

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
of July 21, 2020**

Mayor Allega called the meeting to order on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Cunningham and recited by those present. Due to COVID-19, this meeting was held using Zoom to live stream council members choosing to meet from home. Residents watched via Facebook Live.

Village officials present in Council Chambers: Mayor Allega, Council members: Marissa Gensimore, Lewis Rash, Kent Goch, Ellen Conroy, Bud McDaniel (zoomed in), and Jan Godwin.

Others Present: Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; Mr. Mike Cunningham, Anthony Gonzalez's office; Wayne Conroy, Fire Chief; Eric from AHEC (zoomed in) and Jeff Ferjutz; Zoning Inspector.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Mr. Mike Cunningham's presentation from Anthony Gonzalez's office, second by Mr. Goch.

Roll call: McDaniel, Rash, Gensimore, Godwin, Conroy and Goch, all voted yes. Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes – July 7, 2020

Mrs. Gensimore prepared a correction to the minutes that will replace the verbiage within paragraph 3 of page 2. She wants it amended as it is a direct verbatim transcription (attached).

Mrs. Godwin made a motion to approve the minutes with Mrs. Gensimore's changes, second by Mrs. Conroy.

Roll Call: McDaniel, Gensimore, Rash, Goch, Conroy and Godwin, all voted yes. Motion passes.

Presentation by Mr. Cunningham

Mr. Cunningham discussed the flooding issues in the Village of Clinton. He explained what it would take to help with these issues in not only Clinton but other areas in Southwest Summit County. He indicated that the Governor visited the flooding areas as well. COVID-19 has somewhat halted the intergovernmental /inter-agency task force meetings in Summit County on this issue, but meetings will hopefully occur soon per talks with the Ohio EPA. The main problem to taking action on flooding is lack of data, and the US Army Corps and other local entities responsible for floodplain / flooding defense – anything hydraulic - said we will not put shovels in the ground until we get better data. A lot of growth has taken place in surrounding areas and with that growth there is a large amount of concrete being poured which affects this issue. Because of meetings of these task force meetings, we have better hydrologic information and mapping. This past month because of that task force and work with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army Corps is going to fund \$390,000, with no local match to update the hydraulic mapping in this area. They are breaking it into two separate studies - \$190K a piece. Anything over \$200K would have required a local match. One will be the Tuscarawas River, and the other will be Chippewa Creek. Mapping is step one – we have to have this before we can do anything related to solutions. This

will begin before the year's end. There was a press release in the Akron Beacon Journal. We also have better news. The next step will be for the Army Corps to do a feasibility study - identify options to alleviate flooding. The Army Corps will not do any changes if it means flooding someone else. There is still a lot of legislative ground to cover on this project, but because it has been included in the Water Resources Development Act, is a big step. There are only 35 feasibility studies authorized in the entire country and this is pretty exciting. Then local governments within watershed will be able to work with the Army Corps - identifying projects for the feasibility study. Once complete, this unlocks other Federal projects as long as you are in a feasibility study. Can't get any funding till this study is in place.

Mr. Cunningham also advised about Medina County Park District bought the old Chippewa Lake Amusement Park area that could be an area for wetland restoration projects. The Chippewa creek plays a big portion in this flooding issue. To have a site like this where it is a prime candidate for restoration opportunities. This type of work, the big picture of alleviating flooding issues is immersing.

More discussion took place about this issue and the reality of the seriousness of addressing and the scientific feasibility study.

Mayor Allega said back when this started, we were told this process has a 7 to 10-year timeframe - has that changed? Mr. Cunningham was not sure about that; but there has been a lot of attention and effort on this topic which is very exciting. State Representative Bill Roemer, Senator Roegner, and Governor DeWine have been great partners in this effort as well. The Village of Clinton cannot get this done on their own. The feasibility study will show where the water is coming from and where retention basins will have the most impact.

Solicitors Report: No report.

Police Report: No report.

Fire Department Report:

Chief Conroy reported on the roof damage to two of their buildings from a prior storm. The adjuster came out and a check was issued to cover it. We are seeking quotes for the roof repairs. Also, a tree fell and damaged their squad bay and an adjuster will be out to look at the roof as well for repairs.

Street Commissioner Report: No report as he is on vacation.

Zoning Inspector Report: The new zoning inspector, Jeff Ferjutz, advised council as to what he has been doing over the past two weeks. He is working with administration and members of council and the Mayor. He is learning the Clinton code and going around to check out the Village for grass issues and anything else he feels needs attention to keep our Village looking nice. He wants to get familiar with our Village, and its residents.

Fiscal Officer's Report - No report.

Unfinished Business

Eric, from AHEC, reported on the updated version of the last quote he provided. We want to be able to record and broadcast any activity we want and he explained how this needed to be done. Also, Fire Station Number 1, does not have internet access or phones, we need to get that set up for meetings and any needs you may have down the road. Mrs. Gensimore asked about the other needed items – in the first quote, there was not a flat panel display with built in speakers. That will be in the basement as there is a small monitor and they need a bigger monitor down there as many pages will be open and more convenient if you have a large display to review. A larger screen is so much better. Mrs. Gensimore asked about the current display in the basement whether it could be brought up in Council Chambers and she was told this could be done. Training will be provided for those who will be using this system. Mr. McDaniel said that flat screen TVs are inexpensive. Eric said a Smart TV upstairs would allow us to watch the broadcast directly – saving money on labor and would pay for the TV to do something like that. More discussion continued on how to set all this up. Eric will be able to get this set up in the very near future. The parts that take time are installation and Facebook Live. YouTube live is easy to set up as well. There are a number of different options. We need to see what's easiest to do and adjust accordingly. Mayor Allega said she tried to get other quotes on this and no one called her back.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion that we accept the quote given by Eric of AHEC, second by Mr. Goch. During discussion, a Smart TV and mount was deemed necessary to add to the motion.

Mrs. Gensimore amended her motion - that we accept the quote given by Eric of AHEC and add a Smart TV and Wall Mount setup, second by Mr. Goch.

Roll Call: Rash, Goch, Conroy, Godwin – all yes, McDaniel, abstain; Gensimore, yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Rash asked about the police department – are there any changes as to what we are going to do. He was told no, not at this time. Mrs. Godwin is still waiting on some input and it is being worked on.

Mr. McDaniel said the domain names are forwarded to new email addresses. He asks that as we get emails to the old address, please advise to those sending what the new email address is. He is working with our Web people to make sure if you go to the old website, it will automatically go to the new one. Mrs. Gensimore said she is not getting any emails forwarded from her old address. He will check on this. Mrs. Gensimore asked him about why passwords need to be changed so often. He will also check on this.

Mayor's Communications

Opioid litigation updates are still going on. This has taken a back seat to COVID. She explained what this litigation is all about.

The Cares Act Funding is moving slowly and what we can use it for is still not fully clarified.

The Summit County Council is working on a County-wide mask ordinance. They want this to apply to the entire county and not just the townships. They cannot apply it to us. It will go to a vote next Monday. At some point there will be County legislation requiring everyone wear a

mask everywhere in the county that isn't a municipal corporation. It won't have an ending date so if we go back and forth in the red zone, it won't have that waiver. The County would like each municipality to pass their own legislation requiring masks. Mayor Allegra indicated she could do so by executive order but will not unless Council wants her to.

The INDEED posting for the new Zoning Inspector has been closed.

Summit County had a very good response for the Mortgage and Rental Assistance Program. The next one will be a Utility Assistance Program, maybe in August. The residents who applied for rental or mortgage assistance and indicated they were behind in utility payments will be first in line to be contacted for this next program. They will not have to apply a second time. This is all be done with Cares Act Funding.

The FEMA Grant for the demolition of the Beauty Shop is still in progress. We needed to send FEMA more information and was forwarded to them.

The lady who cleaned Village Hall was paid by the local church who used our building for Sunday services. As they are no longer permitted to use Village Hall due to COVID-19, they will no longer pay for her cleaning services. We will reach out to her and make arrangements to pay her directly. We need deep cleaning done and will offer this person that option.

Also, there is an Akron Zoo levy on the ballot in November and they would like to zoom into our Council meeting on August 18 and present us information. They are requesting endorsements from the Mayor and Council. Tickets for the Clinton Community Week will be from September 26 through October 9 and they will be available online. You will need an account set up to receive your tickets.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mrs. Conroy stated that the Community Development Committee met to discuss refreshing and updating the Village website. There are more pictures we can put on it. We need updated pictures and bios. Functionality is good, there are just a few things that need updated. We want to incorporate the Veteran's Park and Bountiful Gifts as well, on the website. Once things settle down with COVID-19, we would like to have a Community Day where everyone can celebrate and come together with social distancing. Also discussed was a Clinton Cleanup Campaign.

Mr. Rash asked what the plan was for someone if they deface monuments in our Veteran's Park. He said we don't own the monuments or the Veteran's Park, but defacing will not be tolerated. The Mayor also received a call from the person concerned about the Veteran's Park. He was from Medina.

Mrs. Gensimore said regarding creating our own mask legislation, she feels it would be logistically a nightmare to try to enforce that and we don't need that liability. We would have to fall to our policing authority to help us with that. It's not feasible. The public places are limited in our Village and right now going into those places you are required by Ohio State Law to wear a mask. Unless you are eating at a restaurant, you are to wear a mask. Same for Village Hall and the post office. Enforcement is the issue. Mask calls are to go to the health department. Refusing to leave a business without a mask is a different issue. Signs regarding wearing a mask can be obtained at Village Hall.

We need to think about endorsing the Zoo Levy, a property tax levy. It's a great zoo and hearing their presentation will be give us good information to make that decision. It will be on the ballot whether we endorse it or not.

Mrs. Gensimore got an estimate from Pitch Plumbing for the touchless faucets and sink. They will get us on their schedule. This will be covered by the COVID funds. We will also look into the cost of touchless / tankless toilets.

Mrs. Gensimore mentioned that there are COVID suggestions for having yard sales – encouraging social distancing, etc. Residents may want to look into that information.

Resolutions and Ordinances - No legislation was on the agenda.

New Business

Mr. McDaniel asked about the cleaning lady. Do we need a motion? He was advised the mayor can just approve it.

Council General Discussion

Mrs. Godwin wondered if the Mayor heard anything about the work being done on Route 21. Mayor Allega said there is a lot of work going on. It's occurring whether we want it or not.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the purchase orders and bills, by Mr. Rash.

Roll call: McDaniel, Godwin, Conroy, Rash, Goch, and Gensimore, voted yes. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.



Leah Weirick, Village Fiscal Officer



Mayor Allega, Village Mayor



Bud McDaniel, President of Council

Word for word transcription of what Councilperson Gensimore stated during this portion of the July 7, 2020 Council meeting, referred to on page 2, under, "Unfinished Business" the third paragraph.

Ethically, I think you need to remove yourself from this. (Small exchange between the Mayor and Bud) You do get paid for working with Eric on other occasions. (Bud interjected- that he doesn't get paid for anything done for the Village) I understand that, but, I'm just trying to cover the Village and you. I will cite the example when we had the doors put in, the door put in on the vault and that kiosk put in there. I did not vote on hiring the person that did it. Ethically, and I asked Marshall about it, because my brother, on occasion, worked for that person. My brother was not going to work on this project, but because my brother did gain revenue or gainful employment from that individual it wasn't ethical for me to vote on that situation or be part of that. So, I'm just cautioning you that maybe you should apply the very same thing here so that can be no question.