PBOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
September 3, 2025

The September 2025 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, September 3, 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. Kathleen Simrell (7:08), Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Mr. Gene Hallinan, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Steve Guza, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Ms. Jenn Basalyga, Borough Manager, Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell. Chief Chris Yarns and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell were absent.

MEDITATION: **President Carey**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **President Carey**

1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **President Carey**
   Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.

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

   July 30, 2025 Work Session Meeting
   August 6, 2025 Borough Council Meeting
   Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 6-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:** **President Carey**
   Mark Spatz discussed the CDBG funds the borough allocated to the Hillside Park. The paving project has been completed. The borough does own a part of the senior center and the park. Statistics show the Clarks Summit Borough represents 35% of the usage at the Senior Center and the park. Request for continuing projects to the center. The Lakeside Pavilion has tripping hazards and safety concerns. The park needs the borough's blessing for this next project. Estimated cost is less than $72,000. It looks like this will receive the county's approval. They were looking into the borough's feedback. The deadline is February 2026. Mr. Spatz was there to answer any questions or concerns concerning this project for CDBG money. Josh Mitchell suggested council can show their intention to move forward with the project. Bob Sheils stated that they are in the "Public Comment" section of the meeting and there is nothing on the agenda regarding funds to Hillside Park. He stated council could not vote on anything as that would be a violation of the Sunshine Act. Solicitor Krowiak agreed council would not be bound to any agreement at this time. Solicitor Krowiak suggested putting this on the agenda for the worksession and the October meeting. Mr. Mitchell stated that the borough does not have another project that is near ready to be done at this point in time to use these funds. Bob Sheils disagreed

saying the borough has a solar crosswalk project that could be a viable option for CDBG money as long as we have our engineer involved. Mr. Mitchell stated that is a project that still needs engineering and a traffic study and that will be in no way ready for approval in that time period with those contingencies required. Mr. Mitchell stated this project at the park has most of the engineering done. Mr. Sheils stated Ms. Dempsey, a resident, came to council concerned about one of our parks. Mr. Sheils stated he wants to keep our options open. Mr. Mitchell stated that we can keep our options open but we have funding that is about to expire and we have had funding expire in the past because we played this game. Mr. Mitchell is tired of seeing funding available to our residents expire. Mr. Spatz pointed out the CDBG money is still available for different projects, the money can be used for different projects in the future also. He volunteers his engineering experience for the park. There could be multiple projects. We need to get our engineering involved. Mr. Spatz announced another project they are looking into for the Senior Center. There are quite a few maintenance issues there. CDBG funds can only be used for low to moderate income districts, most of the borough does meet the threshold for these funds. Mr. Mitchell stated that council has proposed ideas every year, the only project we have been able to fund is the door by our elevator.

Gary Rosencranc, 212 Bissell Street resident. Raised concerns as there was a path kids would walk down to get to the shopping center. The owner at 208 Bissell Street no longer allows the kids to walk through her property. Is it private property? Our Solicitor would look into this.

Mark Cordelli, Lackawanna County Public Relations Representative provided council with list of events happening.

A resident from Depot Street complained about parking at his apartment. He stated the South Abington police department parks in his spot frequently. Bob Sheils suggested he speak to his landlord.

Susan Dapsis asked about the assessment. She asked if the meetings concerning the budget and taxes would be public. The answer was yes; the meetings would be public.

Mark Spatz mentioned South Abington Township submitted an application to pave and extend sidewalk from library down past Hillside Park to the main entrance at the park. That would formalize a walking path from the library down. That is part of a multi-modal $3,000,000 project. The park is also looking to connect a walking path from the high school to Gravel Pond Road to make some connectivity there. The connection on Grove Street where the sidewalk ends near Clarks Summit Elementary in the borough, up to the library is on his radar for possible funding. Making that connection would make a nice big loop for walking the borough.

4. POLICE REPORT: Mayor Kelly

Chief Yarns was absent for the meeting. Josh Mitchell inquired about the overtime in August. Jenn Basalyga stated Chris Yarns advised there was quite a bit of training and vacation hours in August. Mr. Mitchell stated that his concern is with the overtime being high.

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: President Carey

6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT: President Carey

- **AUGUST 2025:** Roni Lopez made the first motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0.

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED: President Carey

- **AUGUST 2025: N/A**

Council went into an Executive Session:
Council returned from an Executive Session:

8. OLD BUSINESS: President Carey

- **Resolution 2025-06 – Berkheimer:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to appoint Jenn Basalyga as the liaison between Berkheimer and the borough, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.
- **Trash Delinquency Collections:** Jenn Basalyga stated the trash delinquency at this point has about 250 residents with about $51,000 delinquency.
- **SAPA Committees Vote: John Kazista, John Jeffrey:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to appoint John Jeffrey as the lead representative for the borough SAPA representative with John Kazista as alternate, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.
- **Clock Tower: Deed**
- **Cross Walks – Engineer:** Jenn Basalyga stated the borough needs an engineer for the solar crosswalk grant; the engineering fees would not be paid with CDBG monies. Josh Mitchell suggested initiating the process of receiving a quote from CNA. Bob Sheils also suggested asking Bob Naegele to inquire about using CDBG funds at Hemlock Park. Josh Mitchell stated we need Mr. Naegele to start working with Joe Rovinsky to prepare the documentation he needs to get the pre-approval.

Steve Guza commented on an email received from a resident concerning painting a crosswalk in rainbow colors. Mr. Guza stated that in the US it is required that all crosswalks be painted white because of visibility issues also because of liability issues. He stated this is becoming political. If we do for one we would have to do for another, etc. He suggested not altering crosswalks in any way in the borough. Kathleen Simrell asked Solicitor

Krowiak if the information about the crosswalks having to be white is correct. Solicitor Krowiak stated he would look into the federal guidelines.

Bob Sheils stated the 2025 budget is unaudited, but it seems like we have an issue with our estimate for the cost of health insurance. It was under budget we need the audit completed to get solid numbers. He asked if the borough is going to run out of money. The answer was no. For next year, the numbers will be updated and correct. The Finance Committee should meet in late September.

9. NEW BUSINESS: **President Carey**

- **MMO Police and Non-Uniform:** Act 205 Funding Obligation for 2026 these are mandated numbers that cannot be changed. Josh Michell made the first motion to authorize Gerrie Carey to sign the MMO's for both police and non-uniform personnel, seconded by Roni Lopez, vote was 7-0.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Jennifer Skerel: Rainbow crosswalk:** Above. We asked our Solicitor to look into this and the practicality of it.

Chasing Dreams for Chase Yarns 5K Run/2M Walk: Gerrie Carey asked council to help out wherever needed for the event.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS: **President Carey**

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

ADJOURN: **President Carey**

Roni Lopez made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Josh Mitchell.