

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2014**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** President Rinaldi called the meeting of the Clarks Green Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:** Secretary/Treasurer Brown conducted roll call. The following were present: Mr. Barrasse, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Williams, Mayor Thorburn and Solicitor Weinschenk.

**EXCUSED:** Ms. Palmer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2014 Council meeting. All in attendance voted in favor.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Hughes asked about the hit and run incident at 406 Gordon Drive, which had happened in the morning. Officer Siegler will check into it. Mr. Rinaldi asked about the increase in speeding on Route 407. Mayor Thorburn asked about setting the speed indicator on South Abington Road. The Mayor also asked for additional coverage in the Borough over the weekend due to tents, chairs and tables being set up for the Centennial celebration. The Mayor then gave the Centennial report as he discussed the completion of the work at the park; the pavers being placed; the flags are up; the tents are up, etc. He reported the Centennial checking account has \$6487 in it. The Mayor reported that Mike Stevens presented a very nice report on the Centennial coverage on TV this evening. Mr. Rinaldi reported he received pricing from Corky's for flowers at the park which would coordinate with the flowers in the front of the Borough building. This expense will come out of the Building & Grounds landscaping account. Council discussed the distribution of food and it was determined to provide the food at no cost to attendees. President Rinaldi reported that a Certificate of Appreciation was presented this evening to Mike Gockley for all of his work over the years on the Clarks Green Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Gockley, who has resigned from the Shade Tree Commission, and his family are moving from the area. Mr. Rinaldi reported the Commission, Borough Council, the Mayor and the residents have appreciated his tenure on the Commission through the years. He and all the good work he does will be missed.

**VISITORS:** Officer Scott Siegler, South Abington Police Department; Meredith Colohan, Abington Journal reporter; Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County outreach.

**LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS:** Gerard Hetman discussed the Re-Invest Grant which the Borough had applied for. He suggested the Borough re-apply for just the defibrillator, which he offered to help with. Mr. Hetman reported he would be in attendance at the Centennial celebration at the County information booth. In addition, he presented flyers for upcoming County events.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Weinschenk talked about the FieldTurf Payment Application #5 in the amount \$90,190.08 which was discussed by Council at the previous meeting, which Solicitor Weinschenk did not attend. The extension of the warranty regarding the subsurface of the field was discussed. He reported there are two separate warranties with respect to the field. One is the product warranty which deals with the turf and any replacement and repair necessary to the synthetic turf. That warranty is for 8 years from the date of completion, which was in April 2013. He then discussed the Design/Build Warranty which was in effect for one (1) year from date of completion, which has expired as of the end of April 2014. Yesterday Sol. Weinschenk was involved with a conference call between the attorneys for FieldTurf, their Operations Manager, their Accounting Department, and Jim Kane. Extension of the warranty was discussed with respect to the Design/Build Contract which would mean any future issues during the next year with respect to the base would be covered. Also discussed was a cap on FieldTurf's liability. Solicitor Weinschenk is asking Council for approval of Application #5 conditioned upon the receipt of FieldTurf's response to issues discussed during the phone conference. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Phillips to approve payment for Application #5 in the amount of \$90,190.08 contingent upon receipt of FieldTurf's response regarding the subsurface warranty. Solicitor Weinschenk reported these funds would have to come from the \$100,000.00 contingency fund AAJRB has. Mr. Barrassé, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Phillips voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi noted the Auditor's report from Murphy, Dougherty and Co. will be given at the June Council meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL:** The Treasurer's report was presented by Mr. Hughes and was filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

Capital Fund Money Market	\$	23,516.12
Centennial Checking		5,278.91
General Fund Checking		273,226.99
General Fund Money Market		35,242.80
Sewer Fund Checking		253,208.12
Sewer Fund Money Market		84,921.81
State Funds Checking		<u>38,238.57</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$	713,633.32

Checking account balances were reviewed by Mr. Hughes with figures compared to last year's and last month's amounts. Mr. Hughes asked Solicitor Weinschenk about a lien search on the two (2) highest sewer amounts owed. Solicitor Weinschenk replied that the fee for him to conduct a lien search would be \$125.00 per property. After review of current bills paid, Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to accept the Treasurer's Report and ratify the payment of the bills. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Barrassé, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Williams voted in favor. Mr. Hughes then discussed yearly comparisons on the Budget vs. Actual report. In addition, he presented the current sewer payment report. Mr. Hughes reported on a letter which President Rinaldi had sent to Bill Risse. The letter to Mr. Risse included a copy of a letter received from DCED regarding 2009 Local Share Grant funds. Mr. Risse replied that he will have Michele Breslin coordinate this report which is due June 15. Mr. Hughes then reported that the ARWA audit had been received and was available for Council review. Mr. Hughes has questions on a few items and is asking to be authorized to attend the ARWA

meetings. Neither President Rinaldi, nor members of Council had any objections. Mr. Hughes reported the COMCAST payment of \$4,312.00 had been received on May 1. In addition, Mr. Hughes reported a request had been received from the Griffin Pond Animal Shelter for a donation of \$1,000.00. Due to a returned donation check in the past, he is recommending to Council to take no action.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS:** Mr. Phillips discussed the planting of flowers at the park across from the Borough building in preparation for the Centennial. Mr. Hughes offered to donate a perennial from his yard.

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** Mr. Barrasse discussed the District Attorney's office involvement in the Centennial activities which will include finger print kits for children to be provided for the parents to take home. In addition, he and the Mayor reported that a fire truck will be at the Assembly of God Church for the children as well.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mrs. Earley reported DPW employee Mike Pehonich, who had a workplace shoulder injury, returned to work yesterday with Dr.'s restrictions for light duty work. He will return to the doctor designated by our insurance company around June 3. She also reported the street sweeper started in the Borough this past Monday. Pipe Services has also started in the Borough working on sewer pipe grouting and checking on sewer pipe joints. The Borough Engineer and DPW employee Dave Kohinsky are working closely with the vendor. Thanks to the effort of our DPW employee Mike Pehonich and the use of South Abington Township's bucket truck, the United States flags have been installed on the telephone poles for the Centennial. Mrs. Earley met with Borough Engineer Jack Scheuer. He received three (3) proposals for work needed to be done on our 5 year plan for the Abington Regional Wastewater Authority. There are three (3) areas on Abington Road that need cured-in-place work are for cracks in pipes as documented by our 2009 TV inspection. Tri-State Grouting submitted a proposal of \$14,750. Insight Pipe Contracting submitted a bit of \$26,165.00 and National Water Main's bid was \$15,000.00. Tri-State Grouting is currently performing work for South Abington Township and can do this work for Clarks Green Borough next week. Solicitor Weinschenk reported that from a legal standpoint, Council can accept the lowest proposal. Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes to accept the Tri-State Grouting proposal of \$14,750.00 to perform work on Abington Road. Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Barrasse, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Hughes voted in favor.

**REFUSE & RECYCLING:** There was no report due to Ms. Palmer's absence.

**PERSONNEL:** Mr. Williams discussed DPW employee Dave Kohinsky's interest in assuming the position of acting Roadmaster. Mr. Williams distributed and discussed pay rates for surrounding municipalities and talked about the current job description for the Borough DPW Foreman. Mr. Phillips discussed having Mr. Kohinsky act in the supervisor capacity through the reporting period for the Abington Regional Wastewater Authority in an effort to review the result of paperwork involved. Council discussion ensued regarding placing the ad, maintaining paperwork and obtaining the best qualified candidate for the position. In addition, Mr. Williams reported he received a call from assistant secretary/treasurer Sharon Barrett to inform him that the temporary summer worker has started. His pay rate last year was \$8.50 per hour and she

wanted to know if Council wanted to consider an increase. After Council discussion, Mr. Williams motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to increase the hourly rate for the summer DPW employee, Dean Salmon to \$9.00 per hour. Mr. Barrassé, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Williams, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi, and Mr. Hughes voted in favor. Mrs. Earley asked about a gift certificate for Mr. Santarsiero from Council in the amount of \$100.00 which would be approximately \$12.50 from each Council member.

**AAJRB COMMITTEE:** There was no report due to Ms. Palmer's absence.

**ACOG:** There was no report due to Ms. Palmer's absence.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Rinaldi reported on the status of the Community Re-Investment Grant which Mr. Hetman discussed. At the Work Session Mr. Rinaldi discussed going forward with the handicapped door entrance project since the Borough had sufficient funds in the Capital Fund Account. Mr. Phillips motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the purchase and installation of the handicapped accessible door for the lowest proposal which was submitted by Stanley Door. Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Barrassé, Mrs. Earley and Mr. Hughes voted in favor. President Rinaldi then asked Mr. Hetman if the Community Re-Investment Grant could be used to alleviate the safety issue on Route 407. Mr. Hetman replied that he would check with the Development Office to see if that project would qualify for funding. Mr. Rinaldi discussed that he and Mr. Phillips have been working on upgrading the Borough computers. Two computer firms have been contacted and their fees are approximately \$1,000.00. The use of money from the Capital Fund was mentioned.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There were no items for discussion.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Williams motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. All in attendance voted in favor.

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Janice F. Brown, Secretary/Treasurer