

June 11, 2010, Council Meeting
Minutes

A special meeting of Clarion Borough Council was held on Friday, June 11, 2010, in the Clarion Borough Office. President Vavrek called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. All Councilmembers with the exception of Dr. Sanders Dédé were present. Also present were: Mayor Estadt, Messrs. Ragon, Thompson, Colosimo, and Kopko, Officer Peck, and Mss. LaVan and Freenock.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Hopkins made a motion seconded by Ms. Leonard to award the South Street Reconstruction Project to Terra Works for \$281,224 with authorization for Ron Kopko to negotiate additional work items, including extra curbing, removal and relocation of the hitching post, removal and replanting of additional trees, with the total remaining cost of the project, including engineering fees, not to exceed \$360,000.

Mr. Zerfoss requested information regarding the other bids received. Glenn O. Hawbaker's bid was \$311,734.50 and IA Construction bid at \$446,000.

Ms. Freenock stated that Mr. Colosimo and Mr. Kopko spoke with Grove City and Brookville representatives, respectively. All accounts were good; in fact, Grove City hired Terra Works to do additional work.

Mr. Noto wanted to assure that Terra Works would not add the final paving to the road until PAWC completed its work on South Street. Mr. Kopko will coordinate with Terra Works and PAWC.

Ms. Freenock stated that the additional curbing was something raised by the concerned citizens. Several landlords called and asked that their trees be removed and possibly replanted. Ms. Freenock stated that nothing regarding these issues could be undertaken as the Borough was instructed by DCED to incur no additional costs for the project until the ERR and the associated comment period had run and the request for Release of Funds was approved. The letter regarding tree selection was sent to property owners at Borough expense. The tree selected by the property owners was the Autumn Blaze Flowering Pear.

Mr. Hopkins confirmed that the grant would pay for the removal of the hitching post. Mr. Zerfoss stated that Mr. Kopko should negotiate that with Terra Works; and if the Cherico's do not want it on their property, the County and the Historical Society should be consulted.

A roll call vote was taken as follows: Mr. Zerfoss: yes; Mr. Walters: yes; Ms. Leonard: yes; Mr. Noto: yes; Mr. Hopkins: yes; and, President Vavrek: yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Vavrek called an Executive Session, beginning at 8:10 a.m., including Councilmembers, the Borough Manager, and Mr. Thompson, to discuss Public Works personnel.

President Vavrek called the meeting back to order at 8:55 a.m. and stated that no action was taken.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Zerfoss made a motion to promote Doug Preston to Public Works Foreman, effective May 15, 2010, at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. Ms. Leonard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Zerfoss then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walters, to advertise two Public Works temporary, full time positions, at \$12.50 per hour, with no benefits, with the possibility of promotion to permanent status. It was noted that the Union would be required to approve changes to the existing contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hopkins asked that the minutes reflect the fact that Council is fully supportive of Mr. Thompson in the role of Supervisor and that he is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Walters mentioned the brush pile. Ms. Freenock stated that she is working with DEP to schedule a meeting where DEP can visit sites that have been proposed as composting sites. There are requirements that must be met; and once the guidelines have been furnished by DEP, they will be distributed to Council. If Council has suggested sites, please provide an address to Ms. Freenock so that DEP can clear the site before its visit. Such sites cannot be near streams or endangered species or protected vegetation.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Estadt noted that Harold Swan from PennDOT held a meeting at the Chamber Office yesterday. The Mayor stated that concerns had been raised by merchants and those that walk on Main Street about the location of the pedestrian signals. She stated that they are poorly placed and may cause injury if one is inattentive. They also leave little room for others to navigate around someone in a wheelchair or using a walker. She was informed that the signals are placed as mandated by federal law; however, Mr. Swan would check to see if there was an acceptable way to relocate them.

Ms. Freenock stated that she mentioned that a sidewalk should be installed along Greenville Avenue for safety reasons and asked about Transportation Enhancement Funds and noted that the project is ready to go; she also asked about relocation or removal of the blinker at Bilo and the installation of a traffic light at Greenville Avenue and Corbett Street. Each of these items has been suggested to the County in the past for inclusion in the TIP. The response was that partnering when making such requests would lend them more weight. Nevertheless, Mr. Swan will look into these issues.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported that the first Neighborhood Watch Meeting was held on June 9, 2010. Representatives from the Borough, the University, Passages, and the Press were present. Only one citizen was present. The Mayor and the Chief were disappointed with the lack of community presence but will attempt to better advertise the next meeting, which is scheduled for June 30, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., location to be determined. If there is still a lack of participation, the plan would be to incubate an area, probably South 7th Avenue and South Street.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon a motion by Ms. Leonard, with s second by Mr. Hopkins, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy K. Freenock
Borough Secretary