

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**APRIL 29, 2026**  
**7:00 PM**

The April Borough Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 7:15 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. Susan Grady, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga, and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell. Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Mr. Robert Sheils and Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell were absent.

**1. WORKSESSION:** **President Carey**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** **President Carey**

Mike Parry spoke to council about the clock tower. He spoke about an email sent by Chris Loftus with the Rotary Club. He understands there are issues about the clock, and it is about ownership and liability. The DeFazio family is indifferent about the clock; their main concern is with the plaque and honoring their sister. Solicitor Krowiak stated to Mr. Parry that the liability issue has been discussed at several meetings. There is a liability issue relative to the clock tower, it's on public record. They have had conversations back and forth regarding this. Solicitor Krowiak stated that there is a liability issue with the clock tower that have been discussed through at least the last 4 or 5 meetings, and Mr. Parry is well aware of the liability issues. Solicitor Krowiak stated that we are on step one, there was a vote at the last meeting to remove the clock tower. There has not been a vote as to what to do with that clock tower as of yet. Solicitor Krowiak stated he cannot negotiate with Mr. Parry legally until there is a vote by borough council.

Dori Waters spoke to council stating she is all about honoring Laura, she didn't know her personally. Her husband is a pilot for United, he was a fireman in NYC, she understands the connection to 911. She stated the Pocket Park is not that big and putting the clock in the middle of it would take up all the grass. The Gathering Place has been working in the park for 5 years with the Master Gardeners and they have beautified it. It is a group of people with special needs that are doing this and she thinks it's important they all work together. The clock being in the middle of the park just doesn't work because it's not big enough.

Katie, the Program Coordinator with the Gathering Place, stated that there are other possible options than having the clock tower in the middle of the park, she thinks the park is too small. She stated the community needs a green space. She believes having the clock at the park would honor the park or the community the way it should. She suggested talking to an engineer to come up with ideas to turn the clock into something else. You can make a sculpture out of the clock and other items.

Sue Parry Bitterman spoke to council. She stated her dad was Harold Parry who was Council President back in 1984. She stated she understands what they are saying about the clock being big and clunky, she asked if someone can talk to the people that work with metal and see if they can make benches and tables. She also likes having the 4 sides of the clock reflect the 4 times the planes hit, she wants something for Laura, for the Community and for the past council members. She wanted to see everyone get along.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**President Carey**

- **OLP SRO MOU:** Solicitor Krowiak stated he spoke with the Solicitor for the Diocese of Scranton. He sent back the contract allowing us to have the Chief allowing different hours to make sure we are not short staffed on our end. According to the Solicitor at the Diocese, the program is fully funded, and they have a start date of August 19<sup>th</sup>. Solicitor Krowiak stated all the legal paperwork is lined up. There is one further step to petition the court for. He will reach out to see if there are any other concerns before next weeks meeting.
- **West Grove Street Sidewalks MOU:** Solicitor Krowiak stated that he did reach out to the school district, they indicated they had issues with the maintenance of the bridge sidewalks. They were going to bring it to their Solicitor to look over. They indicated they are already short staffed. They seem reluctant to continue on with their prior verbal agreement we had in place earlier.
- **Civil Service Test:** Jenn Basalyga stated 6 officers took the test and we have one part time officer who works at the borough, who was deployed at the time of the test. He is scheduled to take the test on May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **Open Container Ordinance:** Solicitor Krowiak stated council wanted to hear from the Chief relative to the ongoing concerns relative to this.
- **Police Regionalization:** Jenn Basalyga informed JoAnn Pane from South Abington that the Borough would like to set up another meeting. She asked for more specifics before setting up the meeting.
- **America 250 Sculpture:** Gerrie Carey discussed the sculpture which is being funded by the \$1,000 grant from the county and a \$4,000

donation from the VFW. Next week council will need to vote on the grant for the sculpture which will be placed in Veteran's Park. Mark Shiffer, was able to get cement donated and delivered. The AHSD students did the work for the base. He got \$1,700 worth of stone donated and a slab where the liberty bell sculpture will sit on. The unveiling will be the Saturday before Memorial Day.

- **2026 Paving Bids:** Jenn Basalyga opened up 6 paving bids. The lowest bid was from Stafursky Paving in the amount of \$183,957. The engineers will review the bids and council can vote at the next meeting.
- **Police Chief Letters of Interest:** Jenn Basalyga stated that she received one letter of interest from Kevin Yetkowskas for the Police Chief position. The Personnel Committee agreed to meet, tomorrow, Thursday at 4:30PM.
- **Center Street Creek Easement Update:** Jenn Basalyga updated council on the letters of agreement that were sent out to the group of residents whose properties are along the creek. We are waiting for responses.
- **Shade Tree – Gary Rozman-Erin Torquato:** This will be on the agenda next week.
- **Solar Lit Crosswalks-Engineering Quote:** We are currently working on getting a quote from the engineers for this project. The project looks like it is moving forward with CDBG funds.
- **ABPA Voting Delegate:** Gerrie Carey stated she is willing to be the Delegate and Josh Mitchell would be the alternate.
- **Section 504 Resolution:** Solicitor Krowiak stated the borough has to assign a Section 504 Officer for any grievances that are filed under that act. Council would also need to pass a subsequent resolution. This is for disability or discrimination complaints. Solicitor Krowiak stated the resolution would be straightforward but we would need a designee to handle those complaints if any that come into the borough.
- **Clock Tower Update:** Solicitor Krowiak stated there are two separate issues, the clock tower itself, that was voted on to be removed based on the fact we do not have an easement on that property. The memorial for Laura Lee is separate and apart from the clock tower. The memorial is moving forward and the plaque is being moved into the Pocket Park. He knows there have been discussions with the DeFazio family relative to her plaque, legally speaking these are two separate issues. Solicitor Krowiak stated what needs to be voted on next is (A) What to do with the clock tower in the interim; council will vote to rehabilitate or somehow fashion to an art piece as was mentioned tonight and (B) What to do with the memorial plaque in the interim prior to putting that into the park. Do we give it to the custody of the DeFazio Family, or

do we hold it here somewhere in the borough? This is a multiple step process that the borough must go through legally. The borough cannot donate or assign the clock tower to a resident of the borough without some waiver of liability, due to the structural integrity of the clock tower. There are several legal hurdles that need to be addressed. Kathleen Simrell stated she would like to know what DeFazio's wishes are with the memorial. Gerrie Carey and Gene Hallinan agreed and said the borough has room to store the memorial. The DeFazio's have expressed they are interested in having the memorial placed in the Pocket Park. The Rotary Club also donated the bench to the park. Gerrie Carey stated we want to make sure the memorial is a shining star in The Pocket Park, and the community wants this done in a very respectful way as we have a lot of respect for the family and what they have been through. We will communicate with the family.

- 4. REVIEW MAY 6, 2026 AGENDA**
- 5. Adjourn: Gene Hallinan made the motion to adjourn.**