

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

The February Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, February 4, 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, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Ms. Susan Grady, and Mr. Robert Sheils joined online about 7:10pm(Zoom), Chief Chris Yarns, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga. Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell were absent.

MEDITATION: **President Carey**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: **President Carey**

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

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

- **January 5, 2026 Borough Council Meeting:** Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT: **President Carey**
Scott Shimko addressed council to discuss the “Clarks Summit Goes Pink” run in August 2026. They submitted a Special Event Application that was reviewed. Chief Yarns and Borough Manager, Jenn Basalyga will be in touch with him as the run/walk gets closer. There will be more discussions concerning safety issues, police coverage and possible volunteers. Traffic safety issues need to be addressed. They are planning a party after the race. Possibly shut down Spring Street, put in a stage and have a band.

4. POLICE REPORT: **Mayor Kelly**
Chief Yarns discussed a DUI grant. Ms. Basalyga stated the Civil Service Commission met and they did suggest moving forward with the test. Council would need to vote to authorize the advertising and agree on a price for the test. The test will be given at AHSD with a cost of approximately \$500 for the proctor. Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to advertise the Civil Service test, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0. Chief Yarns stated they interviewed Officer Grenfell, Gene Hallinan stated it was a favorable interview. Steve Guza made the first motion to hire Grenfell, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0. Chief Yarns also discussed having a sergeant for the police department. Bob Sheils asked when Chief Yarns will retire, that will be the end of June. Josh Mitchell stated the finance committee needs

to meet first to model out a couple different options. Then the personnel committee can meet to discuss replacement options. Solicitor Krowiak discussed the SRO for OLP contract and stated the diocese is ok with the proposed MOU that was sent over to them. But there are still some loose ends on their part, they asked council to hold off on this. Chris Yarns stated they hired a part time officer who is a certified school resource officer. Rich Grenfel, who was hired during this meeting is also an SRO.

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: President Carey

6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT:

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President Carey

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the Borough Treasurer's Report, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

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Steve Guza made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Susan Grady, vote was 7-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS: President Carey

- **TCC Appointment:** No volunteer has come forward, still looking.
- **Civil Service Committee: cost for test:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to charge the Civil Service applicants \$40 for the test, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0.
- **W. Grove Bridge Sidewalks:** Solicitor Krowiak will finalize the MOU and sent it to the school district at CSE.
- **Resolution 2026-06 (revision of Resolution 2026-02 to (\$408,009):** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was unanimous 7-0.
- **Resolution 2026-07 (revision of Resolution 2026-04 Mills correction):** Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was unanimous 7-0.
- **Ordinance 2026-01 COLA:** Bob Sheils stated he was a part of the Police Pension committee and unfortunately there will be a cost to the borough down the road in the amount of around \$80,000. Mr. Sheils stated he has no objection to the cost-of-living as things are more expensive, but the COLA is what can get some police pension boards in trouble. Just because we can do it according to the actuary tables, he has concern about the borough, so he will be voting no. Josh Mitchell asked Bob Sheils to explain the situation. Bob Sheils stated they have a financial advisor who looked at this and after years, we have a very robust police pension. The borough has been very financially responsible with the contributions. We haven't been giving COLA's in the past. Mr. Sheils stated he voted

against the COLA at the police pension board meeting. As they have had this request before but it wasn't granted. This time around it was granted by the police pension board. But he feels it is not in the best interest of the town for the pension board to be giving COLAs at this time. Josh Mitchell asked if the police pension board approved this, is council obligated to follow suit or is council free to not follow their recommendations. Solicitor Krowiak stated that once it is voted on by the pension board, council's vote is a formality and council could not disrupt that board's decision, however he was not 100% positive on that. Mr. Mitchell asked if it is in the CBA that both parties agree to follow the recommendation of the police pension board, which would obligate council. Solicitor Krowiak will provide his recommendation on this. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to table the vote, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

- **Leaf Boxes on Muncibid:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve putting the leaf boxes on Muncibid, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0. Council will have to vote to accept the bid.
- **Resolution 2026-Safe Digging:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0.
- **Hiring Part Time Police Officer Rich Grenfell:** Already voted on in Police Report
- **Recycling Center Fee: \$75 a ton:** Jenn Basalyga reported the Recycling Center is now charging \$75 a ton. Last year the borough dropped off 185 tons which would come to \$13,800 a year the borough would be responsible to pay. This would affect our brush and leaf pickup. In May, the borough normally begins picking up brush. Josh Mitchell said the only option is not to collect brush, that is a service we provide our residents. Ms. Basalyga agreed and will look into options.
- **Grant Meeting:** Bob Sheils stated he, Bob Naegele, Mike Fenick and Jenn Basalyga met with Congressman Bresnahan's office. We were given a lot of information about state grants. Our best chance would be to go for a stormwater grant and possibly work with other municipalities and economic development. We would be assisted by our engineers to help us along with these grants. Josh Mitchell asked about municipal stormwater discussions and if there was an update. There was not.

Gerrie Carey – Ice Festival: She reported how successful the festival was, and she sold the chicken noodle soup. The rotisserie chicken was donated by Joe Fasula with Gerrity's. Ms. Basalyga sent out a thank you to him. The money raised goes to our Christmas Light fund. Gerrie thanked Kathleen Simrell for helping out. Our Lady of Snows was a big help also.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** **President Carey**

10. **SOLICITORS REPORT:** Already addressed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

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

ADJOURN:

President Carey

Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.