, the borough would be bound by whatever agreements of the entirety that project would agree to. Bob Sheils asked if the benefit is the possibly get better grants and services. That was correct. The downside is the larger municipalities would have a more say in the process. Each municipality would have its own designated individual. Bob Sheils is worried that the stormwater needs in Clarks Summit may be different from other municipalities. Josh Mitchell asked if the borough can withdraw down the road. Solicitor Krowiak said the brough could not withdraw from the agreement. Mr. Mitchell stated that we are bound by Act 167 to manage the borough's

stormwater. This is an opportunity to do that in a regionalized way, which gives us the opportunity for grant funding. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the Act 167 MOA, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 5-1 with Bob Sheils voting no.

- **Representative for Act 167 MOA:** Steve Guza stated that he can do this at least temporarily. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve Steve Guza as the Borough's representative, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 6-0.
- **Eagle Scout Project vote and signature:** Josh Mitchell thinks this is good practice for council to approve this and he would be abstaining. Bob Sheils made the first motion to authorize Gerrie Carey to sign on behalf of the Clarks Summit Borough, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-1 with Josh Mitchell abstaining.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

President Carey

- **You Tube Live Council Meetings:** Josh Mitchell stated that we have had some requests from residents to start broadcasting our meetings again. We are happy there is interest. We discontinued doing so about a year ago and it was a unanimous 7-0 vote to do so. The question he raised was with the virtual participation by council members on a zoom meeting which was then broadcast. Our Solicitor provided information from the borough code which outlines what is permissible for virtual participation. Solicitor Krowiak stated that council would maintain decorum. Also addressing public participation. Should the public want to make a comment, we would provide them with a reasonable opportunity to do so. He stated the public would need to be present at the meeting in person as opposed to having public comment through zoom. Residents are welcome to send in a letter or email to the borough manager before the meeting. Solicitor Krowiak will draft a resolution for council that clearly articulates the rules for a live broadcasted meeting. Council could vote on this next month.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

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.