

June 29, 2009, Council Meeting
Minutes

A meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held Tuesday, June 29, 2009, at the Clarion Borough Offices. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Councilmembers present were Mr. Zerfoss, Mr. Herman, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Moore, and President Wilshire. Mr. Hopkins was absent. Also present were Chief Hall, Messrs. Ragon and Stutzman, and Ms. LaVan.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore stated fireworks will be July 3, 2009.

Ms. Leonard mentioned Elise Deitz, Manager of the Farmer's Market, indicated she's been waiting on a response from Council on possible banners in the Courthouse area on the street light poles to advertise the Market. Ms. Vavrek and Ms. Moore both have discussed this with Ms. Deitz, but Ms. Deitz has not provided a drawing for consideration. Since the Farmer's Market isn't a Chamber member, they cannot use their message board on the Courthouse lawn for advertising. Mr. Zerfoss feels the problem is the Market is on the wrong side of the street. People don't see them until they drive by. They use that side because it's concrete, and the members don't have to carry their produce to their stand.

PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. Vavrek mentioned the Borough requested proposals for a Borough engineer. Six proposals were received. Councilmembers received a score sheet with the results. Ms. Vavrek made a motion to engage Kopko Engineering as Borough Engineer for a 3-year period. Mr. Zerfoss seconded the motion. Mr. Herman stated he is satisfied with the results and believes Kopko Engineering will do an excellent job. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stutzman updated Council on the following projects:

- Glenn O. Hawbaker is installing the handicapped ramps along Fifth Avenue. The paving project will begin shortly after some preliminary drainage work. This will be done at night.
- Ms. Vavrek, Mr. Zerfoss, Ms. Freenock and he met last week with Pennsylvania-American Water in reference to their projects. Fifty percent of the line work in the Borough is done and will be moving south into Clarion Township. Work should be completed by November 2009.
- The Public Works Department is 95% completed with the storm sewer punch list. Next week Hager Paving will begin the paving project. Notices will be distributed to businesses and residents and have been given to the press for coverage. Once the asphalt is laid, it takes 4-5 hours to cure. If motorists drive on it before that time, it will damage the road. This project, weather-permitting, should be completed in a week.

Ms. Vavrek commented sidewalk improvement and brush letters will be mailed shortly. It is the homeowner's responsibility to clear the brush. Public Works trims only around traffic signs for safety issues. If the Borough has to trim the brush, homeowners will be billed. Mr. Zerfoss cautioned the Department is not trained to cut brush.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Herman complimented and thanked the Police Department on a great job re-routing traffic during the accident on I-80 last week. Nothing but positive comments has been received on how efficient the situation was handled.

Mr. Herman stated a 3-second advance upgrade for pedestrian crossings at Eighth, Ninth, and Sixth Avenues and the reworking of Fifth Avenue have been found at a reasonable price; a lot less than originally thought. More specific costs may be available by the next Council Meeting.

HOUSING AND ZONING

Mr. Zerfoss announced a Public Hearing was held at 4:30 p.m. to receive comments on the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to permit commercial parking lots as a conditional use in the C-1 Commercial Business District. No public comments were received. Mr. Zerfoss made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2009-765, amending certain provisions of Zoning Ordinance #2003-719. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT

President Wilshire stated Mayor Stroup is at the I-80 Informational Conference being held by the Chamber tonight from 4-5:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Now that the second meeting of the month is an official meeting where action can be taken, Ms. Leonard feels the day of the meeting should be changed so that the one Councilmember who works Mondays can participate. Ms. Leonard made a motion to change the second meeting of the month from the last Monday of the full week before the regular Council Meeting to the last Tuesday at 7 p.m. Ms. Moore seconded the motion. After some discussion, Ms. Leonard withdrew the motion, which Ms. Moore agreed, so Councilmembers can be polled to see if that would work or if the meetings should be earlier in the month. Then the Administration Committee can review the results.

Mr. Zerfoss asked someone to answer what the CAA money cannot be used for and who decided it cannot be used for those instances and why.

Mr. Herman directed Mr. Zerfoss to the Borough Manager for the answer.

President Wilshire stated Council has to vote on how to spend the money, which can be used on projects that benefit all rate payers of the Authority. This is how the \$200,000 paving project is being paid. Some of the proceeds are being used to match a federal

grant earmarked for storm sewer repairs along Seventh Avenue. President Wilshire doesn't feel this money should be used to pay recurring budget items.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Linda M. LaVan
Assistant Borough Secretary