

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2015**

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: Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Williams, Mr. Barrasse, and Mayor Thorburn.

ABSENT: Solicitor Weinschenk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting. Mr. Barrasse, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Williams and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor.

VISITORS: Jeff Kyle, DGK Insurance; Kevin Kincel, Kincel Insurance; Karl Kincel, Kincel Insurance; Malcolm McGregor; Gerard Hetman, Lackawanna County Community Relations; Bob Gerrity, South Abington Township Chief of Police; Meredith Colohan, Abington Journal reporter.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

MAYOR'S AND POLICE DEPARTMENT: South Abington Police Chief Robert Gerrity presented the police report for the month of December 2014 as well as a summary of events for the past year. South Abington Township provided 2,850 hours of service to the Borough in 2014. During that time, 22 traffic accidents were reported, 64 traffic citations were issued and 74 criminal incidents were investigated. Ms. Palmer asked if there would be police attendance at Council meetings going forward. Chief Gerrity replied there would be. In closing, Chief Gerrity expressed his appreciation to be able to supply police service to the residents of Clarks Green Borough. Mayor Thorburn thanked the Chief and his staff for the police service throughout the years. In closing, Mayor Thorburn reported he would be attending an Emergency Management Coordinator meeting on February 24, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the 911 Center in Jessup.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Mr. Gerard Hetman reported that his schedule will now allow him to attend every Clarks Green Borough Council meeting. In addition, he reported on upcoming County events and distributed flyers.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: There was no report in Solicitor Weinschenk's absence.

President Rinaldi discussed the current insurance coverage contract which the Borough has with DGK Insurance. Representatives from DGK Insurance as well as Kincel Insurance discussed coverage and premiums. After Council discussion, Mr. Phillips motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes to continue with the EMC Policy through DGK Insurance. Mr. Barrasse, Ms. Palmer,

Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams and Mr. Phillips voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi voted against. President Rinaldi asked Malcolm McGregor who was in attendance if he would like to say a few words. He replied that he is a resident of North Abington Township and is visiting municipal Council meetings during his run for Magisterial District Judge.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL: Mr. Hughes reported that he will meet with Mr. Cuck from the Abington Little League on Thursday, January 22, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at the Borough Building to discuss their request for a donation and is inviting any Council member interested in attending. Mr. Hughes then presented the Treasurer’s Report which was filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

Capital Fund Money Market	\$	29,358.97
General Fund Checking		196,528.04
General Fund Money Market		35,247.54
Sewer Fund Checking		242,826.92
Sewer Fund Money Market		84,933.21
State Funds Checking		<u>4,292.99</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$	593,187.67

Mr. Hughes compared checking account balances of last month and last year. With no questions from Council, Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Ms. Palmer to accept the Treasurer’s Report and ratify the payment of the bills. Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Barrasse, Mr. Williams, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor. Mr. Hughes then discussed the Budget vs. Actual report with various balances compared to a month ago and a year ago. He then presented a report noting current sewer delinquencies and those residents who received a Certified letter regarding their balances. Mr. Hughes discussed the current interest rate being charged to delinquent sewer accounts. The Borough Solicitor suggested the Borough increase the quarterly sewer rate by .0833% per month which is 10% annually. Mr. Rinaldi reported the sewer ordinance fee as well as the millage will be set at a special meeting prior to the Work Session to be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Williams reported that January was a quiet month. He will have information on the draft ethics policy for the employee hand book.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Mr. Phillips reported that all garage repairs and electrical issues have been completed.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr. Barrasse reported the Northeast Signal cost regarding the push button walk signal has been reduced from \$650.00 to \$261.00 after Mr. Barrasse spoke with them. He discussed the PennDot grant which will be applied for again in 2015. The replacement of the loop sensor by Northeast Signal will cost approximately \$1,000.00. This cost will be added to the PennDot grant application.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mrs. Earley stated the DPW Foreman reports the staff has been working on organizing the garage and office area by acquiring low-cost shelving. She also reported the Borough received a letter from the EPA indicating it has reviewed the information sent to them about the MS4 compliance. The EPA has informed the Borough that Clarks Green has provided sufficient information and has met the conditions of their May 29, 2014 Administrative Order. As of the date of the letter, the EPA has closed its file on Clarks Green Borough and the Borough is not required to provide any additional information to them. The Borough will continue with the activities outlined in earlier correspondence to the EPA. The Borough engineer is sending the DPW staff more in-depth mapping to track the Borough water inlets. In closing, Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes to allow the DPW to purchase shelving to organize the DPW garage and office at a cost of \$159.00. Mr. Phillips, Mr. Barrasse, Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor.

REFUSE & RECYCLING: Ms. Palmer does not have anything to report on for refuse & recycling. Mr. Rinaldi reported that even after the Christmas tree collection, trees are still being spotted curbside. Any residents who have trees to pick up can call County Waste.

AAJRB: The Reorganization meeting for AAJRB will be held tomorrow evening. Ms. Palmer reported the December dinner meeting was held at the Scranton Country Club and was strictly a social event.

ACOG: Ms. Palmer reported she had a speaker lined up to attend the meeting, which she had to postpone due to her illness. The speakers for the meeting were the Friends of Lackawanna. She would like to see the Abington municipalities get on board with their disapproval of any landfill expansion. She reported that she did attend the LCAB meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: President Rinaldi discussed the letter from Tedrick Street resident John Sasz asking that his 2 EDU's be reduced to 1 EDU since he is living at that residence alone now after his mother passed away. Mr. Sasz has transferred the ownership of the property to his daughter and son-in-law, to whom Mr. Rinaldi has forwarded the letter of agreement. Ms. Palmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Phillips to allow the EDU's at 150 Tedrick Street be reduced from 2 EDU's to 1 EDU. Mr. Barrasse, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi discussed the yearly dues for the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to approve the payment of the yearly dues to the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Barrasse and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi then discussed the consideration to reimburse Council members who attend the LCAB monthly dinners. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Williams to allow Borough Council members to be reimbursed for attending the monthly LCAB meetings. Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Barrasse, Ms. Palmer and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Rinaldi discussed the re-appointments to various Borough Committees and Commissions. Ms. Palmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to appoint the following residents to the following Clarks Green Borough Committees or Commissions:

Zoning Hearing Board

5 year terms
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2019

Ronald Leas
Atty. James Gillotti

Planning Commission

4 year terms
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Bruce Sherbine
Emil Pieski

Board of Health

3 year term
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017

Kathleen Baumgardner, RN

1 year term
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015

William Thorburn, Mayor

Shade Tree Commission

3 year term
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2017

Jon Thomas

Abington Area Joint Rec Board

5 year term
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2019

Diane Vietz

Abington Area Wastewater Authority

5 year term
January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2019

David Rinaldi, Council President

Mr. Rinaldi then discussed the resignation of David Gromelski as the Clarks Green Borough representative to the Abington Regional Wastewater Authority. Mr. Rinaldi received a call from Atty. Gromelski last Wednesday to say he was resigning as the Borough representative to ARWA to become the ARWA solicitor. Mr. Gromelski e-mailed his letter of resignation to Mr. Rinaldi. At the ARWA meeting, Mr. Rinaldi acknowledged receipt of his e-mail. The ARWA solicitor cannot be appointed until his current position is replaced. Mr. Hughes presented Mr. Rinaldi with the name of a Borough resident who may agree to serve. Mr. Rinaldi spoke with the resident, who is an accountant, and this is a very busy time of year for her. He told her she can be appointed after tax season, in April. Meanwhile Mr. Rinaldi has offered to serve as the Borough ARWA representative until that time. He will resign that position after the Borough resident is appointed. Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to allow David Rinaldi to serve as the Clarks Green Borough representative to ARWA until the position can be filled by a Clarks Green resident appointment in April 2015. Mr. Williams, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Barrasse, Ms. Palmer, and Mrs. Early voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi abstained. Mr. Rinaldi will call Mr. Donald Snyder to tell him he was appointed and will be at their meetings for the next

two months. Mrs. Earley asked if Robert Davis, former ARWA Executive Director has been replaced. He replied that Ms. Lauren Elliott has been appointed as his replacement. Mr. Rinaldi reported he met with Brian Wrightson from Conxx which is the company involved with the Wi-Fi for the County. The discussed the Borough's free Xfinity Wi-Fi access. Brian will submit costs for the Wi-Fi access points to Mr. Rinaldi. Mr. Wrightson also discussed a free demonstration for the use of cameras in the Borough. Ms. Palmer discussed the possibility of the use of a camera in the dumpster and gazebo area at the rear of the Borough property.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Palmer motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. All in attendance voted in favor.

Janice F. Brown, Secretary/Treasurer