

**PBOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
October 1, 2025**

The October 2025 Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, October 1, 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, Mr. Josh Mitchell (audio only), Mr. Gene Hallinan, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Steve Guza, Chief Chris Yarns, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell. Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell and Ms. Roni Lopez were absent.

**MEDITATION:**

**President Carey**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**President Carey**

**Joe Krott Fire Chief – Available Police Car Discussion/Vote:** Mr. Krott discussed the possible acquisition of the soon to be retired police car. He stated it would serve the fire company very well. They can use that vehicle for the responding paramedic unit. Bob Sheils asked if they were looking to buy the vehicle? Mr. Krott said he is sure they could work out something financially. They would appreciate it if council decided to donate the car. Steve Guza asked if there is an issue with the police lights being blue and the fire company needing red lights. Chief Yarns stated the lights can be reprogrammed. They would modify the lettering. Chief Yarns stated the police vehicle should be ready in a few weeks. Bob Sheils stated the fire company is its own entity, it's not part of the borough. Traditionally, the borough auctions off the vehicle for the most amount of money we can get, for the taxpayers. Mr. Sheils stated he is a little leery donating it to them, suggesting the borough could look into this. His concern with setting a bad precedent and possibly collusion. Mr. Sheils stated that as close as the fire company is and how much they are appreciated, the fire company is its own entity. Mr. Krott stated he understands the situation. Kathleen Simrell stated she does like this idea and appreciates the fire company, Gene Hallinan, Gerrie Carey and Chief Yarns agreed. Solicitor Krowiak will look into this and let council know.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**President Carey**

Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 6-0.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**President Carey**

**August 27, 2025 Work Session Meeting  
September 3, 2025 Borough Council Meeting  
September 24, 2025 Worksession**

Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 6-0.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:**

**President Carey**

Gail Reese with the ABPA discussed the email they received concerning bike racks. They will explore the idea and see if there is something they can do. She also mentioned America PA 250. Asked if we have a committee.

**4. POLICE REPORT:**

**Mayor Kelly**

- **OLP SRO:** Our Lady of Peace is looking for a part-time school resource officer. The police union is not opposed to it. It will be up to council. Chief Yarns will facilitate a meeting with all involved.

Bob Sheils stated he went to a council of borough's meeting, and DA Brian Gallagher spoke about a program for community service. Solicitor Krowiak stated there is a liaison between the DA's office and the community.

Chief Yarns discussed the water tower in Clarks Green Borough repairs. This will interfere with the police radios for a short time. There is no cost to the borough.

Chief Yarns mentioned the successful 5 K run and walk in memory of his son Chase. Many participants and volunteers attended.

**5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS:**

**President Carey**

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

**President Carey**

- **SEPTEMBER 2025 N/A**

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

- **AUGUST 2025**
- **SEPTEMBER 2025**

Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the vendor payments, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 6-0.

**8. OLD BUSINESS:**

**President Carey**

- **CDBG Funding Available:** Information was provided with the monies left which come to around a half of a million dollars. Josh Mitchell stated that the resolution on the agenda is to accept the 2025 allocation, we've done that through the years without naming a project, this year the procedure changed. The solar crosswalk project which is named this year does not take precedence over other projects. Josh is not sure why it is taking so long to get the other projects at the park approved by the state. We are waiting for the approval so council can vote on the resolution which allows the county to bid out the project. Then another resolution to approve the low bidder. Solicitor Krowiak stated that he also spoke to Joe

Rovinsky, there are approximately 8 steps to this process of getting the funds dispersed. Solicitor Krowiak also stated that this resolution is one of the first steps. Although the resolution does identify a project, as the recipient of the funds, this could be amended. He recommends council to vote on the resolution to make the funds available to us as CDBG funds.

- **Mark Spatz: CDBG Pavilion Funding Vote:** Mark Spatz provided information showing when CDBG funds will expire. An extension request has been submitted. He stated they submitted an application for the Lakeside Pavillion project and Senior Center repair project for uses for the CDBG funds. He was looking for the borough's approval to move ahead with these projects. There is no resolution at this time. Josh Mitchell stated there is ample money for these two projects along with the solar crosswalk project and a pretty good sum of money left over. The only eligible programs are senior programs, and handicapped improvements. Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to approve the 3 projects; the Lakeside Pavillion, the Senior Center repair project and the Solar Crosswalk project, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.
- **SAPA Committees Vote: John Kazista, Luke Dubois:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to appoint John Kazista to the SAPA Committee, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0. Bob Sheils made the first motion to appoint Luke Dubois as the alternate to the SAPA Committee, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.
- **CDBG – Resolution 2025-7 Solar Crosswalk:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve Resolution 2025-07, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 6-0.
- **CNA Estimate – Engineering Fees:** Jenn Basalyga stated the engineering fees for the solar crosswalks will be budgeted for in 2026.
- **Decker Property: Christmas Lights Access:** Solicitor Krowiak stated he had an opportunity to review the agreement, and that agreement allows us access to the electrical box for this year. Council will need to discuss their objective for the removal and replacement of the electrical box. Bob Sheils addressed Gail Reese with the ABPA concerning the Decker property and the clock tower. Explaining the Rotary Club is looking into a new clock tower. But we were not able to obtain an easement from Mr. Decker. Council is looking to remove the clock tower, the electricity and the 911 Memorial.
- **Walsh Electric Quote:** The updated quote was \$5,600 to remove and replace the electrical box.
- **Holgate's Heroes Quote:** I reached out to them to update the quote to remove the clock and concrete. Also, the 911 Memorial was discussed. Gerrie discussed moving the 911 Memorial to Veteran's Park.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

President Carey

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

**11. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

**President Carey**

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

**ADJOURN:**

**President Carey**

Kathleen Simrell made the motion to adjourn