

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER: President Williams 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, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Williams, Mayor Thorburn.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Solicitor Weinschenk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2013 Council meeting. All in attendance voted in favor.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Officer Scott Siegler, South Abington Police Department was available to answer questions from members of Council. Mayor Thorburn then gave a Centennial Committee report.

VISITORS: James Waters, 209 Bailey St., South Abington Township; Mary Hvezda, 316 N. Abington Road; Larry Snell, 404 Park Avenue, Gayle Snell, 404 Park Avenue; Atty. Donna Davis; Representative Marty Flynn; Mike Iorfino, Times Tribune reporter; Scott Siegler, South Abington Township Police Department; Lou Vitale, 119 Hall Avenue.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mary Hvezda addressed Council regarding 319 N. Abington Road. Larry Snell spoke to Council in regards to fire and ambulance protection. Gayle Snell discussed the 18411 zip code as well as fire and ambulance protection. Lou Vitale spoke about the fire contract. In addition, he asked Council to consider sending any surplus municipal money to volunteer fire companies. Atty. Donna Davis addressed Council to discuss the Courthouse Ventures project at 319 N. Abington Road. Representative Marty Flynn presented a U. S. flag and a State of Pennsylvania flag to members of Council for use in the front of the Borough building.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL: Mr. Hughes presented the Treasurer's Report which was filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

Capital Fund Money Market	\$	13,514.23
Centennial Checking		1,178.54
General Fund Checking		203,735.34
General Fund Money Market		35,239.88
Sewer Fund Checking		132,979.66
Sewer Fund Money Market		84,914.79
State Funds Checking		<u>3,052.24</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$	474,614.68

Various checking account balances were reviewed and discussed in comparison to last year's and last month's figures. Mr. Hughes also discussed comparisons on various items and amounts on the Budget vs. Actual report. 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. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Williams voted in favor. Ms. Palmer asked if the Borough could join the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs which meets Quarterly. The annual dues are \$100.00. Mr. Hughes reported that this item will be added to the 2014 Budget. Mr. Phillips discussed budgeting for a handicapped accessible power entrances to the Borough building at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per door. President Williams stated that the only power door needed would be the front door. Mr. Hughes discussed the Borough insurance coverage with DGK Insurance Services, Inc. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to renew the Borough insurance coverage contract with DGK Insurance Services, Inc. Mr. Barrasse, Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Phillips voted in favor. In closing, Mr. Hughes gave an update of the delinquent sewer accounts.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Mr. Phillips reported he is working on the grant proposal for the handicapped accessible door. Mr. Rinaldi gave a report on the price office stationary. Quotes were received from J & B Printing for \$875.00 and from Sprint Print, Inc. in the amount of \$748.92. Council discussion ensued. Mr. Rinaldi motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to purchase stationary from Sprint Print in the amount of \$748.92. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Ms. Palmer voted against. Mr. Phillips discussed Planning Commission members whose terms expire at the end of 2013. President Williams responded that they have been notified and have both agreed to serve another term.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr. Barrasse discussed the renewal of the Fire and Ambulance Protection contract. He reminded members of Council, as well as visitors, that the sole focus is to provide the best fire protection and ambulance service to residents of the Borough. Mr. Barrasse thanked both Clarks Summit Fire Company and Chinchilla Hose Company for their input during this process. After discussion by members of Council, as well as guests, Mr. Phillips motioned, seconded by Ms. Palmer to award the Fire Protection and Ambulance contract to Clarks Summit Borough without the dual dispatch clause. Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Barrasse, Ms. Palmer,

Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Hughes voted in favor. Mr. Hughes, as well as members of Council thanked Mr. Barrasse for all of his work on the fire and ambulance contract.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mrs. Earley reported the DPW has been busy with snow plowing. In addition, she noted another PennDot supervisor/inspector has been assigned to the Abington Road paving project. The DPW asked if they could attend a free breakfast seminar hosted by Slusser Bros. on January 16, 2014 for two hours regarding paving. Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes to allow the DPW to attend a breakfast seminar on paving to be held January 16, 2014. Mr. Barrasse, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley and Mr. Williams voted in favor.

REFUSE & RECYCLING: Mr. Rinaldi has completed the ad and spec sheets for the Refuse and Recycling contract and will present them to Solicitor Weinschenk by the end of the week for review. After the Solicitor reviews them, the ad will be placed. The ad will state the bids will be due the Monday before the February regular meeting which will allow Council to review them and award the contract at the February Council meeting. Ms. Palmer asked that Council be allowed to see the ad before it is placed in the paper. Mr. Rinaldi responded that everyone on Council will get a copy. In addition, he reported there have been no complaints regarding the trash hauler.

PERSONNEL: Ms. Palmer will call for an Executive Session after the committee reports are completed.

AAJRB: Ms. Palmer reported she was out of town and unable to attend the Rec Board meeting. She reported the meeting was an annual get-together.

ACOG: Ms. Palmer reported the ACOG meeting was the same day as the Rec Board meeting, therefore she was out of town and unable to attend. She reported the Comcast agreement was discussed at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: In Solicitor Weinschenk's absence, President Williams discussed the issues facing Council regarding the Courthouse Square Ventures project. He reported that Council is not prepared to come to any type of resolution at tonight's meeting. After Council discussion, it was agreed to talk further about this at the Work Session when the Borough Solicitor is in attendance. Atty. Donna Davis discussed reopening the Hearing. Ms. Palmer motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes to re-open the Hearing. Ms. Palmer voted in favor. Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Barrasse, Mrs. Earley and Mr. Hughes voted against. Atty. Donna Davis asked if anybody is going to respond to her or should she not waste her time? Mrs. Earley replied that the Borough Attorney is not in attendance. Mrs. Hvezda then asked if a vote and a decision would take place at the January meeting. Mr. Rinaldi replied unless there is another extension, there must be a decision, otherwise it will be deemed approved. Mrs. Hvezda then stated her concerns regarding traffic issues and home values. Mr. Barrasse discussed a monetary spending amount for office staff. Mr. Barrasse motioned, seconded by Mr. Rinaldi to allow the office staff to spend \$200 per year and to provide receipts for the expenditures. Mr. Barrasse, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley and Mr. Williams voted in favor. Mr. Hughes reported that at the December 4, 2013 Work Session, Council met in Executive

Session to discuss Personnel matters. Mr. Barrasse, who is new to Council, thanked everyone for their help with the Fire and Ambulance Protection Contract. He announced his first five-hundred (\$500.00) of pay will be donated equally to both of the organizations with a match from his company. Members of the fire companies as well as members of Council thanked Mr. Barrasse for his donations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ms. Palmer called an Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss Personnel matters. The Council meeting resumed at 9:15 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Hughes discussed two changes which were made to the Proposed 2014 Budget. Mr. Hughes then motioned, seconded by Mr. Barrasse to adopt the 2014 Budget which reflects no increases in real estate taxes, reflects continuation of the wage taxes of one half of one percent, and no increase in sewer rental fees in 2014. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Ms. Palmer, who originally voted in favor, changed her vote and voted against. Mr. Hughes thanked President Williams for his leadership this past year with three new Council members on board. Mr. Williams then thanked Council for their work during the year to carry out the business of the Borough. Mayor Thorburn mentioned the Holiday party for the Borough staff which members of Council discussed.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Phillips motioned, seconded by Ms. Palmer to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. All in attendance voted in favor.

Janice F. Brown, Secretary/Treasurer