

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL
MEETING September 24, 2025
7:00 PM**

The September 2025 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, September 24, 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. Joshua Mitchell, Mr. Robert Sheils, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Ms. Jenn Basalyga, Borough Manager, and Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell. Roni Lopez, Steve Guza, and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell were absent.

1. WORKSESSION: President Carey

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: President Carey

A resident inquired about getting a rainbow crosswalk in the borough. She sent an email previously. She read a statement providing reasons for her request. Loring Skerel also spoke about the subject. He is in favor. Discussed his reasoning, specifically examples of racism. Gerrie Carey stated the borough was the first in Lackawanna County to have a black mayor and council member. We have always had open arms. Kathleen Simrell stated that she has 2 black children, and she thanked him and appreciated his words.

Luke Dubois spoke to council concerning his willingness to volunteer with the SAPA committee. He has a background in city planning, a master's in city planning from University of Utah, and a long-range planner. He wanted to get involved in local planning. Bob Sheils complimented Mr. Dubois on his resume.

3. DISCUSSION: President Carey

- Mark Spatz-CDBG Funding: N/A
- Luke Dubois: SAPA Committee:
- SAPA Committee: John Kazista & Luke Dubois: Council will vote next week.
- Solar Crosswalk – Colwell Naegele Engineering Submission and Resolution: Josh Mitchell asked Jenn Basalyga to reach out to Joe Rovinsky and ask if he can come to our meeting next week to answer questions for us. Council needs to make decisions about the CDBG money and timing of projects. He questioned why did the county give us a resolution for the solar crosswalks when the project on the pavilion project is further along. The work at Hillside Park has the engineering costs covered, the borough does not. Our costs need to be budgeted. He would not feel comfortable voting on this resolution next week until we know what number we need to put into our budget to cover this project. We do have expiring funds that need to be acted on quickly and the pavilion project is a better one to spend it on.

- Bissell Street property – Private Property-Council was advised to not get involved in a private property dispute.
- Decker property: Solicitor Krowiak stated he spoke to Mr. Decker on the phone and extended the proposal relative to the easements for a set price. He was not interested in that. He seems closer to selling it. Mr. Decker would only negotiate with the sewer billing. Bob Sheils inquired about the numbers involved in removing the clock tower and the electric box. Jenn Basalyg is communicating with Walsh Electric for a quote to remove the electrical box also. We received a price of about \$2,200 to remove the clock and the concrete and re-seed. Mr. Sheils asked about the 911 Memorial. There is no update at this time. The first step is accessing the electricity on the Decker property for this year. Solicitor Krowiak will advise the next step at the next meeting. Josh Mitchell suggested informing Mr. Decker that the borough would no longer be responsible for maintaining his property once the property is restored to its original condition. Mr. Mitchell thinks the borough should communicate to Mr. Decker that our intention to budget in 2026 to remove the clock tower and the other improvements then return the property to its original condition, let him know then the borough is not under any obligation to maintain the property, he should plan for that. Solicitor Krowiak will reach out to Mr. Decker. Mr. Decker has long standing issues with the borough's sewer bill.
- Christmas Lights-Snowflake 2025: If we are allowed access, we will put up the snowflake.
- Electrical Box Access – Quote for Removal
- 911 Memorial: Gerrie will reach out to the DeFazios.
- Rainbow Crosswalk: Gerrie Carey stated we cannot put this on State Street, asked if there is any place they are suggesting. The group would possibly have a fundraiser to raise money for the crosswalk or another symbol. Solicitor Krowiak stated that based on state and federal guidelines it's discouraged based on keeping continuity of cross walks. It is not strictly prohibited. Council needs to take the state and federal guidelines into consideration. The resident was looking into alternative symbols. Council urged the residents to alert council if they have another suggestion. Josh Mitchell stated if we take a "do no harm" approach to it, he is in favor of symbols/displays of tolerance. But the "do no harm" is important both a business and safety standpoint. There are a lot of practical considerations to think through that make it complicated and cost issues.
- Bike Racks: Council received an email with a request for bike racks in the borough. Council suggested Jenn Basalyga forward the email to the ABPA. How much demand is there in this. It would probably be up to the businesspeople to implement the bike racks.

4. REVIEW OCTOBER 1, 2025 AGENDA

Bob Sheils asked about the OLP SRO on the agenda. Jenn Basalyga stated Chris Yarns was approached by OLP as they were looking into a school resource officer. This is early in discussions. Bob Sheils asked if both the solar crosswalk project and the Hillside Park project be done of them. Mr. Mitchell stated there is still 6 figures worth of funds available. It's only a

matter of timing. We have one set of expiring funds that need to be spent. The other projects in discussion can be done next year, and we still have funds available after that.

5. ADJOURN:

President Carey