

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: President Barrasse called the meeting of the Clarks Green Council to order at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Secretary Culbertson conducted roll call. The following were present: Mr. Rinaldi, Dr. Cochran, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Toms, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Williams, Mr. Barrasse, Mayor McGraw and Solicitor Weinschenk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: President Barrasse entertained the motion to accept the minutes of the August 19, 2020 Council meeting. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Toms. Mr. Williams, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Toms, Mr. Hughes, Dr. Cochran, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. President Barrasse entertained the motion to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2020 Council meeting. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Toms. Mr. Rinaldi, Dr. Cochran, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Toms, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Williams and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor.

VISITORS: Ben Freda, Abington Journal, George Parker, Clarks Green Zoning officer and CSPD Chief Yarns.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor McGraw stated he had nothing to report this month but informed Council that he spotted some engineers surveying the old gas station. Solicitor Weinschenk reported the property was sold to 101 North Abington Road, LLC in amount of \$40,000 noting the Borough is still protected in collecting the sewer delinquencies attached to the property. Mr. Barrasse asked Solicitor Weinschenk to explain why the property did not have the usual sewer lien that the Borough places on sewer delinquent properties. He stated the reason was to facilitate the transfer of the property. Ms. Igoe asked Mr. Hughes the amount of the sewer delinquency. Mr. Hughes stated it was \$3,582 which included penalties and interest on a quarterly basis. CSPD Chief Yarns reported to Council about a problem concerning golf carts in the area of Greenbrier Drive involving two (2) families noting it was initially thought it was only one (1) golf cart but it has been resolved. Chief Yarns briefly reviewed the monthly police report and announced he had received a grant from the District Attorney's office for extra patrolling for various offenses such as DUI and speeding noting there was no timeframe but Chief Yarns stated will be putting it in effect immediately. Chief Yarns stated it will be issuing a press release regarding Halloween in the Borough of Clarks Summit and suggest to residents who do not want trick treaters for fear of the COVID virus to turn their lights off. Chief Yarns updated Council on the body cameras for the department noting arrival possibly by December. Mr. Toms asked about the educational training for the officers. Chief Yarns stated starting next year the officers can take online training courses and receive credits which will aid accreditations.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Weinschenk reported he has circulated Resolution No. 7 of 2020 for the grant application for the purchase of a backhoe for Council's review. Mr. Barrasse stated it will be discussed under Old Business. Solicitor Weinschenk stated he attended the virtual meeting last week concerning SAPA zoning and our targeted date to adopt the revised zoning ordinance is March 17, 2021. Solicitor Weinschenk stated the ordinance will need to be reviewed and request a meeting with the County since he along with the George Parker have questions as to how much can the Borough could modify the proposed ordinance in respect to the uses permitted within Clarks Green such as livestock. Solicitor Weinschenk told Council he will have the Resolution which approves the

Municipal Cooperation Agreement for SAPA participation for the November Council meeting at least for review or if acceptable to Council can be adopted but stated it will need to be adopted prior to the consideration of the new Zoning Ordinance. Solicitor Weinschenk stated if the Council decided not to raise taxes for the year of 2021 Council can adopt a resolution enacting millage for 2021 noting it will need to be adopted by December 31st.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Rinaldi motioned to authorize payment to DeAngelo Contracting Services, 527 South Church St. Hazelton, PA in amount of \$7,284.60 for the intersection pavement markings, seconded by Mr. Hughes. Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Toms, Dr. Cochran, Ms. Igoe and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi stated there was a difference in price from the proposal due to requirements from PennDot. Mr. Rinaldi reported the new 350 pickup truck has been outfitted noting it now has a plow and spreader and the new 550 dump truck is currently at Powell's being outfitted.

ARWA: Mr. Rinaldi reported the Board passed the 2021 budget noting it contains no increase in the amounts charged to the Joint Municipalities. Mr. Rinaldi stated there was a minor decrease for the fourth consecutive year. Mr. Rinaldi informed Council the flow meters will be relocated November 3rd or 4th once the Borough Engineers decide on the new location noting it is currently located at Maple Avenue. Mr. Rinaldi told Council ARWA updated their website (www.abingtonwastewater.org) along with changing its email provider.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL: Mr. Hughes reported on the checking account balances with comparisons to last month and last year. The Treasurer's report was presented by Mr. Hughes and filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

General Fund Checking	\$	354,446.26
Capital Fund Money Market		192,686.59
Sewer Fund Checking		412,498.43
Sewer – FNCB CD #200278057		51,715.99
Sewer – FNCB CD #200469681		51,258.31
Sewer – Wayne Bank CD		52,384.37
State Funds Checking		<u>162,278.75</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$	1,277,268.70

Mr. Hughes told Council the FNCB CD #200469681 was been renewed at the rate of .30% for 12 months. Mr. Hughes reported the General Funding checking account is down \$23,000 from last year keep in mind we transferred the General Fund Money Market account of \$35,000 so it is actually down \$58,000. The Capital Account is up by \$84,000 noting this fund will be used to pay for truck no. 2. Mr. Hughes reported to Council the sewer fund checking account is up \$64,000 but really is up \$29,000 since we transferred money from the sewer fund money market account. Mr. Hughes told Council \$8,838.34 was received for Foreign Fire Insurance which will be remitted to Clarks Summit Fire Company within sixty (60) days. Mr. Hughes presented the Budget vs. Actual comparing balances on the report to amounts from last year. Mr. Hughes stated gross income is \$69,000 and total expenses is up by \$42,000 contributable to truck no. 1. Mr. Hughes reported we are approximately \$27,000 ahead of last year in net income. With no questions from Council Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Toms to accept the Treasurer's report and ratify the payment of the bills. Mr. Toms, Dr. Cochran, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Mr. Hughes reported the Borough has collected \$13,465 in sewer delinquencies which includes account # 0279 and the lien has been removed. Mr. Hughes told Council twenty-one (21) sewer delinquency letters have been sent out and payments have been made on fourteen (14) delinquent accounts. Mr. Rinaldi asked about the account #0283 Mr. Ciullo since it was originally going to be put on lien for the sewer delinquencies and then an agreement was made to pay a certain amount of money upfront and

then payments will be made each month. Mr. Rinaldi asked if we should put a lien on his property since he has not been making the agreed upon payments monthly. Mr. Hughes stated he is on the list of receiving letters in November. Mr. Hughes stated he will contact him by phone telling him he has not kept up with his pledge and will report the outcome at the next meeting. Mr. Hughes stated he had met with Mr. Rinaldi concerning the 2021 Budget and it looks like there will be no increases in taxes or fees for 2021 and a small surplus will be projected. Mr. Barrasse stated that was great news. Mr. Rinaldi stated back in March there were some question of revenue shortfall thankfully which has not materialized.

GEORGE PARKER, ZONING OFFICER REPORT: Mr. Parker had nothing to report other than his monthly distributed report and asked if anyone had questions. Mr. Parker reiterated the importance of setting up a meeting to further discuss the proposed Zoning Ordinance before adoption since not all sections as proposed are suitable to Clarks Green Borough.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Mr. Toms reported the DPW is doing the usual daily job routines in keeping the Borough building and grounds looking good. Mr. Toms asked Mr. Williams what needed to be done for the upcoming election in regards to disability protocol. Mr. Williams briefly reviewed the list for Clarks Green's polling place requirements noting the ramp had been fixed and basically, we just need the signage for the parking lot. Mr. Toms stated he will start working on getting and placing the signs where needed. Mr. Rinaldi motioned to approve the renewal of the Borough clock maintenance agreement with the Verdin Company in the amount of \$567.00, seconded by Mr. Toms. Dr. Cochran, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Toms, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor.

REFUSE & RECYCLING: Ms. Igoe had nothing to report noting the leaf bags have been distributed and the residents appear to be happy.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Dr. Cochran reported the County will be providing the PPE sanitation and masks for the upcoming election activities at the Borough Building. Mr. Rinaldi informed Council the same barriers have been installed for November's general election. Dr. Cochran talked about his concerns for Halloween and suggested the residents put out baskets of candy outside for the trick treaters. Mr. Rinaldi asked if we should go along with Chief Yarn's recommendation which was to have residents turn off their lights if they do not want to participate in Halloween for fear of the COVID virus. All of Council agreed that the public will be informed by using Clipboard in the Times-Tribune and NextDoor.com.

PERSONNEL: Mr. Williams reported the Borough office will be closed on Election Day for safety reasons.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Barrasse introduced the Grant Resolution for the future purchase of a backhoe along with hiring the LaFratte Engineering to provide the services to complete the LSA Grant application at the cost \$1,750 with an application fee of \$100 for the year of 2021. Mr. Barrasse stated if we need to re-apply for the grant in 2022, the Borough would be charged a reduced rate. Mr. Barrasse opened it up for discussion. Mr. Rinaldi stated the first time a grant was discussed was two (2) weeks ago and it seems work has already been done by Mr. LaFratte before Council considered hiring the consultant. Mr. Barrasse stated the requirements need to be submitted by the end of November and apologized on having little warning about applying for this grant. Mr. Barrasse stated he had contacted the Borough engineers concerning this grant and noting they had not applied for any grants relating to equipment. Mr. Barrasse gave a brief summary on how Mr. LaFratte got involved. Mr. Barrasse stated we really had no plan in place for replacing trucks and equipment but the DPW had organized a list noting some of the trucks twenty (20) and fifteen (15) years old. Mr. Barrasse was not sure on the age of the backhoe but noted we had just repaired it at a cost of \$4,500. Mr. Toms

asked who evaluated the equipment to let us know what shape it is in noting he has seen the machine in operation and it did a great job plus, we just spent money on repairing it. Mr. Barrasse stated no one has evaluated it but we did get an estimate on what it is worth \$20,000 to \$23,000. Mr. Barrasse informed Council the Borough has been increasing our capital fund each year in anticipation of replacing equipment and noted it is his attention to spend a ton of money only if we are a recipient of a grants. Mr. Toms stated he feels an engineer needs to evaluate what the DPW needs in terms of specs on this equipment noting the Borough doesn't have any upcoming major projects. Mr. Hughes told Council he will support this motion to hire Mr. LaFratte to shepherd the grant application but concurrent with that he would like to see the company who recently repaired the backhoe give us an assessment of the condition of our current backhoe. Mr. Hughes stated we really need to see how much money we would receive from a grant before purchasing the backhoe. Dr. Cochran stated he believed a grant should be written by experts so the Borough could receive the most money available and not some small amount that won't cover the purchase price. Mr. Rinaldi stated he has some issues. First, the DPW does not need a new backhoe right now. The Borough recently paid \$130,000 for the two (2) new trucks and that project has taken two (2) years while the DPW still does not have the 550 dump truck. He also noted the DPW has no planned major projects necessitating the purchase of a new backhoe. Second, the DPW Foreman did not call Five Star but the Five Star Salesman called him at Mr. Barrasse' request noting the Foreman also solicited proposals from two (2) other vendors which were less in cost. Third, Mr. Rinaldi wanted to know "why would the Borough submit a grant application for \$200,000" when the Five Star proposal was only \$151,829.29. Mr. Barrasse stated he appreciates his comments but if we hire a professional I trust him in making the recommendations for what money we should be applying for in the grant application. Mr. Rinaldi asked where is the spec sheet that was used to get a pricing proposal. Mr. Barrasse and Mr. Rinaldi had a discussion about the previous grants the Borough submitted and several other Council members added their comments. Mr. Barrasse entertained an motion to hire LaFratte Engineering firm to complete the LSA Grant application for replacing a backhoe at the cost \$1,750 with an application fee of \$100. Dr. Cochran motioned, seconded by Mr. Hughes. Mr. Toms, Ms. Igoe and Mr. Rinaldi voted no. Dr. Cochran, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Mr. Barrasse entertained a motion for the adoption of Resolution No. 7 of 2020 and had asked Solicitor Weinschenk to read the Resolution to Council.

Borough of Clarks Green
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania
Resolution No. 7 of 2020

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Clarks Green, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, hereby requests a Local Share Account Fund (Gaming Funds) Monroe County Grant in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the Clarks Green Borough – Backhoe Loader Purchase.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough of Clarks Green does hereby designate Joseph Barrasse, President of Borough Council, and Kenneth McGraw, Mayor, as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between Clarks Green Borough and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

Joanne Culbertson, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Clarks Green, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, hereby certifies that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Council of the Borough of Clarks Green at a regular meeting held on October 21, 2020 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Borough of Clarks Green and remains in effect as of this date.

NOW THEREFORE, intending to be bound hereby the authorized officials of the Borough of Clarks Green have affixed their signatures to the foregoing.

ATTEST:

By: /s/ Joanne Culbertson
Joanne Culbertson, Secretary

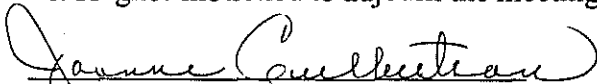
BOROUGH OF CLARKS GREEN
By: /s/Joseph BARRASSE
Joseph BARRASSE, President of Borough
Council

Approved this 21st day of October, 2020

/s/Kenneth McGraw
Kenneth McGraw, Mayor

Mr. Williams motioned, seconded by Dr. Cochran. Dr. Cochran, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams and Mr. BARRASSE voted in favor. Mr. Rinaldi, Ms. Igoe and Mr. Toms voted no. Mr. Rinaldi asked Dr. Cochran if he agrees with quarantining if a person goes to certain states. Dr. Cochran stated that was a tough one and really doesn't know the answer and tends to think there is some politics involved. Dr. Cochran stated "how can you stop the people going across the borders in and from neighboring states especially if there employment is there". Dr. Cochran stated people need to self-distance.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Mr. BARRASSE entertained the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hughes motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 P.M. All in attendance voted in favor.


Joanne Culbertson
Joanne Culbertson, Secretary/Treasurer

CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
Agenda
VIA ZOOM

October 21, 2020

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-** President Joe Barrasse
2. **ROLL CALL** -Secretary Joanne Culbertson
3. **MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES** – August 19, 2020 & September 16, 2020
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Visitors should approach the podium and state their name and address. Comments limited to 5 min.
5. **MAYOR's Report-** Mayor McGraw.
Police Report- Clarks Summit Chief Chris Yarns
6. **Solicitor's Report-** Mr. Weinschenk
Grant Resolution
7. **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE** – Mr. Rinaldi
DeAngelo Contracting invoice, to complete Grove Street light upgrade project
8. **ARWA-** Mr. Rinaldi
9. **TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL** – Mr. Hughes
10. **BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE-** Mr. Toms
Verdin (clock) Maintenance Renewal Invoice
11. **FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Mr. Hughes
12. **REFUSE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE**– Ms. Igoe
13. **HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE-** Dr. Cochran
Voting day safety update
14. **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**– Mr. Williams
15. **OLD BUSINESS**
Hiring of Lafratte Engineering for Grant Application
16. **NEW BUSINESS**
17. **ADJOURNMENT**

NOTE TO VISITORS: Please sign the attendance sheet and indicate if you wish to address Council, stating the agenda topic on which you would like to comment. Thank you.