

BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
March 25, 2026
7:00 PM

The March Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, March 25, 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. Steve Guza, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Ms. Susan Grady, and Mr. Robert Sheils, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga. Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell, and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell were absent.

1. WORKSESSION: President Carey

Executive Session: Council went into an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation over the clocktower that stands on the Decker property as well as labor issues and the hiring process.

Council returned from an Executive Session

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: President Carey

Ron Parasole with Brick Avenue, LLC, updated council on the 25 unit apartment building at 423 Center Street with 19, two bedroom units, and 6 one bedroom units. They got variances for lot coverage, height of building and a buffer variance. Josh Mitchell asked if there are any issues with parking. They reduced their units and the parking is sufficient. They are upgrading stormwater drains and using some pervious pave. Ms. Basalyga stated they have gone through the Planning Commission who have conditionally approved moving the final vote for council. The approval from the Planning Commission was with three conditions which are: signed, sealed plans, the stormwater easement agreement and agreement of 15-inch pipe. At this point we only need the signed stormwater easement agreement.

Mike Parry spoke to council concerning the clock tower and 911 Memorial. He mentioned talking to Dori Waters about the Pocket Park and the master gardeners who planted all the flowers and raised beds in the park. He spoke with the DeFazio brothers about raising money and their donations. He continued to discuss possible scenarios for fixing the clock and moving it and the memorial to the Pocket Park.

3. DISCUSSION: President Carey

- **Clock Tower Correspondence**
- **OLP SRO MOU:** We are still waiting to see if OLP has the funding for the part time officer. That was the holdup for the last month. In addition to the MOU would be an agreement with OLP relative to the scheduling so it doesn't affect the needs of Chief Yarns and the Borough Police. That will allow the Chief to dictate the scheduling. The MOU is geared to when the officer is in the school, it gives them more authority while in the school.

- **West Grove Street Sidewalks MOU:** Solicitor Krowiak will send the information to Dr. Shaffer at AHSD.
- **Recycling Pricing Update:** Jenn Basalyga stated the Recycling Center will begin charging \$75 per ton of leaves and brush. Buranich Excavating provided their costs which was around \$110 for 20 ton. The yearly cost will be about \$1,100.
- **Civil Service Test:** We have 2 applicants for the test.
- **Open Container Ordinance:** The cost for advertising would be about \$1,000.
- **Police Regionalization:** Josh Mitchell stated council authorized Solicitor Krowiak to send a letter to South Abington to begin negotiations for police regionalization. He stated they had a productive conversation. There was genuine interest and open mindedness. The next step they agreed to was for the two police chiefs to work together to model out how it would be staffed, what the roster would look like. Then Jenn and JoAnne with South Abington will begin to model out the officer's cost, the administrative overhead. Mayor Kelly stated that Josh Mitchell provided an excellent presentation for the meeting. Steve Guza stated with Chief Yarns retiring soon, he thinks the regionalization needs to be taken into consideration. Josh Mitchell agreed and they will need to discuss how we position this to new candidates and possibly a provision in the contract concerning possible regionalization. Solicitor Krowiak stated as long as the borough is transparent in the hiring process for the next chief and the contract reflects that, council would be ok with hiring that chief and proceed forward whether or not the regionalization occurs or not.
- **Grant Ceremony 3/30:** Jenn Basalyga stated Lackawanna County gave the borough a \$1,000 grant for the America 250 celebration.
- **America 250 Sculpture:** Gerrie Carey stated Scott Nichols is creating the sculpture, to be placed in Veteran's Park with the hope of the dedication to be on Memorial Day weekend. The VFW would also like to participate, and all council members are welcome. We have a \$1,000 grant and a \$500 grant from the VFW and Gerrie has been working on more funding. The cost of the sculpture is \$5,000. Also, Abington Heights agreed to create the base for the sculpture.
- **2026 Paving List:** Josh Mitchell asked how much the borough budgeted for the paving this year. Ms. Basalyga said we budgeted around \$315,000. Council would need to vote on this to advertise. We are also working on a multi-modal grant to repair and pave West Grove Street, Highland Avenue and Powell Avenue.
- **Replacement for Chief Yarns:** Josh Mitchell stated council will need to take action on how they are to proceed process wise to do that.
- **Conditional Use-423 Center**
- **Woodridge Circle Tree Removal:** Ms. Basalyga stated there is a tree in the Woodridge Circle development that the borough technically owns and we are responsible for its removal. We reached out to 3 contractors to remove the tree. The lowest quote was from American Tree for \$1,200. They will cut the tree, the roots should fall back into place and they will grind the stump down.

- **Center Street Creek Easement Cost:** Ms. Basalyga sent out 14 certified letters to the resident who live along the Center Street Creek. This is for the proposed creek restoration that we are applying for a grant. The Borough Engineer is completing the application. In order to move the grant forward, we need signed easements that would be included in the paperwork. Ms. Basalyga stated the letter spells out the purpose of the easement and also offers a meeting for anyone who has questions about the project. Bob Sheils asked if council needs to be a little more aggressive as we reach out for these easements. Should the borough offer financial compensation in order to get the residents' attention. Some municipalities do offer compensation for easements, but the borough has not offered compensation for other easements. We want to get as many signed easements as possible and get that information to Mike Fenick to update the mapping.

4. REVIEW APRIL 1, 2026 AGENDA

- 5. ADJOURN:**
Gene Hallinan made the motion to adjourn.

President Carey