

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2012**

The November Borough Council Meeting for the Borough of Clark's Summit was conducted on Tuesday, November 7, 2012 at 7:08 P.M. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clark's Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were President Gerrie Carey, Mr. Herman Johnson, Mr. Patrick Williams, Ms. Patricia Lawler, Mr. Dominic Scott, David Jenkins, Mr. Roy Davis, Recording Secretary Virginia Kehoe, Mayor Harry Kelly, OIC Chris Yarns, Solicitor Pat Rogan, JR Council Mr. Remus and JR Council Mr. Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Carey

MEDITATION:

Mayor Kelly

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Kelly

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

President Carey

David Jenkins made the first motion to approve the agenda, Dominic Scott seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous 6-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

President Carey

- **September 25, 2012 Work Session:** Patricia Lawler was the first to make a motion to approve the September 25, 2012 minutes, Herman Johnson seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous 6-0.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:

President Carey

Gerard Hepman from the Lackawanna County Department of Community Relations spoke to Council about events coming up in Lackawanna County. Mr. Hepman commented that Herman Johnson, EMA Coordinator, was very helpful in keeping officials up to date during Hurricane Sandy.

Janine Port commented that there was good turnout for voting on Election Day. Ms. Port also asked about the sidewalks and commented on the importance of sidewalks in the Borough. There may possibly be a Trolley Trail program coming to Clarks Summit. Herman Johnson stated that Council is aware of the situation and is always looking for grants for sidewalks in the Borough. Janine Port asked about the Bedford Towers project. Virginia Kehoe stated that CDBG money is used for low income or handicapped sidewalks. Liquid Fuels cannot be used for sidewalks.

Dominic Scott commented on the VFW Memorial Service which will be on Sunday at 6pm with a free dinner.

Terry Barrett, a Borough resident commented on the leaf collection on Lansdowne. Ms. Barrett stated that there were a lot of leaves and there was inconsistency with the leaf pickup in her opinion. Ms. Barrett suggested a scheduling system for the DPW to pick up leaves so the residents have an idea when the collecting was happening in their neighborhood. Herman Johnson stated that with the hurricane that came through, trees came down as well as a good amount of leaves. Also there were 2 DPW workers that were on sick leave and this made the situation more difficult. Virginia Kehoe did state that the DPW could collect the leaves after Thanksgiving if the weather permits. The leaves became such an issue because residents were raking the leaves into the swales and storm drains instead raking them to the edge of the property. Patty Lawler inquired about putting a system in to place to make the leaf cleanup better. Herman Johnson stated that the DPW has been out daily. Residents are raking leaves out into the streets and if the Borough and the residents work together, the leaf cleanup can be successful. Patrick Williams suggested a committee be formed to meet and tweak the leaf pickup system. Possibly by breaking the Borough into quarters and working on the pickup that way. Herman Johnson commented that this will be discussed at the next DPW Committee Meeting. Virginia Kehoe stated that there are many different situations that may arise which will make it very difficult if not impossible to schedule leaf pickup for the residents. Equipment issues, personnel, bad weather all contribute to making a set schedule difficult to keep.

4. BIDS & QUOTATIONS: President Carey

5. BOROUGH TREASURER’S REPORT President Carey
 Herman Johnson made the first motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, Patty Lawler seconded the motion and the vote was 7-0.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

• **Building & Plant Pat Williams, Chair**

Patrick Williams discussed a drop box for the sewer billing. The mail-drop is in the front of the building. Paint the lid silver so it can be identified easier by residents. Put a sticker on the window above the drop-box to show residents where to drop off the sewer bill. The sewer billing company can put message on the bottom of the bill alerting residents to the sewer drop-box.

• **Finance Committee Gerrie Carey, Chair**

We have been working on the budget. We have it balanced without a raise in taxes but cut and slashed severely. Cutting donations in half including the AAJRB not giving raises to Neil Bartholme and Virginia Kehoe and part time staff. No money was put in for building maintenance. There is room for improvement, feel free to give input. A letter was sent out to delinquent taxpayers. Also O’Boyle appraised the lot on Summit Avenue.

• **Grant Committee Patty Lawler, Chair**

Patty Lawler stated that in conjunction with OIC Chris Yarns, they have applied for a grant to pay for scales to weigh the tonnage for tractor trailers. The grant was from the Monroe County Gaming Board. January 29, 2013 is when the Monroe County Gaming

Board is meeting to review the applications. OIC Chris Yarns and Virginia Kehoe had phone conference with a woman who was hired by Harley Davidson to assist with finding grant money for police motorcycles. There are different federal and state grants that the Borough might be eligible for; Some through corporations and some through private funding. They will review the applications prior to submitting them and make recommendations. Virginia Kehoe stated that we would apply to the grants department of PPL, PNC and Bank of America. Ms. Kehoe also said the Borough is looking for letters of support which would be helpful. The scales cost \$20,000 for four. Nothing that is bought in advance of this grant is included in the grant.

- **Insurance Committee** Roy Davis, Chair

Workers Compensation for Volunteer Firemen is an issue. All insurance companies are dropping the workers compensation for volunteer firemen. 12/31/12 is the date that the compensation will be dropped. David Jenkins will look into other companies that may offer workers compensation.

- **Personnel Committee** Gerrie Carey, Chair

Will discuss during Executive Session.

- **Public Safety/Safety** Herman Johnson, Chair

Nothing new.

- **Public Works** Herman Johnson, Chair

Herman Johnson stated that there are two DPW workers on sick leave. The leaf clean-up system needs to be tweaked. Patrick Williams and Herman Johnson asked about the work on Bedford Street which was interrupted because of Hurricane Sandy. Herman Johnson commented on the good work done paving Atherton.

- **Recreation** Dominic Scott, Chair

Nothing new.

- **Recycling Committee** Patty Lawler October winner – National Running Center

Patty Lawler discussed the recycling of the leaves discussed the quantity which is being picked up. Also stated that Baptist Bible students have been helping around the community by raking leaves for residents. Ms. Lawler also discussed the citizens who are concerned about the sewer bill.

- **Clarks Summit Emergency Management Coordinator** Herman Johnson discussed Hurricane Sandy and the power outages in the municipality. There was a large amount of tree debris from the storm that the EMA did discuss/answer complaints about. The County Commissioners were responded to quickly by the EMA as they requested updates and reports on the storm. The manpower used during the storm may get reimbursed. EMA staff worked with the Police Department and the Fire Company responding to calls. Herman Johnson also explained why the PPL response to the power outage was so slow; apparently the Allentown area was hit much harder and the PPL workers were dispatched to that area first. Virginia Kehoe did state that during the storm and subsequent power outage, she tried to reach PPL for some information. No one answered the phone or replied to her emails. There was a website but that was not very informative. Ms. Kehoe stated that they should have updated the community with more information when it was available.

- **Junior Council Mentor** Herman Johnson
Saturday 11/10/12 Junior Council was asked to help hang Christmas lights in the Borough, beginning at noon.

- **Additional comments from Council**
Patrick Williams stated that the police car advertising is moving forward.

7. **POLICE REPORT:** **Mayor Kelly**
OIC Chris Yarns read off the police report to Council. Herman Johnson commented that there are still two police vehicles with over 100,000 miles on each. Mr. Johnson is very concerned about these vehicles with such high mileage.

8. **VENDOR PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:** **President Carey**
Herman Johnson was the first to make a motion to accept the Vendor Payments to be ratified, Roy Davis seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous 7-0.

9. **OLD BUSINESS:** **President Carey**

- **318 Summit Avenue**
This property was appraised for the Borough by O'Boyle Real Estate. The property would have to be advertised if it's for sale. This property could either be auctioned or bid on. Virginia Kehoe stated that this could be ready by the Work Session in December if Council would like. Herman Johnson stated that the Borough should get all the details worked out on this property before rushing into it. Gerry Carey stated that Chris O'Boyle has already done a great job on this and he can give us details on how to proceed.

10. **NEW BUSINESS:** **President Carey**

A. **Resolution 2012-23 Parking Meter Suspension**
Herman Johnson made the first motion to pass Resolution 2012-23, Patty Lawler seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous 7-0.

B. **\$200 to oppose commuter tax**
Herman Johnson was the first to make a motion to oppose the Commuter Tax, Patty Lawler seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous 7-0

C. **Commuter tax to Scranton residents working in the Borough**
Solicitor Pat Rogan said he would look into a commuter tax for people from other towns who come to work in the Clarks Summit area. Herman Johnson stated that Clarks Summit would have to be labeled as a "Distressed City"

D. **Worker's Compensation distribution**
Council asked if Clarks Summit is entitled to bill other municipalities like South Abington for emergency services. South Abington says that Clarks Summit isn't the first responding unit. Virginia Kehoe stated that she will call the Comm Center and see the numbers on who was dispatched first to South Abington residents.

E. **Ordinances 2012-13 – 2012-17**
Will be advertised and Council can vote during the December Council Meeting.

F. **Resolution 2012-24 Pave Cuts**

Herman Johnson discussed enforcing the pave cuts. Who is responsible for enforcement? Herman Johnson discussed blacktopping in the Clarks Summit area. The Borough Engineer, Bob Nagele is breaking the Borough into two parts and moving ahead with this. Patrick Williams asked if there are any guarantees or warranties on the pave cuts. Virginia Kehoe stated that yes there is a warranty of one year, stated in section # 7 of the resolution.

Patty Lawler discussed changing the parking ticket fines from \$5 to \$10. Herman Johnson wants to meet with Barry Kaplan to discuss this. Patty Lawler stated that the \$5 is not feasible any longer.

11. **BOROUGH SEWER OFFICE REPORT:** **President Carey**
Council members discussed the new sewer billing company “Automated Payroll Services.” There has been some difficulty with emailing and there were many misspellings on the invoice. Virginia Kehoe stated that Laurie Rosengrant is scheduled to attend the worksession. There is a section of the invoice where a message could be written to the residents. Roy Davis asked about including a return envelope with the invoice. Virginia Kehoe explained that including an envelope would be costly to the Borough. Ms. Kehoe also discussed the option of an automatic deduction, which many residents are interested in, she would get a price for that.

12. **SOLICITOR’S REPORT:** **Solicitor Rogan**

13. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** **President Carey**
 - **Prior-** 10/3/12 personnel
 - 10/30/12 personnel
 - **During-**
 - **Subsequent-** Immediately following

15. **ADJOURN:** **President Carey**
David Jenkins was the first to make a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dominic Scott seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous 6-1 with Herman Johnson voting “Nay”