

February 5, 2008, Council Meeting

Administration:	Monthly Reports; Special Events Handled; Resolutions to Extend the Library Lease and Endorse House Bill Approved; Advertise CDBG Public Hearing
Downtown Committee:	Monthly Meetings Scheduled
Public Works:	Permission to Attend Symposium; Amend Library Lease Motion
Housing and Zoning:	Zoning Change; Voto Hearing
Mayor's Report:	I-80 Meeting
Old Business:	Solicitor Meetings
New Business:	Mr. Hopkins Remains on Planning Commission

A regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on February 5, 2008, in the Assembly Room of the Clarion Free Library. President Wilshire called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmembers present were Mr. Herman, Ms. Leonard, Ms. Vavrek, Ms. Moore, Mr. Hopkins, and President Wilshire. Mr. Zerfoss was absent. Mr. Stutzman, Mr. Ragon, Chief Hall, and Mayor Stroup were also present

On a motion by Mr. Hopkins with a second by Ms. Leonard, the minutes of the January 7, 2008, Public Hearing, were approved with a vote of six yea.

On a motion Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, the minutes of the January 7, 2008, Reorganization Meeting, were approved with a vote of six yea.

On a motion by Ms. Leonard with a second by Ms. Vavrek, the January 7, 2008, Council Meeting minutes were approved unanimously with two corrections.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard, the minutes of the January 18, 2008, Special Council Meeting, were approved with a vote of six yea.

Administration: President Wilshire presented the appropriations for the month of February. On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Mr. Hopkins, the appropriations for the month of February were approved with a vote of six yea.

President Wilshire stated the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry submitted several requests for Spring Fling; one for the event itself, one for the banner, a Borough

wide yard sale, and parking requests. Mayor Stroup noted the Chamber had Borough wide yard sales last year but there were not many participants. Ms. Moore added the Chamber prepares a map of the locations. Ms. Leonard voiced concern on the Chamber's request for three meters bagged as "no parking" on Fifth Avenue across from the Memorial Park to be used for loading and unloading for the performers at the gazebo. Ms. Leonard sees where they would be tempted to cross Fifth Avenue right there rather than walking up to the corner of Fifth Avenue and Main Street to use the crosswalk. If Council would give them two spaces on Jefferson Place, it would be better. Also, Immaculate Conception Church submitted their request for Vacation Bible School.

After some discussion, on a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard, to approve the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry's request for the week of April 28 through May 3, 2008, for the Spring Fling event, their banner request, their request for a Borough wide yard sale to be held May 3, 2008, Immaculate Conception Church's request to close Madison Road for 3 hours daily from June 16-20, 2008, for Vacation Bible School and to table all the parking requests for Spring Fling until further review. Motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Mr. Herman made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Vavrek to approve Resolution #2008-253, extending the library lease for an additional 20 years.

Ms. Vavrek stated this is a condition of a Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Grant. The owner of the building, which is the Borough, is supposed to be a partner in this grant and agree that the Library will remain such for the length of time the repairs being made will last. Since the air conditioning unit is being replaced, the length of time was determined as 20 years.

After brief discussion, motion carried with a vote of six yea.

President Wilshire stated that a resolution concerning proposed House Bill 2018 is in the packet.

Mr. Herman stated this proposed bill will provide some tax relief for municipalities with a large number of tax-exempt properties within their boundaries. Clarion Borough is 70.5% tax exempt. Hearings will be held in March/April where boroughs, towns, and cities will have an opportunity to give testimony as to actual figures so the representatives see the affect. This is a little more hopeful at this point.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Leonard to approve Resolution #2008-254, to endorse Representative Freeman's House Bill addressing tax-exempt properties. The motion carried with a vote of six yea.

The next item concerned 2008 CDBG funding for the Borough. On a motion by Ms. Leonard with a second by Mr. Hopkins, permission to advertise the Fair Housing Notice and the first CDBG Public Hearing to be held February 22, 2008, at 10 a.m. at the Borough Office, was carried with a vote of six yea.

President Wilshire stated the 2008 CDBG allocation is \$120,126, a decrease of almost \$3,500 from last year.

Downtown Committee: Ms. Moore reported the Committee met with of the Downtown Revitalization Conservancy to discuss immediate and future concerns. Regular meetings have been set up for the first Thursday of every month at Sage Meadow at 8 a.m. Snow removal from the curb, which prohibits access to the sidewalks, was discussed and hopefully will be remedied.

Backing up, President Wilshire noted that the Borough's inventory must be updated annually for insurance purposes. Therefore, Mr. Herman made a motion with a second by Mr. Hopkins to engage the services of Industrial Appraisal Company to prepare the 2007 Inventory Change Reports at the cost of \$595; motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Public Works: The report is in the packet for review. Ms. Vavrek commented the Committee met to bring everyone up-to-date on the Department.

On a motion by Ms. Vavrek with a second by Mr. Hopkins, giving permission for Brad Stutzman to attend the 2008 Municipal Road Maintenance Symposium May 11-14, 2008, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, at a cost of registration being \$50 plus lodging, was carried with a vote of six yea.

Ms. Vavrek withdrew the previous motion on the library lease and restated it to 25-year lease, 5 existing years with 20 additional years. Mr. Herman seconded. Motion carried with a vote of six yea.

Housing and Zoning: The report is in the packet for review. Ms. Vavrek stated the Committee met to bring everyone up-to-date. Mr. Hopkins noted the Committee is working on a proposed changed to the zoning regulations. It has to go before the Planning Commission and then Council.

President Wilshire asked for information on the Zoning Hearing Board upcoming hearing with Voto Manufacturers. Mr. Ragon reported Voto is a non-conforming use in the Commercial District and their structure is non-conforming. In order to expand that building under the Ordinance, permission is necessary from the Zoning Hearing Board. They are permitted up to a 40% expansion... Mr. Ragon doesn't foresee a problem; but when you look at the terms of the Ordinance, you have to go through the right process.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Stroup stated another I-80 Meeting is scheduled tomorrow in State College in an effort to fight the tolling.

Old Business: President Wilshire commented Ms. LaVan provided everyone with a list of solicitors at the various Clarion County municipalities and whether he/she attends their meetings.

Mr. Hopkins asked Council previously to consider running charges through the Solicitor through the Administration Committee and asked the status. President Wilshire reported Ms. Freenock proposed something to the Committee for review. Once Ms. Freenock returns, the Committee will discuss it. A copy can be given to Mr. Hopkins.

New Business: Mr. Hopkins informed everyone the Planning Commission was supposed to re-organize in January but could not because there wasn't a quorum. Mr. Hopkins, who fully intends to resign, has agreed to stay on until someone is found to replace him. Anyone willing to serve on the Planning Commission should contact the Borough. Mr. Ragon reported a member of Council cannot be a member of the Zoning Hearing Board but can serve on the Planning Commission. Mr. Herman doesn't want to see Mr. Hopkins cast a vote and later find out it wasn't allowed. President Wilshire asked Ms. LaVan to contact the Solicitor to make sure this is allowed.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Mr. Hopkins, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Linda M. LaVan
Assistant Borough Secretary