

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 1, 2025**

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

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

Others Present: Seth Marcum, Solicitor's Office; Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; Kevin White, Street Commissioner/Street Supt.; Officer Zampelli, New Franklin PD; Fire Chief Wayne Conroy; Jeff Ferjutz, Zoning Inspector; and Diane Gunter, Ellen Conroy, residents.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Steiner made a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2025, second by Mrs. Godwin.

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

Solicitor's Monthly Report

Mr. Marcum stated he worked on some zoning issues and a nuisance abatement that is being handled.

Police Monthly Report

Officer Zampelli read his written report (attached in packet). Speeding on Cleveland-Massillon Road has gotten better with the addition of the sign that was installed.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Chief Conroy read his report to Council and is attached in the packet. They did training on the new tanker. The Clinton FD had representation in the Canal Fulton Olde Canal Days Parade. Both of the new vehicles are in service.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mr. White reported on the roadside mowing done in May, and in June some storm clean up, and also mulched around Village Hall and the Fire Station. He put up flags for Memorial Day. Canal Fulton came and jetted some pipes to resolve some water issues. The park swing set, gazebo and other park equipment was painted. A radar sign was put up on Cleveland-Massillon Road on the west side. Canal Fulton borrowed six of our picnic tables for the Canal Days events.

Mrs. Gensimore asked Mr. White about some issues that came up at the last meeting. There was a call from a resident concerned about the rental of equipment for ditching when we have a new backhoe. She asked him to explain why he rented the mini excavator for the ditching. Mr. White said this Village cannot go without a backhoe. He said he is only one guy and there isn't another person to drive the backhoe and dump truck to the site where he may be working on a lengthy ditch. If you are only digging out a scoop of dirt at the end of the pipe, the backhoe is fine to do that. As far as the rental of the mini excavator is concerned, it's easier for me to get in and off the side of the road and see and ditch multiple feet in front of you while dumping the dirt in the truck 20, 30 feet away. The backhoe only digs 90 degrees, three feet at a time. In the mini excavator with tracks, you can track 30, 40, 50 feet and you don't lose your line as you can track right back. I rent from a

gentleman in town that is close to the shop and charges me less than another place does. When he gets paid, he pays his 1% back to the Village for the tax. I only use it 4 or maybe 5 times a year. That machine costs around \$70,000 to buy. To rent, it would take 10 years to pay for that machine. I have to have a backhoe in the winter for salt and for storm damage. I can't justify buying a mini excavator versus a backhoe. Most other municipalities around us have a mini excavator. The mini excavator took less time to clean the ditch at Sebe's, and he will pay for this service. This is not a permanent fix to this drainage problem. The driveway pipe needs lowered. The drop will be measured to see what the fall is.

Zoning Inspector's Quarterly Report

Mr. Ferjutz read his written report (attached). He reported that we are using our new violation forms set up by the solicitor. We had two Planning Commission meetings; both were about lot splits.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Mrs. Weirick had no report.

Unfinished Business

No unfinished business to report.

Mayor's Communications

The Mayor said there is a group in Ohio that is trying to get rid of our property taxes and a group trying to get rid of our state income tax. No property taxes could be bad for the Village and a sales tax is being considered to compensate for that. There was discussion about what levies our fire department has and which would be affected. Mrs. Weirick was asked about the Village's property tax money that goes towards levies but also our general fund. She reported that about \$80,000 goes to the general fund which is for our streets and police. Mrs. Gensimore said we need to provide these services to remain a village. That's a lot to think about.

Seth Marcum said inside millage is an issue in the state house and the governor may be waiting to sign. They realize property taxes are not popular and there are some places that have not been honest about how they do their property taxes. So a group wants to get a petition signed on the ballot to amend our constitution to make property taxes unconstitutional. If they are unconstitutional, all levies are unconstitutional. All municipalities, counties and townships will be stuck relying on income and sales tax as a source of income. Some language changed in Columbus is not the best idea, and some communities only have property tax to rely on. School funding is a whole different issue we can talk about at some time. The question would be to amend the state constitution. Issue 1's for the last several years have been to amend our state constitution. Whether the inside millage has been curtailed is still not known.

Mayor McDaniel then reported that the tax revenue from legalized marijuana didn't happen as was expected and to expect more legislation on this coming down the road.

He then brought up about the fourth of July and saw on Facebook if you have problems with fireworks to call him. He wants the Village's law to be the same as the state law, but he was outvoted on that. Even if we were under Ohio law, in Clinton you can do fireworks with a permit. Last year the fire chief received a request for a permit to set off fireworks, but nothing this year.

Mayor McDaniel attended Access Ohio 2050. This group has been meeting since 1983 and takes input on roads and infrastructure for possible implementation.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mrs. Gensimore said she met with a website provider, and she has reached out to others to see what they have to offer. After she gets more quotes back, she will have a committee meeting to review them.

Every year the community yard sale has always been the third Saturday, and this year it will be July 19, rain date on the 26th. We have placed an ad in the newspaper in the past and will do again. Our residents enjoy this benefit of getting the word out.

Citizen's Comments – No comments.

Resolutions and Ordinances - No legislation.

New Business – No new business.

Council General Discussion

Regarding fireworks, Mrs. Gensimore stated when this law was being changed, she wrote an article in the Community News newsletter. She invited residents to contact a member of council on this and/or come to a meeting. No one showed up. She said she posted on Facebook. No one responded. She stated, with that, for the council to consider changing our ordinance, changing our current code, at this time without an outpouring from our citizens is not warranted. Mayor McDaniel agreed.

Mrs. Gensimore also brought up Facebook regarding misinformation that could harm the Village if people buy into what is being said. For the record she read a statement regarding the inaccurate information that was shared in a public forum. (attached) After sharing, she added, we live in a country town and maybe none of our codes should be enforced and have as many chickens as we want and as many junk cars in our yards as we want and no one complains.

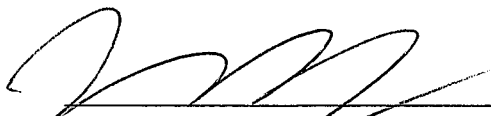
Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

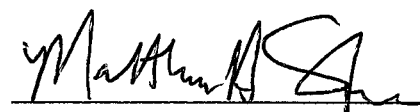
Mr. Steiner reported on the bills and shows the Public Entities Pool, which is the liability insurance provider for the Village, has gone up significantly. The large fire vehicles have gone up in value. Some reasons for the increase are the value of the equipment and the climate of insurance.


Mr. Steiner made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$59,533.37, second by Mrs. Gensimore.

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

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel

Matt Steiner, President of Council

Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer

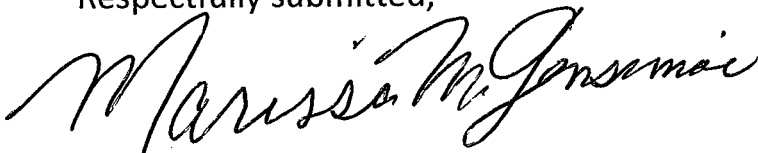
I would like to clear up some inaccurate information that has been shared in a public forum. It has been stated that my email to the New Franklin Mayor, which by the way I was well with in my rights to send, was the reason New Franklin doesn't want to partner with us concerning the Fire Department. Categorically untrue. Before I sent that email the Mayor of New Franklin's only offer was to take over our fire service by contract, similar to how we contract our police service through them. He said that he would be good with us paying for 3 full time fireman salaries at a cost of 360,000 per year.

To do this, we would have to dissolve the Clinton Fire Department. If we were to do that, we would lose all the levy monies that we receive to run the Fire Department. Without the levy money there is no way we could afford to pay New Franklin for fire services. The Mayor and Matt Steiner met with New Franklin again and the offer had not changed. Nothing I said affected New Franklin's offer, they never had any intention of rejoining a combined fire department agreement.

Another one of inaccurate statements made was that I was upset because the Mayor had chickens. My concern came about when a resident was publically upset about being approached about a violation of the Code concerning her chickens. How long would it be before she found out that the Mayor was knowingly in violation of the same portion of the code? At that time, the Mayor owned more than 3 chickens, on less than an acre lot and had two roosters. Our Code states that you must own 5 acres to have a rooster on your property. So, I mentioned something to Matt that he may want to talk to the Mayor about that.

If anyone has any questions about the other inaccuracies being spewed out there, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marissa Gensimore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marissa Gensimore

July 1, 2025