

MAY 21, 2020

The Clarksburg City Council met in REGULAR SESSION on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. at the Clarksburg Municipal Building – Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia, with Mayor Kennedy presiding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Frank Ferrari
Marshall Goff
Lillie Junkins
Gary Keith
Jim Malfregeot
Vice Mayor Jimmy Marino
Mayor Ryan Kennedy

ALSO PRESENT:

Harry Faulk, City Manager
Annette Wright, City Clerk

Following roll call, the prayer was given and the pledge led by Mayor Kennedy.

MOTION by Councilmember Malfregeot, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goff for approval of the minutes of the Regular session of Council held on May 7, 2020. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Kennedy called for petitions, communications and public hearings with the following individuals appearing therefor:

Jeff Thompson, 402 E. Main Street – addressed Council concerning the Health Board. Mr. Thompson requested that Council put in checks and balances for the Board of Health and that the City and County appointees on said Board are not doing their jobs. Mr. Thompson opined that the Health Board's decrees are hurting businesses and tax revenues which needs to stop and further remarked that the it was time for new blood on said board.

Joe Folio, 205 E. Main Street – appeared before Council to discuss issues in the community. Mr. Folio informed that he represented Grandeotto, Inc. which has quite a substantial investment in the downtown and Quality Hill area. Mr. Folio stated that Code Enforcement was not enforcing anything even prior to the pandemic as he appeared before Council in the past. Mr. Folio remarked on a home on his street wherein scaffolding has been up for some time and a project has been ongoing for three and half years and still incomplete. Mr. Folio referenced property on Clay Street in need of attention, as well as an unfinished porch on a residential structure on East Main Street. Further, a house on Carr Avenue is also in need of attention by the Code Department, as well as a structure in downtown located on Main Street. Mr. Folio stated that he could not take much more and that he is at the point of hiring an attorney. Mr. Folio further stated that he would give the City 60 to 90 days to get Code Enforcement to do something. Also, Mr. Folio commented that the Public Works Department is not removing the weeds between the curbs and sidewalks and that the trash cans need addressed, as well. Mr. Folio added that this community was going to be destroyed if we did not do something with the Mission. Mr. Folio closed by welcoming City Manager Faulk to the City.

Beth Carter, 323 S. 22nd Street – addressed Council concerning the reopening of city parks, pools, restrooms, etc. and encouraging transparency by the Health Department. Ms. Carter implored Council to move forward on reopening the outdoor park areas, pool, activities, etc. Ms. Carter stated that the CDC has released information stating that the virus does not spread easily on surfaces and pointed out that some businesses are now operating at 50% capacity. Ms. Carter opined that the Health Board has operated with too much power in this and other situations and that she would be demanding transparency from the Board.

Richard Cava – welcomed the new City Manager; apprised of an open emergency door at the Mission. With regard to the Health Department, Mr. Cava expressed his displeasure with the Board's support of the needle exchange program commenting that there was no tracking with the program but simply free needles were being provided. Mr. Cava remarked that this program brought many to our area that caused problems. Further, Mr. Cava opined that the director of the Health Department needed to be dismissed and the board needed realigned.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: **CITY MANAGER’S REPORT/UPDATE**

Manager’s Report

May 21, 2020

Submitted by Harry R. Faulk

Manager’s Office

- 1. I met with Richard Welch, General Manager of the Clarksburg Water Board to review our payment proposal for the next fiscal year. He will present our proposal at their next Board Meeting.**
- 2. City Hall will be reopening on Tuesday, May 26th 2020 at 8:00 a.m. The Departments heads and myself met to discuss how to reopen safely and in stages. Updates will be posted on our website and social media sites.**
- 3. Dominique is working on updating various aspects to our website and instituting a weekly email blast to send information to subscribers.**
- 4. I have been working with the Finance Department to begin utilizing our software programs to the fullest extent possible.**
- 5. Working on developing a strategic plan to begin fighting the blight of vacant buildings throughout the City.**
- 6. Working with Code Enforcement to develop a Campaign to ward off offenders of high grass, debris on the property, and abandoned vehicles.**
- 7. Developing a formal policy for Freedom of Information Act Request that will include a standard form**

Police Department

- 1. The Chief and Officers are working to secure grant money and donations to purchase a K-9.**
- 2. Two arrests have been made on the city-wide tagging.**
- 3. One officer has been added to the Harrison County Drug Task Force.**
- 4. One Unit will be added to the Mountaineer Highway Interdiction Team.**
- 5. For the month of April there have been 10 felony, and 40 misdemeanor arrests, and 12 citations were issued.**
- 6. The Police Department will return to full parking and traffic enforcement on June 1, 2020.**

Fire Department

- 1. One structure fire on May 9th at 179 Elliot Street.**
- 2. The Fire Department will reopen to the public with restrictions next Tuesday.**
- 3. Will resume outdoor activities such as training and hose testing.**

Robinson Grand Performing Arts Center

- 1. Secured \$43,000 in operational funding through the RGPAC Capital Campaign.**
- 2. Secured \$72,000 from the Barbara B. Highland Fund for the Arts/Cultural Foundation of Harrison County for future programming in late 2020/early 2021.**
- 3. Submitted \$100,000 emergency grant to the WV Division of Arts, Culture and History under the CARES Act for arts organizations. This grant is specified to provide financial relief for staff salaries/wages, utilities, and debt-service. The grant is currently under review and recipients will be awarded by mid-June 2020.**
- 4. Submitted \$30,000 CAPS grant to the WV Division of Arts, Culture and History for Robinson Grand Community Theatre’s next production of “The Addams Family”. The grant is currently under review and recipients will be awarded in July 2020.**

City Parks

- 1. The Basketball Courts have reopened. The parks are open; however, the playground equipment will remain closed.**
- 2. Looking to reschedule all concerts that were cancelled for the Amphitheater.**
- 3. Dan Cava donated a new scoreboard for the Frank Loria Field.**
- 4. Dr. Angotti donated a new scoreboard at Veterans Park.**
- 5. Awaiting installations of the Broadway and Carlisle play structures.**
- 6. The repair of the Broadway Shelter is underway.**

Wastewater Treatment Plant

- 1. Phase IV of the LTCP bid opening was held on May 19th. Contract #1 (Septage Receiving Station) low bidder was Brackenridge Construction Co., Contract #2 (storm sewer**

separation/cleaning) low bidder was Glenn Johnston Construction Co., Contract #3 (dredging ash lagoon) low bidder was Petrucci Construction Co.

- 2. Currently working on updating outside electrical equipment, panels, and boxes in the Solids Building of the Plant.*

Code Enforcement

- 1. Issued 54 Building Permits for projects totaling \$390,971.55.*
- 2. Issued 98 Notice of Violations, 18 Citations were issued, and 8 vehicles were tagged for removal.*
- 3. Performed 11 inspections.*
- 4. Animal Control responded to 28 calls for service.*
- 5. Engineering is working on Plan Reviews for Kroger and Walmart.*

Finance Department

- 1. Working on collecting old debt for B&O, fire service fees, and citations.*
- 2. Placing holds on accounts that have past due fees and not allowing the renewal of a business license until account balance is paid.*

Public Works

- 1. Demolished 4 structures and responded to 35 Notice of Violations.*
- 2. Replaced 518 feet of Sanitary Sewer Lines and repaired 3 trunk lines along the river.*
- 3. Utilized the Street Sweep throughout the Community and mulched all City Planters.*

Freedom of Information Act Requests

- 1. Zeke Lopez requested the following information: B&O tax for 3rd Quarter and Year-to-Date; and 1% Sales Tax Revenue for 3rd Quarter and Year-to-Date.*
- 2. Charles Young, reporter for the Exponent Telegram requested a document that Council prepared to assist with financial decisions being considered during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. CONSIDERATION OF SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION AND CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN EXTENSIONS, ADDITIONS, BETTERMENTS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE EXISTING PUBLIC SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF CLARKSBURG AND THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF, NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED, THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY THE CITY OF CLARKSBURG OF NOT MORE THAN \$7,900,000 IN ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SEWER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2020 A (WEST VIRGINIA SRF PROGRAM); PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF AND SECURITY FOR THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF ALL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS; APPROVING A LOAN AGREEMENT RELATING TO SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE SALE AND PROVIDING FOR THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF SUCH BONDS AND ADOPTING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING THERETO**

MOTION by Councilmember Ferrari, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Goff for approval of the above-captioned ordinance on second reading. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 20-4 DETERMINING THE NECESSITY FOR A CONTINUANCE OF LEVIES FOR THE FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING ON JANUARY 2, 2020 TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE SPECIAL ELECTION FROM JUNE 13, 2020 TO JULY 25, 2020**

MOTION by Councilmember Malfregeot, **SECONDED** by Councilmember Ferrari for

approval of the above-captioned ordinance on first reading. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO REOPEN CITY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

MOTION by Councilmember Keith, **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Marino for adoption of the above-captioned resolution. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING CITY MANAGER HARRY FAULK TO THE HARRISON-CLARKSBURG BOARD OF HEALTH

MOTION by Councilmember Ferrari, **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Marino to appoint City Manager Harry Faulk to the Harrison-Clarksburg Board of Health. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Malfregeot: Thanked all for attending the meeting; commended all for doing well with the pandemic situation reminding everyone to keep their guard up; wished all a happy Memorial Day weekend.

Councilmember Ferrari: Commended the City Manager on his report; noted a bi-partisan \$5 million bill sponsored by Senator Manchin to provide assistance to counties and cities commenting that the same would help with the city's revenue shortfall; suggested a city-wide business recognition program to highlight those businesses that have been here for sometime and remarked that maybe the City Manager and Ms. Spatafore could work on something to present at a work session.

Councilmember Goff: Also commended the City Manager on an excellent/informative report.

Councilmember Keith: Expressed pleasure in seeing the public back at the meetings; thanked the citizens for addressing Council this evening with their concerns.

Councilmember Junkins: Commented on the difficulty in having meetings without the public remarking that the public was needed and it was important to hear their concerns; concurred with Mr. Folio's remarks concerning community problems; commented that the Mission was something that needed to be looked at as well; commented on the importance of the parks to children; encouraged citizens to contact her with their concerns and to stay engaged.

Vice Mayor Marino: Advised of a press release forthcoming from the WVIHF apprising that there would not be a street festival this year due to the pandemic and that there would be a modified festival; commented that our Park Superintendent was eager to open the park facilities once permission was granted; remarked on Code Enforcement issues stating that this needed to get back on track in our neighborhoods and downtown; informed that he looked forward to working with City Manager Faulk over the next several months to get through the pandemic; encouraged the public to stay engaged and come to the meetings.

Mayor Kennedy:

Also expressed enthusiasm in seeing the public at the meeting; informed that he heard the citizens' concerns regarding the Health Department and Code Enforcement; expressed delight in the WVIHF not cancelling the festival in its entirety; noted the upcoming Memorial Day being special to him as a veteran as we recognize those who did not get a chance to become a veteran.

There being no further business to come before Council, **MOTION** by Councilmember Ferrari, **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Marino and **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY** for adjournment.

E. Ryan Kennedy, Mayor

Approved: June 4, 2020

Annette Wright, City Clerk