

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024**

Council President Matt Steiner called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lewis Rash and recited by those present.

Council Members Present: Ross Blankenship, Jan Godwin, Rita Joseph, Marissa Gensimore, Keith Clackler, and Matt Steiner. Mayor McDaniel is absent due to illness.

Others Present: Diane Gunter, resident; Seth Marcom from Marshal Pitchford's office, Solicitor; Leah Weirick, fiscal officer; Bethany McKenney, Summit County Council/resident; Lewis and Vicki Rash; Dorothy Sommerville, Barberton Area Community Ministries (BACM).

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Steiner indicated that Officer Zampelli was not in attendance and will find out who the officer was to change in the minutes.

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

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

Unfinished Business - No business to report.

Mayor's Communications

Council President Matt Steiner indicated the Mayor McDaniel asked him to bring up a few items. The Summit County internet project is breaking ground for installation and will come to Clinton in the future.

The other topic will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Steiner said there was a finance committee meeting the night before on the 2025 budget and other finances for the Village.

Citizens Comments – No comments.

Resolutions and Ordinances

First 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.

Mr. Steiner stated these first two resolutions being read will allow the mayor to enter into contracts for the solicitor and Village engineer.

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.

Mrs. Weirick added that Jason Popiel, OHM, talked to the Mayor and she talked to Jason as well. There is an hourly rate in this agreement versus flat rate now of \$850 a month and any overages we pay in addition. She could not get a number from Jason as far as how many hours they worked this year for the Village. The rate was going to go up to \$950 a month and any overages in addition. Jason felt it would be better to do hourly with an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for the year thinking it would be saving money in the long run. However, that \$15,000 is more than what that \$950 a month would be. Jason could not tell me how many hours they have spent this year. We only paid the \$850 a month rate. We have not gone over; however, all the other projects are in a separate contract. So, this new agreement is not a monthly rate, but hourly, to not exceed going over \$15,000 for the year.

Mr. Steiner said this is a first reading and we can start looking for other engineer's or agree this is a good deal. It was stated that we should know the number of hours so we have something to compare it to. The bill is not broken down to answer this question. We have four weeks to research more if we so choose.

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.

This is a longevity clause and discussed last year in committee. Nothing happened. This will go through a three-time reading.

Second Readings – no second readings.

Third Readings

Resolution No. R-24-15

A Resolution Amending the Annual Appropriations for the Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2024, and Declaring an Emergency.

This is appropriations to clean up the budget for 2024.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adopt, second by Mr. Steiner.

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

Resolution No. R-24-16

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor of the Village of Clinton to Enter into a Dispatch Service Agreement with the South Summit Council of Governments, and Declaring an Emergency.

This is for the fire department and police as well for dispatch. Calls are going up \$2.00 per call and the chief checked with two other providers who where not even close.

Mrs. Godwin made a motion to adopt, second by Mr. Clackler.

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

New Business

This is the 6th year BACM (Barberton Area Community Ministries) board, with Lewis Rash who has worked with them, to serve Clinton's resident's food insecurity. Mrs. Dorothy Sommerville spoke on the BACM program and how many residents they serve in Clinton – 41 families last month. They do home deliveries to senior citizens. They deliver on Thursdays. Mrs. Bethany McKenney sets up the scheduling. Thanksgiving food will also be delivered. The needs are increasing and they even have AA meetings and partner with Summa Hospital. There are programs offered and a flu clinic. People don't have to go into Akron as Barberton is so close. Veterans are being helped as well. They are located at 939 Norton Avenue, Barberton, Ohio, 330-745-3693.

Council General Discussion

Mr. Steiner stated that he has been stressing our costs for legal assistance. We call at will to our lawyer and that privilege is being abused by the costs we are incurring. Things should be run through a point person, a check and balance. The costs are such that we need to consider this as a cost control. There needs to be a limit on what we spend for legal services. Mr. Blankenship said if you personally want to talk to our solicitor, pay for it out of your pocket. Mrs. Gensimore said that we have a Village solicitor and we can limit our contact as much as we want but we are not the only ones who contact our lawyer. Mrs. Gensimore does not agree there should be a point person. Mr. Marcam said other communities are much larger and have a larger tax base than small communities. Boston Heights is close to the same size as Clinton. He does not know if they talk amongst themselves before they contact the attorney. Clinton has been asking more questions than other comparable clients. Mr. Steiner stated that what he proposed may be a way to save costs. Mr. Blankenship wanted to see a bill for details, but the bills are vague. We need to have limits on how much we use the solicitor.

Mr. Blankenship asked Mr. Clacker the status of septic at the maintenance garage. Mr. Clackler said we need to get bids out for a water separator. There are multiple issues on this. The Street Committee will need to discuss this further.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval


Mr. Steiner reported on American Legal and Publishing payment of \$8,300 updating our ordinances. This was approved earlier in the year. The payment listings totaled \$48,132.96.

Mrs. Godwin made a motion to pay the bills and purchase orders, second by Mr. Steiner.

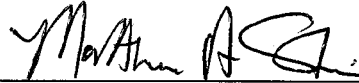
Roll Call: Godwin, Clackler, Blankenship, Joseph, Gensimore, and Steiner, voted yes. Motion passes.

Mr. Steiner congratulated Bethany McKenney on her re-election to Summit County Council.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adjourn at 7:32 PM, and was seconded by Mrs. Joseph. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Matt Steiner, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer