

BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
January 28, 2026
7:00 PM

The January 2026 Borough Meeting was on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, 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, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Mr. Bob Sheils, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Ms. Susan Grady, Borough Manager Jenn Basalyga, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Junior Council people Mr. James Mitchell and Ms. Lauren Bartell. Mr. Steve Guza was absent.

1. WORKSESSION: President Carey

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: President Carey

- **TCC Appointment:** Jenn Basalyga stated we are still looking for a volunteer.
- **Civil Service Committee:** They will be meeting on February 2nd to begin the Civil Service test process.
- **W. Grove Bridge Sidewalks:** Josh Mitchell stated he spoke with Dr. Schaffer with AHSD. Their maintenance person would be willing to shovel the walk for us and the borough would need to salt it, which they have clearly done in the past. Solicitor Krowiak will put together an MOU to clear the south side of the bridge. AHSD would in turn be able to utilize borough equipment. Jenn Basalyga did not receive an answer back from Bedford Tower concerning the request to clear the north side of the bridge.
- **Resolution 2026-02 amend to Resolution 2026-06 \$408,009:** Will be on the agenda next week.
- **Resolution 2026-04 Mills - revised to Resolution 2026-07:** Will be on the agenda next week.
- **Ordinance 2026-01 – COLA:** Jenn Basalyga did advertise for this ordinance. Bob Sheils stated this is the COLA for the police pension that will amount to \$80,000 the borough would have to contribute. Josh Mitchell asked if this was in our budget. Ms. Basalyga stated it is not in the budget as this information was just recently received. This will not affect the 2026 budget. Will be on the agenda next week.
- **Leaf Boxes on Municibid:** Jenn Basalyga stated the borough has new leaf boxes, these are the older boxes to be put on Municibid. This will be on the agenda next week.
- **Resolution 2026-08 Safe Digging:** This will be on next weeks agenda.
- **Special Event Application: C.S. Goes Pink:** The Shimko family will be attending the council meeting to discuss the plan. Any questions can be discussed at that time.
- **Hiring Part Time Police Officer:** Bob Sheils asked if this is related to the SRO for OLP or would they be available to work all shifts in the department. Josh Mitchell asked the same question as Mr. Sheils. Solicitor Krowiak stated he doesn't believe the officer has any training for SRO. Jenn Basalyga stated she does not believe this part time officer was hired

for the SRO position at OLP. An officer was hired previously for the SRO position if needed. Solicitor Krowiak is still waiting for a reply from the diocese concerning OLP.

- **Clock Tower Removal:** Ms. Basalyga stated the borough budgeted for this and provided the quotes. Council should begin discussion on when to begin the process. We have a quote to remove the electrical box and install the box in the borough building. We have the quote to remove the clock tower and the concrete. The 911 Memorial needs to be discussed, possibly moving that to one of the borough's other parks. Solicitor Krowiak would need to draw up paperwork to give to Mr. Decker alerting him to the change in property maintenance situation. Bob Sheils said since the borough has the money budgeted, stating the sooner we can get this taken care of the better.
- **Grant for America250 – discuss possible ideas:** Ms. Basalyga stated Lackawanna County is providing \$1,000 to the borough to be used for any project for the America 250 celebration. Gerrie Carey provided a sketch of a monument to put up possibly in Veteran's Memorial Park. Mr. Nichols is the artist who has provided the sketch and ideas. Mike McLaine with the VFW might be able to provide some funding for this project. Ms. Carey stated there may be grant funding also available. Council has time to think about this. There will be a ceremony in March to present the awards.

3. DISCUSSION:

President Carey

Kathleen Simrell and Gene Hallinan discussed the excellent job the DPW did plowing the roads most recently. Mr. Hallinan stated he was in a different town and the roads were in bad shape, then he returned to Clarks Summit and the roads were cleared. Josh Mitchell asked if the Ice Festival Parade will still happen. Ms. Carey stated she was at a meeting and yes, the parade will be happening. Ms. Carey will be selling her chicken noodle soup at the festival. Ms. Basalyga will send a thank you letter to Joe Fasola for donating the chicken for the soup.

4. REVIEW FEBRUARY 4, 2026 AGENDA

5. ADJOURN:

President Carey