

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Diane Gunter and recited by those present.

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

Others Present: Diane Gunter, and DeAnna Jenkins, residents; Seth Marcum, Solicitor's Office; New Franklin PD officer; Kevin White, Street Supt./Commissioner; Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer, and Jeff Ferjutz, Zoning Inspector.

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Solicitor Monthly Report

Mr. Marcum reported that this month there were a few zoning and procedural questions that he dealt with for the Village.

Police Monthly Report – Report attached. The report was openly read to those present.

Mr. Steiner said there was a call last month with the OVMP and asked the office the nature of the call. He was told it was for an unwanted person on the property. They were having a closed meeting at the OVMP and someone was there they didn't want there and the PD was called to remove. The person did leave. Mr. Steiner asked if it was Ken Noon and he was told yes, it was. The complaint came from a gentleman by the name of Russell (Mont. . .?). He said both complainers were involved with the OVMP, or used to be. Mr. Steiner said Ken Noon conceptualized the memorial park as we have it today. He said nobody has more blood sweat and tears in that park. Mr. Steiner thanked Mr. Noon for what he did to get the park in Clinton and questions why anyone would want him removed from the park.

Mr. Steiner stated to Mayor McDaniel, at the last meeting I asked what your position was at the park and if you still the President, and you said no. Mr. Steiner asked what was his position at the park and Mayor McDaniel said the Vice President of the park. Mr. Steiner asked if he was when he asked him and why he didn't tell them that. Mayor McDaniel said it was crystal clear at that meeting and is sure it is in the minutes.

Mr. Steiner asked if he called the police ahead of the meeting at the OVMP and Mayor McDaniel said that he did as he suspected there was going to be a problem, and there was. The police came out and took care of it. Mr. Steiner asked if he calls the police if he suspects there might be a problem here and Mayor McDaniel said if he thought so, yes. Mr. Steiner asked if the problem would be a difference in opinions and the mayor told him no, not at all. Mayor McDaniel told Mr. Steiner he could get him a copy of the recording of the meeting and Mr. Steiner indicated he was moving on and not asking about that anymore.

Mr. Steiner said at the last meeting, when you are involved with an association and are the mayor at the same time, things get under the microscope. Like with the dumpster. You are the boss of the police through the Village. Did you get special treatment there? How many cruisers were there and was told four. One didn't stay.

Mr. Steiner indicated when Luna Lake has a trespass call to the PD, they don't come immediately cause it's not an urgent call and sometimes the answer is, we don't want to get involved because it's a civil matter. Mr. Steiner then asked if the cemetery want him removed as it is cemetery property. Mayor McDaniel stated the 1.7 acres is under contract to the OVMP, a signed contract. Mayor McDaniel was surprised the number of cruisers that showed up. The police officer indicated that three cars showed up within minutes of each other. The fourth one showed up and then left. Mrs. Gensimore read the March 18 minutes and they do not depict the mayor saying he was Vice President.

Mr. Blankenship stated you have to watch the Facebook video to hear what was said, the minutes don't show what actually happens, they are a summary.

Mr. Marcum added that he was asked about this and his advice is very general, and applies to everybody. Whenever you have an official office, council or mayor, you have some official responsibilities and some official abilities. When you are outside your official capacity, your job, where you work, or engaged in a non-profit activity to give back to the community thru the non-profit versus your own elected official capacity, there is murky water sometimes. Make sure there is a clear distinction and not use your elected official influence to benefit the non-profit activity and vice versa don't comingle your non-profit with your government. Don't vote on anything that deals with what the conflict material is or voice support or animosity towards anything that could impact the business or non-profit you are involved with. Say someone wants to bring in a business that may compete with your business, you can't say anything for or against in your official capacity, only in your personal capacity as a member of the community.

Mr. Blankenship asked the officer if there was a time of the phone call, did the person say this is Bud McDaniel or the Mayor of Clinton. It was not a 911 call. Notes say there was a council meeting at the OVMP and possibly an unwanted subject who then left. Multiple officers will show up for a call like this. It does not indicate it went to a specific officer's phone. It's not out of the realm to have two cars show up for a call like this one.

Mr. Steiner said we have to be careful moving forward. Mrs. Gensimore indicated if the OVMP needs to arrange police presence is needed it needs treated as a private entity needing the police. It does not involve the Village. Mr. Steiner said the optics were not good in this situation.

The officer asked if Mr. Noon is on the cemetery council? Mr. Noon indicated that to the officers. Mr. Steiner explained that Ken works for Summit Memorial and he was made aware of the OVMP in the beginning on this endeavor. He is not on the board any more, he is the one who does all the engraving for the memorial. Whether he is on the cemetery board, no one was aware. Mr. Noon was not asked to not come back, and will probably be at the next OVMP meeting this Thursday evening.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

The mayor indicated that the fire chief could not stay. He wanted it mentioned that on Thursday, 9 to 12, there will be training at the river.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mr. White said he had a busy month filling in pot holes, working on equipment, getting stuff ready for spring and mowing grass. Cleaning up tree branch debris. The new playground equipment is up and many families are coming and enjoying it. We are putting equipment on Gov Deals until the 14th - the old mower, tractor, and a zero turn.

There was an AMATS meeting with Jason Popiel and the mayor. We are not getting money for Clinton Road this year. AMATS is willing to get the money we need but not till 2028 to get anything done with Clinton Road. AMATS funding only do 25% of actual pavement replacement and on Clinton it needs to be deeper. They will cover about \$800,000 out of \$1.4 million. Jason Popiel is looking at other grants. Mr. White said we will plan to do some other paving on other roads we can afford to do now, like Van Buren. Nimisila is the next big one like Clinton Road.

Mr. Blankenship asked if now would be a good time with the work being done on Rte. 21, to post No Thru Trucks and reroute trucks down Eastern Road and off Clinton Road to prevent the road from failing. Mr. White agrees with what he is saying and advised that you should not see no semi-trucks now as it's closed down going south with the work that is currently being done. Mrs. Gensimore indicated she brought that up before that we could not stop semi-trucks from coming down Clinton Road. Mr. White said ODOT can be approached about this.

Zoning Inspector Quarterly Report

Mr. Ferjutz reported that the past quarter we had three zoning applications and one was declined. Two variances were filled out, fees turned in and two BZA meetings that had to do with setback measurements. The board passed both. We do about 30 to 45 permits per year that I can approve. We will see a lot in this next quarter. A resident stopped in and was concerned about a dumping on Taylor Road, our side, and Kevin White said it was already cleaned up when he got there. Mr. Ferjutz notified the police about it and there were four tires there. He took them in his truck and disposed of them. At the end of this quarter, high grass notices will go out and once they go out and the resident does not comply, our grass cutting team will cut the grass and bill the property own and if they don't pay in 30 days, we will send to the solicitor to put on their tax duplicate.

Mr. Blankenship asked Mr. Ferjutz about putting a fence around a swimming pool. He said he believes yes, you do have to have a fence. Our code said if it is an above ground pool, you need to remove the ladder. In ground, yes you need a fence here – 4 feet. Mr. Marcum said the house wall can count as part of the fence, and that the fence is around the property and pool is wholly enclosed.

Fiscal Officer's Report – No report.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Steiner reported that he will contact the church to go over options in the next couple weeks as Mrs. Weirick is back to work.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported that the Norton Kawanis Annual Prayer breakfast is on May 1, 2025.

Where our web hosting servers are hosted need shut down and need moved at a cost of \$60 a year. This has been done. Once we get fiber in here, it will be free. It will be part of the Fairlawn gig, Summit County Initiative. Mrs. Gensimore asked for more information on this. Just the website was

moved – Bunny and Steve, TMS, took over as LEK is no longer, and our Email is still with TMS. There was more discussion as to how things will work once fiber gets here.

Summit County Metro parks requested permission to addle geese eggs. Mayor McDaniel gave them permission.

AMATS road funding was discussed earlier in the meeting and we will continue discussions on funding in the future.

At a prior Mayors meeting, he was made aware that there will be an Akron Marathon Corporate Challenge.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Clackler will be setting up a Street, Sidewalks and Parks Committee meeting to discuss roads and cameras for the park.

Mrs. Gensimore asked about having discussion on deterring geese from the pond with images made of wood that look like coyotes, and other things like Kool-Aid on the grass. Mr. Steiner said what works early in the season is green lasers.

Mrs. Gensimore said Trent Gasser, our IT guy, is looking into our computers that can no longer be upgraded and be economically replaced.

Citizens Comments

No comments.

Resolutions and Ordinances

No First or Third Readings.

Second Readings

Ordinance No. O-25-04

An Ordinance Enacting a Code of Ordinances for the Village of Clinton (Village), Summit County, Ohio, Revising, Amending, Restating, Codifying and Compiling Certain Existing General Ordinances of the Village, Dealing with Subjects Embraced in Such Code of Ordinances, and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. Steiner made a motion to waive the three-time reading rule for Ordinance No. O-25-04. He reasoned that we are acting under this now and have discussed it at length before tonight. It was seconded by Mrs. Godwin.

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

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

Mr. Malcum recommended that the ordinance needed amended to add Section 5, which included adding Exhibit A, etc., to ensure there was no questions as to what this body is adopting. There needs to be an amendment. If this passes 6 to 0 there should not be an issue, as this is what is being adopted, and that council understands. The amendment process is technically more correct.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adopt the amended version of Ordinance No. O-25-04, second by Mrs. Godwin.

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

Roll Call (to adopt): Godwin, Clackler, Blankenship, Joseph, Gensimore, and Steiner voted yes.

Motion passes.

New Business

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to move the Tuesday, May 6 meeting to Thursday, May 8, 2025. Second by Mrs. Joseph.

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

Council General Discussion


No discussion.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval


As this is April 1, Mr. Steiner reported we have February billings in our packet and nothing new to pay in March. There will be no motions.

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, second by Mr. Steiner.


Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Matt Steiner, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer