

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 3, 2024**

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 7:06 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Aimee Wade and recited by those present.

Council Members Present: Ross Blankenship, Jan Godwin, Rita Joseph, Marissa Gensimore, Keith Clackler, and Matt Steiner.

Others Present: Diane Gunter, Seth Marcom from Marshal Pitchford's office, Solicitor; Officer Zampelli, New Franklin PD; Kevin White, Street Supt./Commissioner; Aimee Wade, ADM (Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board in Summit County).

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Clackler made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mrs. Joseph.

Roll Call: Clackler, Godwin, Steiner, Gensimore, Joseph, and Blankenship voted yes. Motion passes.

Presentation: Aimee Wade from ADM, introduced herself and all the resources it provides. They are a levy-funded agency. They fund, monitor and support mental health and addiction services and educate what is available to those needing help. The agency does not provide the services, they are a funder. If you can't pay for the help, they assist with their resources and promote prevention and wellness. The suicide crises lifeline is 988 and calls are answered by a local agency, Portage Path. She passed out information that can be shared with our residents. The biggest part of the fight is knowing where to go.

Solicitor's Monthly Report

Mr. Marcom stated there was nothing on their end, but he was asked a zoning question prior to the meeting.

Police Monthly Report

Officer Zampelli read his report for November (in packet). He was asked about the speed cart which is not working and they are looking into buying a brand new one as repair parts are not available. The number of speeding tickets were quite low. He was also asked about the suicidal individual and if that person received help from ADM and the officer was not aware of the services that may have been provided to the individual.

Fire Chief's Monthly Report

Chief Conroy read his monthly report for November (in packet). The fire house is being sided. Mr. Steiner asked how many of the 18 EMS calls are related to drug addiction. The Chief said we don't have a lot of overdoses – he felt it would be more of alcohol abuse.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

We had our first snowing event. The new mower was received. We didn't get the park playground grant but we will move forward with purchasing playground equipment out of next year's budget.

Fiscal Officer's Report – No report. Financial information is in the packet.

Unfinished Business – No business to report.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel placed on Council's desk a letter regarding House Bill 296 regarding the cost to cities and villages increasing expenditures in pension funds. He asked Council to look over the letter and if they want to send out a response they can.

Also, there is House Bill 93 regarding rental properties and issues of utility payments made by the landlord or tenant which can cause problems.

He attended and Mayor/City Manager's meeting and an interesting topic was about criminals becoming younger and younger. The mayor of Akron was there and several things he does makes it a better place. If he sees individuals who may appear to be trouble makers he sits down and talks with them. A positive impact. Members of the business community in Akron may live in Clinton and that would benefit us.

The election statistics were presented as well.

The next council meeting will be our Christmas party. Please bring a covered dish.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Clackler reported on the topics discussed at the Street, Sidewalks and Parks committee meeting. The speed sign was moved off Clinton Road to Cleveland-Massillon Road on the North side. Next year we would like to add a sign and have it on Clinton Road and on the South side of Cleveland-Massillon Road. We discussed the tractor and zero turn mower that we will put on GovDeals to sell.

Mrs. Gensimore said the Newsletter next year will be back to the original schedule. The first issue will be hitting mailboxes by February 1. The publisher has not given us a date when articles are due yet. Be thinking of what you would like to submit and include events from February through May.

Citizens Comments

Diane Gunter said on Wednesday, December 8, we will have our Christmas open house at the Harter House. There will be refreshments. Santa came on December 1.

Resolutions and Ordinances

No First Readings

Second Readings

Resolution No. R-24-17

A Resolution to Provide Legal Services for the Village of Clinton and Confirming the Appointment of Marshal M. Pitchford as Village Solicitor for Years 2025 and 2026; and Declaring an Emergency.

Resolution No. R-24-18

A Resolution Authorizing and Appointing OHM Advisors as Village Engineer and Authorizing and Directing the Mayor to Enter into a Two-Year Contract, and Declaring an Emergency.

Resolution No. R-24-19

A Resolution Adopting the Annual Appropriations for the Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025, and Declaring an Emergency.

Ordinance No. O-24-20

An Ordinance Amending Codified Ordinance No. O-19-11, Adopting Amended Policies for the Village of Clinton Concerning Non-Elected Non-Contracted Administrative Employees, and Declaring it an Emergency.

No Third Readings

New Business – No new business.

Council General Discussion

Mrs. Gensimore recognized Diane Gunter and Shelly Kunkle. They work so hard on our decorations along Main Street. We so appreciate it.

Mr. Blankenship asked where we were with limiting the solicitor time with our people. Mr. Steiner brought up a suggestion of a point person. Some of these things could be resolved with discussion. This past month it has not been bad. We get a breakdown from their office what is from zoning, records requests, etc. Mr. Marcom said the records requests were heavy the end of June, beginning of July. Then there was a heavy fire department request. There were also zoning related requests.

Mrs. Joseph says there should still be a point person as that person would have the answer and start discussion before the solicitor is contacted. We are trying to save several people from calling the attorney. The point person can start the dialogue. The lawyer is a third-party person. Mayor McDaniel said we need to be careful of round robin – violating rules of Sunshine Laws. It was stated that two people can discuss and try to come up with a solution or ask another on council or call the solicitor together to avoid different interpretations of what is going on. Mr. Steiner asked if there is any legislation in other municipalities about this? Mr. Marcom said there could be council procedure rules. To discuss in a group, like three, you can be getting into some public meeting issues. There was further discussion on number of people to meet and what you need to avoid doing. Mayor McDaniel asked if a resolution is needed or an informal policy. Mr. Blankenship felt it should be a Resolution and Mrs. Joseph agreed. That way it will be followed. Mr. Marcom was told he only needs to come to one meeting a month. Mr. Steiner brought up an executive session question in an email to the solicitor and asked do we really need to contact the lawyer about that – can't we figure out ourselves? Mr. Marcom stated that the Village Officer's Handbook and Sunshine Law Yellow Book are great tools and resources and he starts reviewing those when he has questions.

Mr. Blankenship asked about using the Main Street fire department for a different type of use and was told that there is a grant that protected it. Mrs. Gensimore also said it was protected under the fire levy. He wants to see that documentation and why it can't be used for anything else. Mr. Marcom said he wants to see the documentation first. The fire department has a separate budget. We are going

to get into trouble for using something in a way it is not supposed to be used. Mr. Blankenship wants to continue talks with New Franklin about the fire departments. Mayor McDaniel said maybe after the first of the year we can see what people think and what's possible, but right now, we have nothing. New Franklin has interest on their part. Mr. Blankenship feels we need to explore this more - if there is anything we can do to save money.

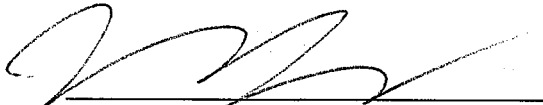
Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. Steiner reiterated the American Legal Publishing fee is for revamping our codified ordinances, and \$45,750 is a payment to New Franklin for our police service. Bills total \$158,199.33.

Mr. Steiner made a motion to approve the bills, second by Mr. Blankenship.

Roll Call: Blankenship, Joseph, Clackler, Godwin, Gensimore, and Steiner, voted yes. Motion passes.

Mr. Steiner made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM, and was seconded by Mrs. Joseph. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Matt Steiner, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer