

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: President Egan called the meeting of the Clarks Green Council to order at 7:03 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Secretary Culbertson conducted roll call. The following were present: Ms. DeFlice, Mr. Nealon, Mr. Pryle, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Egan, Mayor Barrasse (via phone) and Solicitor Weinschenk. Ms. Trushina joined the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

ABSENT: Ms. Lucas.

VISITORS: CSPD Chief Yarns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: President Egan entertained a motion to accept the November 20, 2024 minutes. Ms. Igoe motioned, seconded by Ms. DeFlice. All voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

POLICE REPORT: CSPD Chief Yarns briefly reviewed the monthly police report. Chief Yarns stated they have their new police vehicle. Chief Yarns informed Council Clarks Green's traffic light congestion has been fixed thanking Mayor Barrasse for his assistance.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Barrasse informed Council Northeast Signal & Electric Company has fixed the signal at the intersection of SR407 and Grove Street noting it was a timing issue along with re-programming the controller which now matches the PennDot permit. Mayor Barrasse stated unfortunately, we have an invoice from Northeast Signal in the amount of \$280. Mayor Barrasse told Council he had did a Proclamation for Arbor Day which was a request from Olga Trushina and asked that she submit it so it can be recorded in the minutes (Proclamation attached). Mayor Barrasse thanked her for her efforts and all of the Shade Tree Commission.

SOLICITOR REPORT: Solicitor Weinschenk stated he did not have anything specific to report on at this meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT: Ms. Culbertson reported DPW laborer, Patrick Walsh resigned December 13th by text message stating the position is not working out for me the way I hoped. A brief discussion took place in regard to the fact he did not give a two (2) week notice. Ms. Culbertson informed Council that a former DPW employee has offered his services especially for snow plowing until we fill the open position. Ms. Culbertson informed Council she has been removing penalty and interest from several sewer accounts due to the fact we never received the checks from their banks noting the residents are showing proof that a check was created but the Borough never received. Ms. Culbertson told Council she had made several calls concerning disposal of tree branches since the DPW crew had to help with branch removal from the recent storm. Ms. Culbertson stated the DPW has been disposing the tree branches at the Lackawanna Recycling Center noting that some of branches had to be cut down to their disposal specifications. Ms. Culbertson reported the Borough has received a replacement credit card and she had attended a meeting with DGK Insurance in which the Borough's insurance has increased by four (4) percent noting an insurance packet has been distributed to Council for review. Ms. Culbertson stated she has been working on the annual Local Service Tax and Recycling/ Trash mailings for the new year. Ms. Culbertson reported she had worked with Denny McGraw in obtaining energy bids since the current energy contract will expire December 31, 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL: Mr. Egan reviewed the distributed Budget vs. Actual comparing balances to last month and last year. The Treasurer's report was presented by Mr. Egan and filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

General Fund Checking	\$	548,664.82
General Fund ICS MM		265,125.22
Capital Fund Money Market		107,720.55
Sewer Fund Checking		289,367.25
Sewer Fund ICS MM		265,136.02

Sewer – FNCB CD #200845158	52,843.08
Sewer – Peoples CD #10003154	79,476.05
Sewer – Wayne Bank CD #80049035	80,447.67
Sewer – Wayne Bank CD #80021603	55,151.05
Sewer – Wayne Bank CD #80044088	53,297.06
State Funds Checking	<u>264,428.32</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 2,061,657.09

Mr. Egan entertained a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and ratify the payment of the bills. Mr. Nealon motioned, seconded by Ms. Igoe. All voted in favor. Mr. Egan stated we have received bids for the Borough’s energy contract from CleanSky Energy and Direct Energy who is our current provider. Mr. Egan told Council bid request also was sent to Smart Energy and IndraEnergy but they elected not to submit a bid. As of December 2024, PPL's rate has increased to \$.1044/kWh.

CleanSky Energy:

12 months	0.102
24 months	0.111
36 months	0.115

Direct Energy:

12 months	0.08520
24 months	0.08819
36 months	0.09034
48 months	0.09185

Mr. Egan entertained a motion to authorize Contract Renewal Agreement with Direct Energy for 48 months. Ms. Igoe motioned, seconded by Ms. DeFlice. All voted in favor.

MOTIONS: Mr. Egan entertained a motion to accept the resignation of DPW laborer, Patrick Walsh effective 12/13/2024 and authorize advertisement for the open DPW position. Ms. Igoe motioned, seconded by Ms. DeFlice. All voted in favor. Mr. Egan entertained a motion to approve the 2025 Budget. Ms. DeFlice motioned, seconded by Ms. Igoe. Ms. Trushina, Ms. DeFlice, Mr. Pryle, Mr. Nealon, Ms. Igoe and Mr. Egan voted in favor. Mr. Egan asked Solicitor Weinschenk to introduce Resolution No. 6 of 2024.

RESOLUTION No. 6 of 2024
Borough of Clarks Green
Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE REAL ESTATE TAX MILLAGE, WAGE TAX, LOCAL SERVICES TAX AND REALTY TRANSFER TAX FOR THE YEAR 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Clarks Green that the Real Estate Tax millage for the calendar year 2025 be established at fifteen (15) mills for each dollar of assessed value or the sum of \$1.50 on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation, and establishing the Wage Tax at one-half of one percent (0.5%), the Local Services Tax at fifty-two dollars (\$52.00), and Real Estate Transfer Tax at one percent (1%) for the calendar year 2025.

THIS RESOLUTION is adopted by the Clarks Green Borough Council this 18th day of December, 2024.

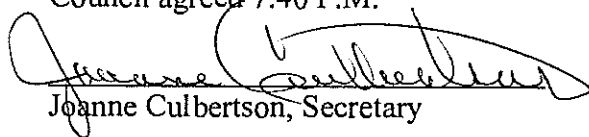
ATTEST:
/s/ Joanne Culbertson
Joanne Culbertson, Secretary

BOROUGH OF CLARKS GREEN
By: /s/ William Egan
William Egan, President
Clarks Green Borough Council

Mr. Egan entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 6 of 2024 establishing the Real Estate Tax millage at (15) mills for the year 2025 and re-enacting the wage, local services and Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinances. Mr. Nealon motioned, seconded by Ms. Igoe. Mr. Nealon, Ms. Trushina, Ms. DeFlice, Mr. Pryle, Ms. Igoe and Mr. Egan voted in favor. Mr. Egan entertained a motion to schedule and advertise the Borough's Council meeting schedule for 2025. Ms. Igoe motioned, seconded by Mr. Nealon. All voted in favor. Mr. Egan briefly discussed the 2024 Stormwater project stating Leeward Construction has done an excellent job and they are very courteous since they are working right outside my residence. Mr. Egan entertained a motion to approve payment to Leeward Construction in the amount of \$184,099.50 based off the review from Colwell-Naegele Associates. Ms. Igoe motioned, seconded by Ms. DeFlice. Ms. Igoe, Ms. Deflice, Ms. Trushina, Mr. Pryle and Mr. Egan voted in favor. Me. Nealon abstained noting his law firm is involved with an active litigation with Leeward Construction. Mr. Egan introduced the social media policy stating this gives guidelines for the use of social media by Council members, elected or appointed officials of the Borough. Solicitor Weinschenk stated we are considering adoption of this policy by resolution as opposed to making it an ordinance which requires advertisement making it a simpler process to change/amend. Ms. Culbertson stated her concern with the policy since it states Borough Manager will be responsible for the content and upkeep both on social media and the Borough's website noting this can be a full-time job alone and that it might interfere with her other responsibilities. Mr. Egan and Solicitor Weinschenk both stated various postings can be assigned to the other elected or appointed officials within the Borough. Mr. Egan entertained a motion to approve the social media policy. Ms. Trushina motioned, seconded by Mr. Nealon. All voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Egan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and thanked them for their support throughout the year.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Egan entertained the motion to adjourn the meeting. All of Council agreed 7:40 P.M.


Joanne Culbertson, Secretary



TREE CITY USA
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

*** OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION ***

WHEREAS in 1872, the Nebraska Board of Agriculture established a special day to be set aside for the planting of trees, *and*

WHEREAS this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, *and*

WHEREAS Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, *and*

WHEREAS trees can be a solution to combating climate change by reducing the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cutting heating and cooling costs, moderating the temperature, cleaning the air, producing life-giving oxygen, and providing habitat for wildlife, *and*

WHEREAS trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products, *and*

WHEREAS trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, *and*

WHEREAS trees — wherever they are planted — are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joseph Barrasse, Mayor of the City of Clarks Green, PA, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2024 as ARBOR DAY in the City of Clarks Green, PA, and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, *and*

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

DATED THIS 3 day of January, 2024

Mayor JPB

CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
AGENDA
DECEMBER 18, 2024
7:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – President Egan
2. **ROLL CALL** – Secretary Culbertson
3. **MOTION TO APPROVE COUNCIL MEETINGS MINUTES:** November 20, 2024
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
5. **POLICE REPORT**
6. **MAYOR’S REPORT** – Mayor Barrasse
7. **SOLICITOR REPORT** – Atty. Weinschenk
8. **BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:** Ms. Culbertson
9. **BOROUGH ENERGY CONTRACT:** Denny McGrawsubmitted bids.
Motion to authorize Contract Renewal Agreement with Direct Energy for 48 months.
10. **REVIEW OF BOROUGH FINANCIALS, BUDGET VS. ACTUAL AND MOTION TO PAY BILLS.**
11. **MOTIONS:**
 - Motion to accept the resignation of Patrick Walsh effective December 13, 2024 and authorize advertisement for the open DPW position.
 - Motion to approve the 2025 Budget.
 - Motion to adopt Resolution No. 6 of 2024 establishing the Real Estate Tax millage at (15) mills for the year of 2025 and re-enacting the wage, local services and Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinances .
 - Motion to schedule and advertise the Borough Council meeting schedule for 2025.
 - Motion to approve payment to Leeward Construction in the amount of \$184,099.50 based off of review from Colwell-Naegele Associates.
 - Motion to adopt the Social Media Policy.
12. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Legal /personnel issues :
14. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

NOTE TO VISITORS: Please sign the attendance sheet and indicate if you wish to observe the meeting or to address Council, stating the agenda topic on which you would like to comment. Speakers are allowed 3 minutes each for comments. Thank you.