

JANUARY 12, 2023

The Clarksburg City Council met in CONFERENCE (Work) SESSION on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:30 PM at the Clarksburg Municipal Building - Council Chambers, 222 West Main Street, Clarksburg, West Virginia, with Mayor Marino presiding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Will Hyman
Gary Keith
Jim Malfregeot
Jerry Riffle
Wayne Worth
Vice Mayor Lillie Junkins
Mayor James Marino

ALSO PRESENT:

Steve Pulice, Interim City Manager
Richard Marsh, City Attorney
Annette Wright, City Clerk

With attendance taken upon arrival by the City Clerk, Council proceeded with the following:

1. Discussion regarding Glen Elk sidewalk reimbursement matter - Gene Papa Jr. and Tom Brown - Mayor Marino remarked that he would let Mr. Papa come up and go over the process that occurred about a year ago. Mr. Papa stated that back in January of last year when they began their plans for the Morris project, the sidewalks on N. 6th Street, etc. were in bad shape and he approached the City about a sidewalk replacement to enhance the building. Mr. Papa stated that he was informed that there were plans for the redevelopment of said sidewalks; however, the project was about a year away. Mr. Papa stated that as he needed the sidewalks addressed now, it was proposed to him to go ahead and do the work he needed to do in front of the building, and he would be reimbursed by the City per the City's calculations which Mr. Papa stated was the extent of the conversation with the City Manager wherein Mayor Marino and others were present. Mr. Papa advised that he ended up replacing 150 feet of sidewalk in front of the building and the space in between two buildings to which he is asking for the reimbursement therefor. Mr. Brown recalled that he was involved in the second meeting wherein discussion was held concerning the same, as well as using the District 4 average unit bid pricing as a guide and not pay more than said amount. Mr. Brown referenced the attached memo to Interim City Manager Steve Pulice that he prepared regarding said calculations (Attachment 1). Mr. Brown confirmed when asked by Councilmember Hyman that when this was discussed with him, he was told that the City had already agreed to the reimbursement. Mayor Marino stated that Mr. Faulk identified a bigger project area to which an RFP was put out with Thrasher Engineering being the lowest bidder at \$75,000, which was awarded by Council. Mr. Marino stated he did not make the promise as he just sat in on some of the meetings. Councilmember Keith remarked that although he did not have a problem with the sidewalk reimbursement, he was concerned with the manner in which the same was handled. Councilmember Riffle inquired of Mayor Marino why he did not bring this to council as he has been accused of this in the past. Mayor Marino remarked that he probably should have but he relied on the City Manager for the proper process, and he forgot about the matter once Mr. Faulk left the City. Councilmember Riffle also remarked that he, too, was in support of the same but had concerns with the process, as well. Councilmember Hyman stated that he would be more comfortable with the proper paperwork provided rather than a handshake with Council in agreement thereto.

2. Infrastructure - short and long-term plans for sewage trunk line - Tom Brown and John Workman - Mr. Brown apprised that the County Commission has approved funding for the Milford Street upgrade, and we needed to get an invoice to them and in order to finish the project, a commitment of approximately \$450,000 of the ARPA funds was necessary and that he would get information to Mr. Pulice. Councilmember Worth recalled his concerns with the main trunk line and Mr. Brown informed that we are trying to get sewer to Arlington. With regard to long term goals, Mr. Brown stated that they may want to look at funding another crew to take care of the clean outs rather than contract the same which would be less expensive with Mr. Workman confirming that there will always be maintenance associated with the sewer and/or sewer projects. Mr. Workman noted the need for new equipment as the current equipment is outdated which he has put in the budget for the last six years. Mr. Brown remarked that escrow accounts were needed and that the City needed to operate like a business.

3. Update on other infrastructure issues - Tom Brown and John Workman - Mr. Brown informed that they are looking at roads for paving with Mr. Workman advising that they are working with the Water Board to get a more comprehensive list of their projects. Mr. Workman noted that \$450,000 is budgeted for paving with Mr. Brown opining that \$700,000 for annual paving was necessary to keep up, as well as \$250,000 in concrete which he recommended to the previous administration. With regard to bridges, Mr. Brown informed of a proposed resolution to enter into an agreement to participate in the State funding program which will be presented to Council at a future

meeting. Regarding the Haymond Highway bridge, Mr. Brown informed that work is being done to obtain easements with a projected bid out for the project in March or April. Mr. Brown also informed that they are working on some non-CSO storm drainage projects with Mr. Workman working on a list to see if we can get some federal funding. Mr. Brown apprised that they are working on a \$500,000 grant for the Main Street sidewalk project which would get us started on the engineering for the project. Mr. Brown stated that they are trying to do the sidewalks in phases and that they would need to have communications with the State regarding handicapped ramps.

4. **Land reuse agency land bank follow-up - John Whitmore** - Mr. Whitmore provided the attached report (Attachment 2). Discussions were held concerning the changes to the tax sales and the creation of land banks.

5. **Downtown Parking Analysis - John Whitmore** - Mr. Whitmore provided the attached parking analysis (Attachment 3) which was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Whitmore provided suggestions such as moving to two-hour parking with Councilmember Riffle noting the low fine which should be looked at, as well. Mayor Marino requested a five-year history of the revenues of the parking garage, Jackson Square and the parking meters, as well as expenses and employee costs related thereto. Mr. Whitmore noted that the parking garage is underutilized and that making the structure more appealing may be beneficial.

Meeting concluded.

James Marino, Mayor

Approved: March 2, 2023

Annette Wright, City Clerk