

**BOROUGH OF CLARKS SUMMIT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2008  
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The regular March Meeting of Borough Council was conducted on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 7:01 P.M. The Meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were President Gerrie Carey, Vice President Patrick Williams, Mr. Bob Bennett, Mrs. Kathy Drake, Mrs. Barbara Evans and Mr. Herman Johnson. Also attending were Borough Manager/Secretary, Virginia Kehoe, Police Chief Louis Vitale and Solicitor Ernest Preate. There being a quorum present the Meeting was called to order by Council President, followed by a brief period of self-directed meditation and then the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mr. Bennett moved to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes for the February 6, 2008 Council meeting were presented. Mr. Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted 6-0.

The minutes for the February 26, 2008 Council Work Session were presented. Mrs. Drake made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mrs. Evans seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT & INPUT:**

Barbara R. Grabfelder gave an update on the Community Garden. She stated that as of March 4, 2008, 24 plots have been rented; 11 large, 9 medium and 4 small. This has generated \$880.00 which will be set aside for the water bill. 8 horizontal named streets were sold at \$250.00 and in addition 2 park benches were sold at \$150.00. \$1327.00 was earned by the members of the Community Garden by working the snack bar at the Abington Wrestling Club Tournament. With all of the combined fundraising efforts, the Committee has raised \$3,950.00 toward the project.

President Carey stated that a representative from Representative Wansacz' office contacted Council and that they are presenting Council with a grant that is to be forwarded to the Community Garden in the amount of \$3,000.00 to pay for the fence.

**BIDS AND QUOTATIONS:** None

**BOROUGH TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Borough Treasurer's Report, as of February 29, 2008 was before Council. Motion made by Mr. Johnson to approve the Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried 6 – 0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. Bennett of the Public Safety Committee thanked Chief Vitale for the time he has spent looking into details with regard to the new police vehicle. Mr. Bennett stated that at this time he is desirous of turning this project over to the Finance Committee to work out the details of the financial implications. There are various issues concerning leasing versus purchasing, bank loan interest etc. Mr. Bennett also spoke about the idea of the current police vehicle being turned over to EMA. He stated that while he has no problem with this, it must be considered that by doing so, the Borough could be losing out on any revenue acquired through the sale of the vehicle. Also, if the various internal fixtures such as the cage, radios, sirens, etc. are allowed to remain in the old vehicle, this would increase the cost of the new vehicle for the Police. He explained that all of the money is essentially coming from the Borough, but that it will depend upon where the money lies in the books and who is gaining and losing funds in their department budget. Mr. Johnson stated the only equipment EMA would likely be interested in is the radio.

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Resident Tom Vokes questioned the need for an EMA police car and questioned what they would be responding to and what their level of expertise was to respond to such situations. Mr. Johnson defended the need for the vehicle and explained the capacity in which EMA operates. He stated that the vehicle will be accessible to the Police, Code Enforcement Officers and Borough Manager when not in use by EMA.

Mr. Vokes also spoke to the raise of taxes by this Council. He stated that while this Council claims that they have not raised taxes, they have, as the former Council was able to drop the millage by 3 mills as of December, 2007. He stated that he feels this Council is, in spite of a declining economy, taking more and more money from its citizens to pay for expenditures such as this vehicle. Mr. Johnson claimed that when the budget was revisited, there was not enough money to provide the necessary services and that is why Council changed the millage. Mrs. Drake also claimed that there was an extensive amount of research done into adjusting the budget. Mr. Vokes again questioned how anyone on Council for less than a month could redo the entire budget and research it adequately. He stated that Council never even gave the new budget a chance to work and that he just sees this Council's spending as foolish. Mr. Johnson continued to defend EMA and explained revenue that they have helped to generate through FEMA funds, etc.

Mr. Ray Davis questioned why the Borough would keep the car for EMA if it was not in good enough shape for the Police. He stated his belief that the Borough will end up spending a lot of money to fix the car and that it is a bad move to keep the car.

Mr. Williams gave an update for the Planning Committee. He stated that the bathrooms and other projects in the downstairs of the Borough Building are moving along well. The estimated completion for the project is approximately 60-90 days. The proposed use for the renovated area will be determined as the project continues.

**POLICE REPORT:**

Chief Vitale gave the February 2008 Police Report, and summary of police related activities. Mr. Bennett asked Chief Vitale to please give a more detailed overtime breakdown, showing which officers were on vacation, etc. which required the use of the overtime hours, in the future. Chief Vitale explained the breakdown for this month and agreed to include the overtime breakdown in future reports.

**BILLS TO BE PAID:**

Motion made by Mrs. Drake to pay bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Evans and carried 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Resolution 2008-11 Tax collectors account – The account has been moved to PNC Bank where it is earning 4% in a sweep account and another signor, the Borough Treasurer, has been added. Mr. Bennett made a motion to accept the Resolution, Mr. Johnson seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

Resolution 2008-13 \$10.00 fingerprinting fee – The Police Department has been providing fingerprinting to both residents and non-residents alike for various employment needs, etc. They would like to begin collecting a \$10.00 fingerprinting fee for this service. Mr. Heath Goldstein, a resident, questioned whether neighboring departments are charging this fee. Virginia Kehoe stated that in her research the average fees were around \$10 - \$15. Any monies collected would be placed in the General Fund. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Resolution. Mr. Williamson seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

Hepatitis shots – Virginia Kehoe stated that the details of pricing, etc. for the Hepatitis Shots was discussed at the work session meeting and it was determined that Dr. Kareha's pricing and services would best meet the needs of the Borough. Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept Dr. Kareha's services. Mrs. Evans seconded the motion.

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Barbara Grabfelder questioned another fee that was mentioned that was less, by Allied Services. It was explained that all of the services and documentation together was better offered by Dr. Kareha and ultimately the package of services would cost less.

After discussion Mr. Bennett moved to amend the movement to include that all employees, including part time employees, receive the shots. Mr. Johnson accepted this amendment to his motion. Mrs. Drake seconded the amendment.

A vote was taken regarding the Amendment. The amendment carried 6-0. A vote was taken to approve the motion with the amendment. The motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Motion to name John Jeffrey as alternate on ZHB – Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve John Jeffrey as alternate. Mrs. Drake seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

B. Lights at Presbyterian Church and Highland Associates – Virginia Kehoe explained that the First Presbyterian Church requested the light and stated that they host many evening activities, including support groups, which are open to all residents of the community. They expressed their feeling that crossing that street, especially at night when most of the groups meet, is dangerous. Virginia Kehoe stated that it would not cost the Borough to install the light, but that a monthly electric bill of \$16-\$20 a month would be incurred. Mr. Bennett stated his opinion that it would be opening a can of worms to begin paying for extra lighting at one location and not another, and that whatever policy Council decides to go with it should be all encompassing.

The second request was from Highland Associates and requested a light between their two parking lots. Both President Carey and Mr. Johnson looked at the area and stated that Highland already has a light and would simply need to add a lens to the one they already have.

Mr. Johnson added that he also looked at the light at the church and feels that the lighting they already have is adequate and that, as Mr. Bennett said, to begin installing and assuming the payment for additional lighting would be opening a can of worms.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to decline both requests and turn it over to the safety committee to review at a later date. President Carey suggested tabling both requests pending review by the safety committee. Mr. Johnson changed his motion and simply suggested the requests be tabled.

C. Recycling bins for AHHS – thru Rotary – Abington Rotary has sent requests to South Abington, Clarks Summit and Clarks Green seeking the donation of Recycling Bins to the High School for paper recycling. Virginia Kehoe stated that they are seeking 130 bins, and that South Abington Township has already agreed to donate half of the bins. Virginia stated that she did check with DPW to find out how many bins we have left, but that because this issue just came up this afternoon, she did not have time to get a number from them. She also stated that the Borough receives a grant in the amount of approximately \$10,000.00 and that usually gets the Borough approximately 500 bins normally designated for the residents. There was discussion of the revenue from the high school recycling going to South Abington Township, while if the program was extended into the elementary school, anything from Grove Street would go toward increasing Clarks Summit's grant revenue. The request was tabled pending review by the Recycling Committee.

Mr. Bennett discussed an e-mail he received from the Independent Business Network (IBN) requesting that Virginia Kehoe serve as a liaison between Council and the IBN, specifically asking Virginia to be a member of their Council. Mr. Bennett stated that if Virginia is willing to accept the position he would like to make a motion for Virginia Kehoe to accept that appointment. After discussion Mr. Johnson made the suggestion that Council take no action and instead wait to see if IBN and ABPA merge, at which time he suggests a member of Council be appointed.

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**BOROUGH SEWER OFFICE REPORT:**

The February 2008 Sewer Office Report by Virginia Kehoe was presented before Council. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to accept the report as presented. Mr. Bennett seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A Thank you note from Odyssey of the Mind was received.

**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:**

Executive sessions were held prior to this meeting on February 6, 2008 to address litigation and personnel. None were held during and one will be held immediately subsequent to this evenings meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business before Council Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Katie M. Bower  
Borough Secretary**

**Geraldine A. Carey  
Council President**