

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
May 6, 2026**

The May Borough Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, May 6, 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, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Josh Mitchell, Mr. Robert Sheils, Chief Chris Yarns, Solicitor Andrew Krowiak, Mayor Harry Kelly, Borough Manager Ms. Jenn Basalyga and Jr. Councilperson Lauren Bartell. Jr. Councilperson James Mitchell, Mr. Gene Hallinan and Ms. Susan Grady were absent.

**MEDITATION:** **President Carey**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** **President Carey**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** **President Carey**  
Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-0.

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

**April 1, 2026 Borough Council Meeting:**

**April 29, 2026 Worksession:**

Steve Guza made the first motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-0.

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

- **Mark Shiffer/Scott Nichols:** Gerrie Carey discussed America 250 Sculpture, council was very grateful. Mr. Shiffer stated the students at the high school have worked on the base for the sculpture. He donated his time, equipment and the steel to the project. Gerrie Carey stated the cement needed was donated from Dalton Do It Center created the concrete and Scranton Materials donated the stone. Air Supply donated \$1,700 worth of stone. Scott Nichols built the memorial in the shape of a liberty bell. He is proud and grateful for the opportunity. Gerrie Carey also stated the VFW donated \$3,500 and the Ladies Auxiliary donated \$500. Lackawanna County also provided a \$1,000 grant for the America 250 celebration.  
Ron Parasol stated he would like to remove the whole clock tower, revitalize it and he has a space to put it. He has the manpower and Powell's will donate their equipment. He would like to fix the clock and put it on the corner of Center and Bedford Street. He will also maintain the clock. Bob Sheils asked if Mr. Parasole is looking to take ownership of the clocktower and pay the expenses,

Mr. Parasole said yes and Mr. Sheils said how generous he was to do this. Gerrie Carey stated Mike Noto has offered his equipment if that would help. Bob Sheils stated that there would obviously be legal documentation and asked his timeline. Mr. Parasole stated he will do this with the borough's timeline with the property owner. Solicitor Krowiak asked if the proposal is to remove it from where it is at to his location? Mr. Parasole said yes and he would be happy to disconnect the clock from the electrical meter, remove the concrete base, and put topsoil and seed there.

Mike Parry stated Laura's plaque is going to the Pocket Park, he hopes it's high enough for the public could see it when driving along State Street.

**4. POLICE REPORT:**

**Mayor Kelly**

Solicitor Krowiak mentioned the District Attorney's office reorganized the community service program for non-violent first-time offenders who are court ordered for community service. The D.A.'s office would run it and there would be a probation officer on site. Solicitor Krowiak discussed the SRO at OLP School. There is the proposal that the diocese sent back as long as council approves it we have to send it back for them to sign. The diocese wants to start this August 19<sup>th</sup>. The agreement says 7 hours per day, approximately 1200 hours for the academic year. The Chief schedules the hours. They will pay \$30 an hour for the part time officer with a maximum of \$38,600 a year.

- **Open Container Ordinance:** Chief Yarns stated we have a law on the books. Solicitor Krowiak stated the law is from 1983 and as long as it has not been repealed or retracted that would still be in place. Chief Yarns stated another issue is with the electric scooters and he talked to the Magistrate about it. He thinks they might have to begin writing citations to get people's attention.

**5. BIDS & QUOTATIONS:**

**President Carey**

**6. BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**President Carey**

- **MARCH 2026**
- **APRIL 2026:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 5-0.

**7. VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:**

- **APRIL 2026:** Steve Guza made the first motion to pay the bills, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

President Carey

- **Clock Tower:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to accept Ron Parasole's proposal to remove the clocktower contingent on a mutually agreeable contract with terms relative to the transfer of ownership of that clocktower, to be signed by Council President Gerrie Carey, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-0.
- **911 Memorial:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion for the borough to take possession of the memorial plaque in concert with the removal of the clocktower, seconded by Kathleen Simrell. The vote was 5-0. The memorial will be stored at the building in the interim. Council was not able to vote on the electrical panel removal because we need an updated quote from Walsh Electric.
- **OLP SRO MOU:** Council would need to vote on the modified agreement. Bob Sheils made the first motion to execute the Our Lady of Pease School Resource Officer MOU proposal the seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-0.
- **West Grove Street Sidewalks MOU:** Josh Mitchell volunteered to get back in touch with Superintendent Chris Shaffer concerning this MOU.
- **Police Regionalization:** Josh Mitchell stated that he spoke with Chief Yarns and John Hambrose. Both Chiefs have met. Mr. Mitchell stated he thinks we need to pull some information together before meeting with South Abington again. Bob Sheils stated Dickson City's Mayor and Council President are interested in this. He asked if Mr. Mitchell is interested in reaching out to them. Mr. Mitchell stated that based on their first meeting, the sentiment was pretty strong that this failed during the last talks because there were too many municipalities involved. If Clarks Summit and South Abington do not end up doing something together, nothing else would happen. Bob Sheils suggested exploring this. Mr. Mitchell suggested soliciting the opinions of both Chiefs to get their opinion about that possibility as part of the consideration process. The subject was tabled.
- **America 250 Sculpture:** The unveiling will be the Saturday before Memorial Day. Bob Sheils asked if this would cost the borough anything. Gerrie Carey said no, Mark Shiffer will have a bill for the diesel fuel, saying she would not object to that. Josh Mitchell stated the borough has some extra funds as we do not have to pay to remove the clock tower. Solicitor Krowiak stated Mr. Shiffer would need to submit receipts for reimbursement.

- **2026 Paving Bids:** Josh Mitchell made the first motion to approve the bid from Stafursky in the amount of \$183,957, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 5-0.
- **Police Chief : Kevin Yetkowskas: Officer Yetkowskas** did submit a letter of interest for the Police Chief position. The Personnel Committee interviewed him. He is extremely qualified for the position. Josh Mitchell asked if it is the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to move forward with Officer Yetkowskas as the new Chief? The answer was yes. Mr. Mitchell stated that they need to negotiate a new contract. The Personnel Committee can be authorized to negotiate a contract. If that contract is approved then a vote would need to be made to appoint him. Council will go into an executive session after he meeting. Josh Mitchell made the first motion to authorize the Personnel Committee to negotiate a contract with Kevin Yetkowskas to serve as our Chief of Police, seconded by Kathleen Simrell, vote was 5-0.
- **Center Street Creek Easement Grant Resolution 2026-09:** Bob Sheils made the first motion execute the documents the resolution, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-0.
- **Shade Tree – Gary Rozman-Erin Torquato:** Kathleen Simrell made the first motion to appoint Gary Rozman as the Shade Tree Chair and Erin Torquato as the Alternate, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-0.
- **Solar Lit Crosswalks-Engineering Quote:** Jenn Basalyga stated the project has been approved with CDBG money, but the borough does need to cover the engineering costs at \$13,900. We budgeted \$9,000 for 2026 to pay the engineering costs. Council can start the process this year, Josh Mitchell stated it would cost approximately \$10,400 to get us to the point that would get to the bid. That would cover the costs for the survey then the PennDOT design and permitting. The engineers suggested discussing the level of brightness the crosswalk lighting should be. Josh Mitchell stated the vote would be to authorize Bob Naegele to move forward with the topographic survey, then design and permitting. Bob Sheils made the first motion to allow Colwell Naegele to begin the solar light crosswalk project, seconded by Steve Guza, vote was 5-0.

Josh Mitchell also stated the other two projects that the borough had previously committed to over at Hillside Park are both out to bid right now. Mark Spatz is going to come to our worksession to give an update on that. The bids will be in by the June meeting for council to vote on. It has to be voted on in June, so all the work can get done, so funds don't expire. Mr. Spats and possibly Joe Rovinski will attend the worksession, and in June, council would need to be prepared to vote.

- **Section 504 Resolution:** Bob Sheils made the first motion to appoint Jenn Basalyga as the Section 504 Officer, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-0. Solicitor Krowiak said council would need to adopt a resolution outlining the grievance procedure that would be in place for this officer. That will be done at the next meeting.
- **PSAB Delegate: Bob Sheils:** Steve Guza made the first motion to appoint Bob Sheils as the voting delegate for the PSAB Conference, seconded by Josh Mitchell, vote was 5-0.

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

10. **SOLICITORS REPORT**  
 Josh Mitchell asked Solicitor Krowiak’s opinion on the Open Container Ordinance, on the sufficiency of the existing one because there are some differences. In the one that was drafted, there is a provision for an exception for an event. The other major difference is the penalty. Solicitor Krowiak stated he will look at the ordinances to review and he would give his opinion to council.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**  
 Jenn Basalyga stated we did have correspondence concerning the Pocket Park. Josh Mitchell asked who the point person for the Pocket Park improvements will be. Jenn Basalyga stated that she would be the point person as the communication would come to her first. She will present updates to council as they come in. A dedication to Laura Lee’s 911 memorial, as this is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** **President Carey**

- **Prior-** N/A
- **During-** N/A
- **Subsequent-** **05/06/2026 Contractual issues regarding the hiring of an employee**

**ADJOURN:** **President Carey**  
 Josh Mitchell made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Steve Guza.