

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

The July 2025 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, July 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, Mr. Gene Hallinan, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Ms. Roni Lopez at 7:02, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Steve Guza, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Police Chief Chris Yarns, Mayor Harry Kelly and Ms. Jenn Basalyga, Borough Manager.

**MEDITATION:**

**President Carey**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**President Carey**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**President Carey**

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to move the approval of the agenda to the top of the meeting, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 6-0.

**\*Resolution 2025-05 – You Tube/Zoom Meetings:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve Resolution 2025-05, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

**\*Junior Council Vote: James Mitchell & Lauren Bartell:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve James Mitchell and Lauren Bartell as new Junior Council People, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 6-0-1 with Josh Mitchell abstaining.

**\*Proclamation for Hanna Siddiqui & Owen McVety:** Gerrie Carey read proclamations to both Hanna Siddiqui and Owen McVety.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**President Carey**

**May 28, 2025 Work Session Meeting  
June 4, 2025 Borough Council Meeting**

Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:**

**President Carey**

Resident Angela Buckley, who resides at 111 Sturbridge, expressed her concerns with the stormwater issues at her property. They have had this problem for many years. Jenn Basalyga stated she and the DPW Foreman visited her property the previous week. We believe that this area of the street does need a stormwater grate. The pitching in the area might be difficult, we may have to discuss this with the engineers.

**4. POLICE REPORT:**

**Mayor Kelly**

Chief Yarns is trying to educate the public concerning scooters. We are still working on pedestrian solar crosswalk lighting.

- **Part-Time Police Officer:** Gene Hallinan made the first motion to hire Jacob Wesolowski as a part time officer, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.
- **Hemlock Park-Solar Lights:** We purchased 2 solar lights for Hemlock Park. Chris Yarns is looking into replacing/fixing part of a fence at that park.

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

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

- **JUNE 2025:** N/A

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

- **JUNE 2025:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

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

- **Electricity Removal & Relocation: Quote from Walsh:** Jenn Basalyga stated she received the quote from Walsh Electric and has two other companies coming in with possible quotes.
- **Lackawanna County Re-Invest Grant Sidewalk Initiative:** Ms. Basalyga stated this grant can be pushed out for a year, we need more information before moving forward. We would need to submit a letter asking for the extension. Josh Mitchell stated that he understands we would be able to use CDBG \$ for this project. Mr. Mitchell does not want to approve this out of our general fund at this time.
- **Hogan's Heroes Quote for Installation:**
- **Paving Bid Vote:** Borough Engineers presented two possibilities for council to consider with the paving options. Mr. Sheils stated that our paving budget for this year is \$380,000. The lowest bid the borough received was \$490,000. Our option is to reject the bids and re-bid the scope of the project. Or council could accept Pennsys bid for \$492,000 to get them under contract, then have a meeting with them to reduce the scope of the project and create a change order to get the project back to budget. Bob Sheils asked if the change order will cost money, it would not. Kathleen Simrell asked if it has anything to do with material cost, we weren't sure. Bob Sheils thinks with \$100,000 worth of changes is a bit of a bait and switch on our part and he doesn't know how the other bidders

would feel about this. Josh Mitchell asked if council can vote to re-bid, open the bids at the worksession, and approve at the August meeting and still get the paving done. That would work. Steve Guza made the first motion to reject the bids, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0. Roni Lopez made the first motion to readvertise for the paving bid, seconded by Stever Guza, vote was 7-0.

- **Vosburg Stormwater:** Bob Sheils asked if the borough has to do this work, the answer was yes. This was not budgeted for but we do have money in our Sewerage Capital Fund account. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to advertise for this work, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

**President Carey**

- **Delinquent Trash Accounts:** Ms. Basalyga stated the only penalty we have for unpaid trash bills is through the Magistrate. Bob Sheils mentioned some communities sell garbage bags, he thinks that might be fairer for some residents. Bob suggested looking at how much garbage the resident puts out. Josh Mitchell stated they could look into that but that wouldn't be until at least 2026. He asked how J.P. Mascaro handles their collections? Mr. Sheils suggested looking into an outside collection company. If we wanted to change the penalties it would be an addendum. Mr. Mitchell suggested an updated late fee schedule, then pick a delinquent point where we would send the information to collections. Council discussed Solicitor Krowiak drafting a letter that would be sent out to delinquent residents.

## **10. SOLICITORS REPORT:**

Solicitor Krowiak discussed the issue with the approved budget and said there are two options. Council cannot amend the budget. We can shift funds from one line item to another with councils approval. Money needs to moved from one class to another in the general fund.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE:**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

**President Carey**

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|----------------------|-----|
| • <b>Prior-</b>      | N/A |
| • <b>During-</b>     | N/A |
| • <b>Subsequent-</b> | N/A |

### **ADJOURN:**

**President Carey**

Roni Lopez made the motion to adjourn.