

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

The March Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, March 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, 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**
Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Sue Grady, vote was 7-0.

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

January 28, 2026 Worksession:

February 4, 2026 Council Meeting:

Steve Guza made the first motion to approve both sets of meeting minutes, seconded by Sue Grady, vote was 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT: **President Carey**
Mark Cordelli with Lackawanna County Community Relations, brought information about events happening in the county.
Dave Abel updated council about the Clarks Summit Goes Pink Run. They have been working on parking and volunteers. We will continue to receive updates. We will need to review the route with the police. The run is August 15th. He also discussed the Laura Lee DeFazio Morabito 911 memorial. He is a friend of the family and a concerned citizen. He would like an amicable decision; the plaque is important and should be where foot traffic is. This is the 25-year anniversary of 911 and he suggested the plaque remain where it is.
Michael Parry stated that after his conversations with Mr. Decker, who wants something done with the sewer bill. Mr. Parry proposed his suggestions to council.

4. POLICE REPORT: **Mayor Kelly**
Chief Yarns discussed issues with E-Bikes in the borough. Bob Sheils asked Chief Yarns' opinion on the open container ordinance. He feels like if you have an ordinance, it gives more teeth if there are violations. Bob Sheils said it's a good tool

to be in the toolbox. There is a cost involved. We will get an estimate for the next meeting.

- **Civil Service Update**

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: President Carey

Jenn Basalyga advertised the leaf boxes on Municibid-the winning bid was \$525. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to accept the bid, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT:

MARCH 2025 President Carey

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

MARCH 2025

Josh Mitchell made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS: President Carey

- **Ordinance 2026-01 COLA Police Pension:** Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-2 with Bob Sheils and Steve Guza voting no.
- **Ordinance 2026-02 457 Deferred Comp:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.
- **Open Container Ordinance:** Solicitor Krowiak stated it is up to council, there are steps legally they need to take. If council would have to make a motion to advertise to move forward. The ordinance is drafted to be consistent with other boroughs within the Commonwealth. The exceptions that it does allow for an event or bars with an outdoor patio and a liquor license. This is for an open container on public property such as a street, park, or somewhere that is not a private residence. Borough property would be included as public property. Steve Guza asked how much this would cost. Solicitor Krowiak would look into the pricing.
- **Hiring Part Time Police Officer Feliciano:** Gene Hallinan made the first motion to hire the new part time police officer, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.
- **Police Regionalization:** Josh Michell made the first motion to approve a formal letter to send to South Abington Twp, seconded by Gene Hallinan. On the question Bob Sheils stated they have done this twice before and last time and it was going to cost the borough more to go with regionalization than what was being spent in the budget. Josh Mitchell

disagreed, saying it was not going to cost us more, saying there is never a scenario where we would move forward with something that was going to cost the borough more. There was never a firm proposal on the table to discuss or vote on. That is a basic principle from his perspective that they would never move forward with something that either wasn't going to save us money and/or provide us with better police service. Bob Sheils asked if the situation has changed from the last time. Mr. Mitchell stated that a new member of their board of supervisors, they also have a new Chief of Police in South Abington. The prior chief was vocally not supportive of regionalization; this chief may be more open-minded. He also thinks this borough council has general support for the idea. Our costs as we police this borough are not sustainable. We need to either increase our budget and increase our taxes or consider some fundamental change to the way we police this borough. We would have to make it so those involved in the CBA are no worse off than they are today. Regionalization makes us more eligible for grants. There are a lot of potential benefits. Council vote was 7-0.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

President Carey

- **TCC Representative: Guy Fasciana:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to appoint Guy Fasciana as the borough TCC Representative, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor Krowiak stated he spoke with Mr. Decker. He is open to the possibility of negotiating with one of his caveats/must haves is a reduction in his sewer bill. He left it open to council to consider that. Solicitor Krowiak asked for specific numbers and Mr. Decker and he would not give a firm number. He is looking for council to come back to him with an offer. It may be beneficial at this point to discuss a potential settlement and legal ramifications, potential litigation that may arise from those negotiations. Council agreed to go into an executive session after the meeting is adjourned.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

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

ADJOURN:

President Carey

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