

March 24, 2009, Special Council Meeting

A special meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009, in the Clarion Borough Offices. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. All Councilmembers, with the exception of Mr. Zerfoss, were present. Also present were Mayor Stroup, Mr. Stutzman, and Mss. LaVan and Freenock.

ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Freenock explained that the primary purpose of the meeting was to adopt the 537 Plan which was prepared by Gannett Fleming on behalf of the Borough. The plan identifies five undeveloped areas within the Borough and makes recommendations regarding sewage service in those areas. Alternative number 1 provides that nothing will be done so, in essence, those areas will remain undeveloped. Alternative number 2 provides that if the areas are developed, the developer will be responsible for extending the sewer lines to the existing system. The developer will be responsible for all associated costs. This recommendation is in line with current Borough ordinances.

The plan is to be filed with DEP on March 30, 2009. Clarion Township and Monroe Township were also required to prepare a similar study. Once approved by DEP, the three plans will be sent to Pennsylvania American so that it can develop a comprehensive plan for the entire area served by the former Clarion Area Authority.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Ms. Moore, Resolution #2009-282 was unanimously approved.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE: Ms. Moore noted that a meeting was to be held this evening at the Carlson Library to discuss University-community relations.

PUBLIC WORKS: Ms. Freenock indicated that the Borough will receive approximately \$33,000 in stimulus money. The funding will come through the CDBG Program. Due to the timing constraints associated with the stimulus money, these funds cannot be used for a paving project. Therefore, the Recreation Committee may be able to find an appropriate use for that funding.

Ms. Freenock requested that Council reconsider the use of the 2008 and 2009 CDBG funding. The 2008 Project was to be the widening and paving of Emerson Way. However, that roadway is in relatively good condition. South Street has deteriorated over the winter. In addition, residents continually complain about the narrowness of the road given that parking is permitted on the north side. If Council elects to forego the Emerson Way Project for the time being, it can utilize 2008 and 2009 funding to widen, mill, and pave South Street from Fifth to Eighth Avenues. It is likely that the cost to complete this project will exceed the available funding. Therefore, Council could elect to obtain a loan for the balance of the project. That loan could be repaid with 2010 CDBG funding. CDBG would also cover any accrued interest.

President Wilshire asked if there were any other areas in the Borough that required extensive rehabilitation. Mr. Stutzman responded that Madison Road behind I. C. is in need of repaving and storm sewer work. There is some question about whether this project would qualify for CDBG funding.

Mr. Stutzman also informed Council that the price of asphalt has risen dramatically while Liquid Fuels Funding continues to decrease. In addition, PennDOT changed the specifications for paving projects. Now, paving projects are considered reconstruction rather than maintenance. Therefore, State prevailing wage must be paid on any paving contract. This serves to further increase the price of paving projects.

President Wilshire suggested that Council consider utilizing a portion of the CAA sale proceeds to fund a paving program. It was also noted that the Public Works Department is in the process of developing a paving plan for the entire Borough. That information will be shared with Council when available.

Mr. Hopkins asked if a motion could be made to approve the South Street Project at this time.

Ms. Freenock responded that the meeting was not advertised for that purpose but a vote could be taken and can be ratified at the next Council Meeting.

Ms. Vavrek made a motion to revise the 2008 CDBG Project to remove Emerson Way and substitute the widening, milling, and repaving of South Street from Fifth Avenue to Eighth Avenue. Furthermore, the aforementioned project will be the 2009 Project and, if necessary, 2010 CDBG funding will be committed to this project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Herman and was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mr. Herman made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Moore to change the 5K Race to be held by the Clarion University – Interfraternity and Panhellenic Council from April 19 to April 18, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION: Ms. Leonard noted that she received a renewal agreement from the School District regarding the pool. A Recreation Committee Meeting will be convened to discuss the proposed agreement.

CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. LaVan noted that the Chamber has withdrawn its request for a 5K Race to be during Spring Fling.

At 8:26 a.m. President Wilshire called for an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

The meeting reconvened at 8:45 a.m. President Wilshire stated that no action was taken.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, on a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary