

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2026**

The April Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, April 1, 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 (via zoom), 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**

Lauren Berry – Passed out Council Photo’s she took weeks earlier.

**Executive Session: Council went into an executive session
Council returned from executive session.**

Solicitor Drew Krowiak stated Council went into an executive session discussing potential litigation over borough property as well as discussing labor issues and the hiring process for borough council.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **President Carey**
Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

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

February 25, 2026 Worksession: Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0.

March 4, 2026 Council Meeting: Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 7-0.

March 25, 2026 Worksession: Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT: **President Carey**

Solicitor Krowiak stated prior to public comment we ask the public to adhere to the public participation that has been posted at the front door. There are 7 rules. You state your name, step to the podium, 5 uninterrupted minutes, someone has the right to raise an objection at any time for a perceived violation of the policy. Alison Hall discussed the Clarks Summit Borough’s role with the Memorial Day Parade.

Ron Parasole, Brick Avenue, LLC was at the meeting for the vote on the Conditional Use approval moved forward from the Planning Commission in March of 2026. Jenn

Basalyga stated the last conditional item was being signed and submitted to the borough the next day, the stormwater easement. Council could vote to approve the conditional use with the caveat the stormwater easement must be signed. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the conditional use for 423 Center Street, conditional on the stormwater easement being signed, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 7-0.

Mike Parry asked for council's final blessing on the plans they put forward for clock tower and the plaque. He was looking for final approval from council. Bob Sheils asked Mr. Parry if the DeFazio family would like the memorial at the Pocket Park. Bob Sheils stated Mr. Parry has people who would be able to move the clock from the Decker property to the Pocket Park and he would take care of all of the cost. Mike Parry stated they would raise funds on their own. Bob Sheils stated there would be no cost to the taxpayers and Mr. Parry would take care of moving and refurbishing the clock. They would like to have everything done by September 11, 2026. The DeFazio family would also like to put money into the Pocket Park. Josh Mitchell stated he is intrigued by the idea Mr. Parry has put together. There are some steps that council has to go through first. To feel comfortable to turn over possession of it to him, the borough would want to have agreements in place that govern that and the liability associated. Mr. Mitchell also stated another step on the back end is to determine if council feels comfortable with the clock tower coming back on to borough property. Our Solicitor would need to follow up with him to see what an agreement would look like to turn over possession to get the process started. Liability is an issue associated with the clock tower and it's maintenance would need to be addressed.

4. POLICE REPORT:

Mayor Kelly

Chris Yarns stated they are working on the Aggressive Driving Grant.

- **Civil Service Update-Applicants:** There are 5 Civil Service Applicants.
- **OLP SRO MOU:** Chief Yarns stated he was good with this. Solicitor Krowiak stated when he drafted the agreement for the services to be provided is the outline where the Chief is in control of the hours. The MOU covers the borough from a liability standpoint. The services contract outlines the cost for that officer, how much per year, per hour as well as providing the addendum that the Chief will have the say.

5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS:

President Carey

6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT:

APRIL 2026: N/A

President Carey

7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

APRIL 2026: Josh Mitchell made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

President Carey

- **Clock Tower Correspondence:** Bob Sheils stated that he gives Solicitor Krowiak a lot of credit for his involvement. Mr. Sheils stated there were good faith negotiations, there were offers and counteroffers, unfortunately there is a monetary divide and the council doesn't have an appetite to continue on with that property. He thinks both parties entered into this with good faith and tried to maintain the property and find a resolution. Josh Mitchell made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to serve notice to Mr. Decker that we will proceed with removing and restoring to its original condition that property and terminating the easement that was dated 1986. Bob Sheils stated he has concerns about what they are going to do with the clock tower, where is it going to go. There are viable options in order to maintain the clock tower, to restore it to some of its finer glory and incorporate the Laura Lee DeFazio Morobito memorial. He has concerns about taking down the clock tower. Josh Mitchell stated that his motion stands, and he thinks it should be followed by a motion to do something about what happens next. Solicitor Krowiak stated that the clock tower is borough property, so once removed, if council votes that way, we would have to determine what if anything to do with borough property which would be that clocktower. Gene Hallinan seconded the motion, the vote was 6-1, with Bob Sheils voting no. Gerrie Carey stated that Mike Noto did volunteer to take down the clock tower and the foundation as a donation to the borough. Josh Mitchell stated that the borough would need an agreement with him. We are serving notice where we have 90 days minimum and we need to work on our options to include agreements that we can consider to take the next step. Solicitor Krowiak stated at the next meeting, if council does intend to donate or gift that to allow the restoration as described by Mr. Parry, there would have to be a vote on that because it would be borough property that would be transferred to a third party. Council would need to vote to allow him to proceed in the fashion of the restoration he described at tonight's meeting. Josh Mitchell made the first motion authorizing the Solicitor to contact Mr. Parry and his associated groups/individuals to work on potential terms involved with his plan as he has presented it. Also to draft an agreement with Mr. Noto to restore the property to its original condition, potentially to remove the clocktower if that is not included in the other potential agreement. Drew suggested Mr. Mitchell's motion to be a motion to allow the Solicitor negotiate with Mr. Parry relative to take position of the clock tower in the future. Anything that comes of that will be addressed at the next meeting. Solicitor Krowiak suggested there would be a motion at the next meeting to get in writing the removal of the electric box because we would need to spend borough funds on that. Mr. Mitchell stated first he is revising his motion to allow the Solicitor to follow up with Mr. Parry to discuss terms of an agreement towards the project he described, Bob Sheils seconded that motion. Gene Hallinan stated that he feels like scrapping it but he would want an engineer to look at it first before they make

that decision. He stated Mike Noto is an engineer but if he takes it down and he is sure he can make that determination at that time. Just looking at the clock, he didn't think it was viable. Solicitor Krowiak stated the next vote would be to authorize Mr. Noto to expand borough funds once we get that information in writing from him. Council voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. Mr. Mitchell stated council does not need a further motion now to do anything with Mr. Noto. We need a quote from him. Solicitor Krowiak stated council could vote on that at the next meeting as there may be borough funds that need to be spent. We would get that in writing and that would be in Bids & Quotes. Once he reaches out to Mr. Decker we will have 90 days to get that done as long as Mr. Noto is aware of that, the time constraints we are under, with the removal and the restoration.

- **West Grove Street Sidewalks MOU:** Solicitor Krowiak sent that to Abington Heights.
- **Recycling – Buranich Excavating:** Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve recycling with Buranich Excavating, seconded by Sue Grady, vote was 7-0.
- **Open Container Ordinance:** Tabled
- **2026 Paving List Advertise:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to advertise to solicit bids for the Clark Avenue paving project, seconded by Gene Hallinan, vote was 7-0. Josh Mitchell stated that the borough has to find a way to increase the budget for paving next year. There is a lot of deferred maintenance going on our roads
- **Replacement for Chief Yarns:** Bob Sheils stated he thinks this would be good to advertise the position. The budget for the police department is over one million dollars, we owe it to our residents to find the best applicant. Gene Hallinan disagreed saying we should hire from within, it's better for the morale and he thinks they have a good candidate now. He thinks advertising would be an unnecessary expense. Josh Mitchell stated he could go either way on this. He spoke to Chief Yarns and he is compelled by what the Chief said which is, it is the best case to promote a police officer that is already familiar with our department, that our personnel gets along with, that knows the borough inside and out, if we have such a candidate. Mr. Mitchell stated we do have such a candidate. He does agree there is nothing wrong with opening it up but he does not think it presents us with any benefits in this case. He stated this is not nepotism, it is recognizing an internal candidate, if you have good one is preferable to an external candidate. He is comfortable moving forward with pursuing the internal promotion option. Josh Mitchell made the first motion is to accept applications from internal candidates, then authorize our personnel committee to interview those candidates, seconded by Gene Hallinan. Bob Sheils clarified that means the borough would exclude outside candidates, Josh Mitchell stated this would just be accepting applications from internal candidates. The vote was 5-2 with Bob Sheils and Steve Guza voting no.
- **Conditional Use-423 Center: Voted on earlier.**

- **Woodridge Circle Tree Removal:** Gene Hallinan made the first motion to approve American Tree to remove the tree for \$1,200, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0.
- **Center Street Creek Easements:** Jenn Basalyga stated we have 14 properties that we would need an easement from. We are setting up a meeting with the engineers and residents to explain the grant opportunity. Bob Sheils made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to help Jenn Basalyga with the easements for the grant, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 7-0.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

President Carey

- **Shade Tree Volunteer:** Josh Mitchell suggested Jenn Basalyga get in touch with Gary Rozman.

10. SOLICITORS REPORT

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:

President Carey

- **Prior-** worksession 3/25/2026
- **During-** 04/01/2026 N/A
- **Subsequent-** N/A

ADJOURN:

President Carey

Gene Hallinan made the first motion to adjourn.'