

March 4, 2008, Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the Clarion Borough Council was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2008, in the Clarion Free Library. Vice President Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members present included: Ms. Moore, Ms. Vavrek, Mr. Herman, Ms. Leonard, and Mr. Hopkins. Mr. Zerfoss and President Wilshire were absent. Mayor Stroup, Mr. Ragon, Chief Hall, and Ms. Freenock were also present.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Ms. Vavrek, the minutes of the February 5, 2008, Council Meeting, were approved by a vote of five yea.

Ms. Leonard, seconded by Mr. Hopkins made a motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session of February 25, 2008. There was one correction to be made; the motion carried by a vote of five yea.

ADMINISTRATION

Vice President Moore presented the appropriations for the month of March. Ms. Freenock noted that the Zelenkofske Axelrod invoice that was included in the appropriations was changed due to a billing error. The actual amount of the invoice should have been \$830.00. On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Hopkins, the appropriations were approved by a vote of five yea.

Ms. Freenock noted that the first draw from the 2008 TAN would be made next week.

On a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Ms. Leonard, permission was granted to advertise Council's intention to extend the term of the loan guaranty to the First United National Bank of Fryburg with respect to a loan made by the bank to Clarion Area Authority. The motion carried by a vote of five yea.

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

Vice President Moore announced there are several new businesses in the area. Backstreet Café is located on Merle Road behind the Post Office. A meeting room is located there that can seat 25 people or less. Scrap Happy is located on Main Street. In addition to a big inventory of supplies, classes will be available. Zeller's Music relocated their business to the former Paul Weaver Jewelry Store.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Ms. Vavrek made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Leonard for Tom Thompson to attend training in Hershey. The motion carried by a vote of five yea.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Herman made a motion to approve Clarion Area Chamber of Business & Industry's special event request for free parking, no parking, and bagged meters for their Spring Fling Event. The Committee met to discuss parking concerns that were voiced last month and decided everything went well last year. Mr. Hopkins seconded the motion.

The motion carried with a vote of four yea with Ms. Leonard voting no due to there being no established crosswalk in that area.

Mr. Herman made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Leonard to approve CU Interfraternity & Panhellenic Councils' special event request for a 5K run to benefit Make-a-Wish to be held on May 4, 2008; the motion carried by a vote of five yea.

On a motion by Mr. Herman with a second by Mr. Hopkins to give permission for the University Activities Board at Clarion University for their request to host a bon fire pep rally October 2, 2008. The motion carried with a vote of five yea.

HOUSING & ZONING COMMITTEE

Ms. Vavrek noted that no action is being sought on proposed amendment as it must first go before the Housing & Zoning Committee. Mr. Hopkins stated that the purpose of the proposed amendment was to change the requirement to put expansion of non-conforming uses before the Zoning Hearing Board.

RECREATION

Ms. Leonard made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Hopkins to give permission for Ms. Leonard and Ms. Freenock to attend a DCNR 2008 Parks & Recreation Academy April 9, 16, and 23, 2008, at a cost of \$75 for three sessions each; the motion carried with a vote of five yea.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Stroup stated that he recently met with the Federal Highway Administration and informed them of the objections to tolling I-80.

Mr. Herman thanked the local VFW and Don Montgomery for the annual awards dinner where Officer William Scheckler was honored as Officer of the Year.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Freenock noted that she contacted Comcast regarding arrangements made with Klingensmith's to accept payment of Comcast bills. Klingensmith's was charging a fee to the customer for this service. That is in contravention of Section 5.1 of the Franchise Agreement. Comcast has remedied the matter.

NEW BUSINESS

The proposed policy regarding contact with the Borough Solicitor was read into the minutes by Ms. Moore. The policy was approved on a motion made by Ms. Vavrek and seconded by Mr. Hopkins by a vote of five yea.

Ms. Moore noted that the Solicitor is now affiliated with the local firm of Pope & Drayer.

Mr. Hopkins asked the Public Works and Public Safety Committees to look at the handicapped parking space in front of the Post Office. Several citizens have complained that a car seems to be parked there 5-6 hours at a time.

Ms. Vavrek announced the United Way is planning a Military Appreciation Day to be held June 21, 2008.

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Hopkins with a second by Mr. Herman, the Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Secretary