

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 15, 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: Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Williams, Mayor Thorburn, Solicitor Weinschenk.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Barrasse

President Rinaldi announced that at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Earley gave a MS4 presentation which involved several handouts including the "When It Rains It Drains" brochure as well as information from a CD which was received from the Department of Community and Economic Development. President Rinaldi thanked Mrs. Earley and extended his appreciation for her efforts.

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

**VISITORS:** Paul Keeler, Clerk; Meredith Colohan, Abington Journal reporter; Officer Kriedler, South Abington Police Department.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Officer Siegler reported that September was a fairly quiet month in the Borough. The construction project on Route 6/11 in South Abington Township was discussed. Mayor Thorburn reported on water runoff on South Abington Road at the bottom of Armstrong Avenue.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** Solicitor Weinschenk reported on the RACP Grant disbursement which has been approved by the Office of the Budget. He also discussed the 10 year COMCAST Cable Franchise Agreement. The Cable Franchise Agreement has been reviewed by Cohen Law Group as well as by Solicitor Weinschenk who recommends the Borough proceed with the Comcast Ordinance which will approve the execution of the Franchise Agreement for the ten (10) year period. Solicitor Weinschenk also discussed an existing side agreement between COMCAST and the Borough to provide, free of charge, COMCAST internet modem service to the Borough building, and to schools within the Borough. Ms. Palmer motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to authorize Ordinance 4-2014 to approve the Cable Franchise Agreement between Clarks Green Borough and COMCAST. Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi, and Mr. Williams voted in favor.

**TREASURER’S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL:** Mr. Hughes began his report by announcing the Borough received a very nice thank you letter from the Abington Senior Center for the \$500.00 donation. The Treasurer’s report was then presented by Mr. Hughes and filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

Capital Fund Money Market	\$	19,357.95
General Fund Checking		248,964.74
General Fund Money Market		35,245.76
Sewer Fund Checking		220,831.98
Sewer Fund Money Market		84,928.93
State Funds Checking		<u>38,254.61</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$	647,583.97

Mr. Hughes compared checking account balances of last month and last year. With no questions from Council, Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to accept the Treasurer’s Report and ratify the payment of the bills. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Palmer, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Williams voted in favor. Mr. Hughes presented the Budget vs. Actual report and compared balances to last month and last year. Wage tax collections were discussed by Council. Mr. Hughes announced the Finance Committee met this evening to work on the 2015 Borough Budget. The Committee will be meeting again before the November Council meeting and will be presenting a draft budget to Council for adoption at that meeting with an anticipated final Budget in December. Mr. Hughes then reported on sewer delinquencies as well as payments which have been received. He thanked Solicitor Weinschenk for researching sewer interest fees which were discussed at last month’s Council meeting. He reported that notification has been received via e-mail from the Abington Regional Wastewater Authority regarding the Borough assessment for 2015. The 2014 assessment amount is \$72,887.00 which is the same amount assessed in 2013. For 2015 the amount will be increased by 6%. The Finance Committee is discussing raising the Borough sewer fees. Mr. Hughes then discussed the AAJRB proposed assessment representing a 3% fee increase which amounts to a yearly fee of \$4,847.64. He will be discussing the 2012 and 2013 AAJRB audit at the next Work Session. Murphy, Dougherty and Company, the auditors for AAJRB, identified seven (7) material weaknesses in the accounting operations and internal controls of the AAJRB. Mr. Hughes will spend time at the next Work Session discussing these. Ms. Palmer reported that AAJRB is working on these issues. The audit proposals from Murphy, Dougherty and Company have been received. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to accept their engagement letter for a three (3) year period. Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Rinaldi voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi discussed a recent news report connecting the use of rubber turf for sports activities and the incidence of cancer.

**PERSONNEL:** Mr. Williams discussed the ad for the full time DPW position as well as the responses. One applicant who had applied for the full time DPW Foreman position had accepted a position elsewhere. Two applicants for the current position had issues with the salary and were no longer interested. The DPW Foreman asked that the new position be filled prior to the leaf bag pick-up in order to involve the new hire with this. Salary was

discussed at an hourly rate of between \$14.00 and \$15.00 per hour. Ms. Palmer motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to authorize the Personnel Committee to interview and find an acceptable candidate for the DPW position and to offer the candidate a rate of between \$14.00 and \$15.00 per hour. Ms. Palmer, Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, and Mr. Hughes voted in favor.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS:** Mr. Phillips discussed replacement of the Borough water heater after receiving three (3) proposals with prices ranging from \$607.00 to \$990.25 Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mrs. Earley to replace the Borough water heater. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams and Ms. Palmer voted in favor. Hanging of the framed Centennial documents was discussed and it was decided to involve Summit Frameworks with the project. Borough Council will send Mr. Sandercock, owner of Summit Frameworks, a thank you letter for his help with this project.

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** In Mr. Barrassé's absence, President Rinaldi reported on a grant which would reimburse a portion of the expense for the new traffic signal controller. Mr. Rinaldi asked for a motion to file a grant application to obtain financial assistance with the traffic signal controller expense. Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Ms. Palmer to file the PennDot grant application for financial assistance with the traffic light controller expense. Mrs. Earley, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams and Ms. Palmer voted in favor.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mrs. Earley stated the DPW has addressed any driveway tie-in issues after the recent paving project. In addition, she noted she sent a letter to the Clark Street residents who have the damaged fence and asked them to return the \$500.00 insurance check as well as a signed release form which the Borough Solicitor prepared. The letter indicated the Borough DPW would complete the fence work prior to starting the leaf collection. When the DPW Foreman hand delivered the letter to the resident, the resident indicated they may do the work themselves when the fence parts are delivered to them. Mrs. Earley also reported the DPW Foreman, with the help of Secretary Brown, located the correct fence replacement parts on-line which can be ordered through Lowes. Council discussion ensued regarding who was going to repair the fence. In closing, Mrs. Earley reported the Borough Engineering firm has located the GPS coordinates as part of the catch basin survey.

**REFUSE & RECYCLING:** Ms. Palmer reported the flyers for the leaf bags would be collated on Thursday, October 16 at 11:00 a.m. in the Borough Council room and inserted into the leaf bags on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough garage. Distribution of the leaf bags will begin on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

**AAJRB:** Ms. Palmer reported the last Rec Board meeting was very long and included discussion of the AAJRB audit. Borough Council discussed the AAJRB audit as well. Mr. Hughes noted the importance of the audit due to the tremendous amount of money going through this Borough for the Rec Board.

**ACOG:** Ms. Palmer had attended the regular meeting and reported future meetings will discuss the MS4 issues.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT:** With no further items to discuss, Mrs. Earley motioned, seconded by Mr. Williams to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. All in attendance voted in favor.

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Janice F. Brown, Secretary/Treasurer