

**CLEARFIELD BOROUGH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
August 19, 2021**

Clearfield Borough Council met in regular session on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Clearfield Borough Building. Lew Duttry called the meeting to order. Lew Duttry held a moment of silence, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lewis Duttry, Steve Harmic, Scott Ortasic, Steve Livergood, Mason Strouse, Brian Lytle

**ABSENT:** Stephanie Tarbay, Jim Kling, Chief Vincent McGinnis, Code Officer Larry Mack, Chief Todd Kling,

**OTHERS PRESENT:**, Solicitor Chip Bell, Mayor Schell, Borough Secretary Betsy Houser  
Borough Operations Manager Leslie Stott

**MEDIA:** Jeff Corcino, The Progress and Dustin Parks, Gant Media LLC

**Public Audience:** Gail Rallstrom expressed her concern for the safety of the children during Halloween trick / treat night. She would like to see it changed to daylight. Curwensville has done this change. It is dark outside now, accidents happen. She is simply asking to change this to daylight time for the safety of children. And adds, she hopes to unite with Lawrence Township. She thanked council. Lew stated they will definitely considerate it. Les said the township did try this, but was boycotted. Les said there is two areas that are darker spots in the Boro, the Police Dept, and Fire Dept. has helped light this area.

Lew Duttry called for a Motion seeking approval of the minutes of the July 15, 2021 Clearfield Borough Council Meeting. **MOTION** was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Steve Harmic. **MOTION** Carried.

Christy Fulton is representing Carmina Taylor from We Can't Wait PA Statewide Coalition. She is calling her to connect by cell phone and speaker.

Carmina greeted everyone. She was unable to attend due to car problems.

Her purpose is to advocate for change overall in rural PA. She has drove around in PA. She participated in attending the Clearfield County Fair, she has spent three hours in our Wal-Mart, Her goal is to revitalize rural areas. She wanted an opportunity to reach out to our community. Bring componentsts together to make it stronger. To utilize the resources to make it better. To reinvent what there is. She will come back Sept. 16. She knows there will some questions and she will be there to answer. She is deeply committed.

Steve Harmic appreciates her interest in helping the community, and asked if there is grant money available she is working with in the state level or federal level, Carmina replied that she has done her research and what she thinks what she can do, but what you have already with your \$600,000 but with the school district amount of \$9 million. Your population has had a 6% decrease. And then because of the young people migrating out of the county. If you reinvent and give some resources and support to elevate the student skill set, you can have adults mentoring, how to learning more. Giving back to the community.

Les made a comment to council, she has had a visit from DCED. They have realized that Clearfield is headed to a distress level. She said there is a Stamp Program available, it is similar to an intervention program, a consultant will come in and assist with things we need to do. She also met with the Main Street manager regarding our revitalization efforts that are already going on. There is a loan fund for businesses she is looking into. They looked at grant opportunities. There is also a Launch box, it has a huge idea center to educate children and adults, with modern technology.

Carmina is asking for the non traditional approach, she is asking you to bring community people, she can reach out to them young and old, once you engage them you will have more outcome, they will be part of the process.

Carmina stated she has two masters in human service and Education and organizational development. She asks to be a bridge for free. Please consider to draw and acknowledgement. She would love that. That on Aug. 23, 2021 is the yearly anniversary of the we can't wait PA statewide coalition. She asked if that was possible. She said if that would happen she can post that. She has a relationship with rules strategy and she has a broad base with rules education program, it is national support. It is a great opportunity to be a model.

Lew said it will be considered and discussed.

Les said draft something and the solicitor will review it.

She asked to come back Sept. 16.

She asked to be introduced to each.

## REPORTS OF BOROUGH OFFICERS

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** A copy of the Fire Department's report is on file.

**POLICE:** A copy of the Police Department's report is on file. Asst. Chief Nathan Curry there is a motion for the 2016 Ford Explorer to be repaired, with that said we have two working vehicles. The new car is still need of a few things, it could be up to three months out, possible two months. It is there for emergency use only if need be. This is a problem with the places being backed up, parts are longer getting in, just due to the times we are in. Nate asked about the light at 2nd Street and Bridge Street light is constantly needing reset. Is that a Penn Dot light? Les said the maintenance is the Borough, but it is a state route. Les will contact Todd Kling, and then typically deal with Tel-Power. She said it wasn't long ago it's guts was replaced. They are very expensive.

**STREET** Les stated that the Clearfield Street project was started Monday. There has been some issues encountered. They are working through them. Wednesday it rained all day. They checked drains, kept a backhoe on East side and West side. He was very prepared. She asks the community to have more faith. They were very prepared.

**MAYOR** Mayor Schell said along with what Les said, if you have a drain near your house, be proactive and clean off anything on that grate. Also school is starting soon slow down, leave a little early, don't be in a hurry, but please slow down near Moyers Auto Body. School speed limit is 15 mph. and Nate added they will enforce it.

**SOLICITOR:** A copy of the solicitor report is on file. Chip has an Ordinance applied for passage, suggested by the planning commission for off street parking.

Steve Harmic asked if there is a number of places made available for rental property. Brian Lytle said it is already in language, this ordinance states where they can park.

**MOTION** was made by Brian Lytle and seconded by Steve Harmic for the Ordinance amending the provisions of the Clearfield Borough zoning ordinance in regard to off street parking. **MOTION** Carried.

**BOROUGH OPERATIONS MANAGER** Report is on file She has added a couple things to the agenda, The property owner, Mr. Hoover has agreed to have the tree removed at the location of S. 4th and Park Ave., there is that motion. Also, there is a motion for a skate ramp from Keen Ramp, the skate park committee has worked very hard to raise money for this ramp for the amount of \$9,154.00, this ramp was voted on to purchase from many from a survey.

Les reminded about the 911 Ceremony, at Lower Witmer Park at 8:45, there will be a procession following to the Court House. She is looking forward to the community coming out and honoring our first responders. She also spoke to Lisa regarding our CDBG money, the bucket of money they need to propose for Stinky Run, she doesn't feel it will be completed before the money needs spent as the state requires. She suggested a host of different way to spend the money, one was on demolishing blighted properties, putting that money aside for Clearfield Hardware. The building has been vacant for many years. Lisa did say if this was done in a collective effort the Boro wouldn't recover any real estate sales such as if a developer would buy the lots to put up housing, but the Boro would receive property taxes, Les still sees a great benefit having it abated and then torn down. Replaced by a beautiful unit, or smaller homes, there is a need for housing. Lisa will need an answer for the first meeting in September.

### ENGINEER

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** A copy of the code officer reports are on file.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PUBLIC SAFETY:

**MOTION** was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Steve Harmic to approve to permit street closure for the Clearfield YMCA Christmas Parade on 12/4/21 from noon to 1:00. **MOTION** Carried.

**MOTION** was made by Steve Harmic and seconded by Brian Lytle to approve have the Shade Tree Commission remove the tree located at south 4th Street and Park Ave. at 401 Park Ave.. **MOTION** Carried.

**MOTION** was made by Steve Harmic and seconded by Mason Strouse to have C. Classic Dodge repair the 2016 Ford Explorer head gasket for approximately \$2,000. **MOTION Carried.**

### **PUBLIC WORKS:**

**OPEN** heating fuel bids

American Natural Supply Pre Purchase @\$2.5198, fixed price @\$2.8150, Variable price @\$2.3343

JJ Powell Pre Purchase @\$2.449 Fixed Price @\$2.449 Variable price@\$2.33

**MOTION** was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Brian Lytle to approve JJ Powell at a 2.449 fixed rate to provide heating fuel. **MOTION Carried.** Upon review with calculation of Borough Manager

**OPEN** trash collection bid

**MOTION** was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Brian Lytle to approve Waste Management in the amount of \$1004.57 to provide trash collection. **MOTION Carried.**

Les said she has made every possible way to make garbage collecting easier, there is no one else submitting bids. We need garbage pickup, this starts Sept. 1. It can be accepted, and see if there is anything else we can do.

**MOTION** was made by Scott Ortasic and seconded by Steve Harmic to approve to purchase a skate ramp from Keen Ramp for \$9,154 from the Skate Park committee fund. **MOTION Carried.**

### **PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**MOTION** was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Brian Lytle to approve the lot consolidation at 211 and 213 Turnpike Ave. for Paul Dale. **MOTION Carried.**

**MOTION** was made by Steve Harmic and seconded by Brian Lytle to approve to release the lien upon verification and satisfaction that the proposed entity meets all financial qualification required to evidence that it is able to sustain operation of the building **MOTION Carried.**

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**MOTION** was made by Mason Strouse and seconded by Scott Ortasic to advertise for vacancies on Borough boards and committees. **MOTION Carried.**

**MOTION** was made by Brian Lytle and seconded by Mason Strouse to request Civil Service Commission begin the advertising and testing process to create a hiring list. **MOTION Carried.**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**MOTION** was made by Steve Harmic and seconded by Brian Lytle to approve the bill list for payment. **MOTION Carried.**

Reminder: the 9/11 Remembrance and honoring Ceremony will begin at 8:45 at Lower Witmer Park.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nate stated that they were contacted by Lock Haven, and asked about internships, something like 10-15 days, go on duty, write up paperwork, Nate said he would talk to our solicitor. Les said we did vote on it, and Nate would be in charge of it.

Lew asked Mr. Curry down near Mason's house, is their traffic study that can be done, Les stated traffic studies are extremely expensive. They can run \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Nate said if there was a stencil with white letters in advancement to that stop sign on 4th Street and on Ogden Ave. He believes that would be a catcher. Some of the stop ahead signs are not seen like something right on the road way. Les believes we have that stencil. Steve Harmic agreed it is good idea, he asked about rumble streets. Les said we are not allowed those. Les thinks working more with the poles, working on some issues on the parking, perhaps

removing some of that. Nate suggested using the glass beads. Mr. Hoover agreed with these suggestions, and added that a larger stop sign may help.

Lew said we have an opportunity to look into the Stamp Program. It is a study for providing local level solution and assistance in strategically management program. They would look at the Borough spending and recourses, and allow us to function in our duties, they would look at the pass five years and next five years. They are able to find some grant funding. This is Terry Gunkel. She is from Goshen. She started working with DCED and is a regional person. This is a 10% share, but we do not have an amount of a total. We would need to find out what it would costs. Les said the study with the merger was near \$100,000.00, so 10% would be near \$10,000.

Lew said in a related issue, there is interest in combining in potential combining Police Depts. At no cost. Les said we would have to sign a letter of content to move forward with a police study. Ron Smeal, is an independent consultant, he is not the State. He has been involved with many of these happening around the state. There are places regionalizing, some are unregionalizing. We wouldn't want to get in that position. We couldn't afford what the commission was asking for. If this is something we want to pursue, this is a just a study. Mason asked if we could participate in both, and Les said yes.

Lew said this is something to think about.

COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED 7:25 pm

Submitted By: Betsy Houser, Borough Secretary/Administrative Assistant