

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2025**

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Louis Rash and recited by those present.

Council Members Present: Ross Blankenship, Rita Joseph, Marissa Gensimore, Matt Steiner, and Keith Clackler. Jan Godwin was absent. (she arrived later)

Others Present: Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; Dan Clatt, Jack Elon, and Louis Rash residents.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Steiner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 20, 2025, second by Mrs. Joseph.

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

Unfinished Business

Mr. Steiner reported on the church's donation for new signage at Village Hall and the Fire Station. He will be meeting with Mrs. Weirick and Kevin White are meeting at 10 AM Thursday and then have Spencer Electric to get installation costs for the sign we are looking at.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported that he, Mr. Steiner, and Mr. Clackler attended the Board of Elections' new location ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Steiner mentioned that because of early voting, now over six figures vote early, they need a bigger facility.

Mayor McDaniel indicated the New Franklin police have been keeping an eye on cars going too fast and we appreciate all their efforts covering this well.

Mosquito spraying will not take place in the Village as the traps set up have not caught mosquitoes with West Nile Virus. There is a link on the Summit County website regarding the mosquito spray schedule.

The mayor reported that there is a group getting signatures to eliminate property taxes. This sounds good but the Village would have to double its income tax if this should pass. The school would lose revenue as well and need to raise their taxes. Mr. Steiner thinks what brought this to the forefront is the inside millage where property value went up and increased our taxes – an unvoted on tax increase. Now they are looking at taking away all the property tax. The fire chief said he would have been in the red if not for the inside millage taxing income.

Mayor McDaniel spoke about the Clinton Cemetery, and we have a monument of the Unknown Soldier. There was a nice article in the newspaper about how Clinton was created – a great history.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Steiner stated as finance chair, the budget is coming up. The first Finance Committee meeting will be held August 20, at 6 PM.

Mrs. Godwin has arrived at the Council Meeting.

Mrs. Gensimore said the Community Garage Sale ad was placed in the newspaper. The ad will run last weekend and again this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at a cost for \$59.28.

Because of the failure of the camera at the last meeting, we have been talking about getting a new camera that will stream directly from the camera. This is one streamlined function and the IT department installed it for us, getting us up and running. We can run from the laptop and a cell phone. We had a free phone available to us as a backup if the lap top stream gets interrupted.

She got a response from another website designer who is reviewing our website, and this brings us to two companies that are on board, and we are looking for a third. When that happens, the committee will review.

Citizens' Comments:

Louis Rash

Mr. Rash was upset about what he sees and hears. There is a vine hanging over 6th Street and it has been there for more than a week. He said our street superintendent drove by it four or five times and finally a citizen cut it down.

Next, Mr. Rash does not know if we look at the roads. He indicated there is a hole on Hickory Street. He got a flat tire and thinks he got it from driving in that hole. He asked as a citizen of this Village does he have to come here and tell everyone their job? Mayor McDaniel is aware of holes but that patching depends on the weather. Mr. Rash said Canal Fulton is patching holes and Clinton does not have to. Mr. Rash said his taxes went up \$600. He asked why this council bickers with each other. He said if Al was sitting there this stuff would not be going on. He indicated that the Mayor isn't doing his job because he is afraid of two people on council and does not know why. He has talked to a senator and congressman about this and it is going to stop.

He asked how many times Terry Siegenthaler rented a backhoe to do anything. Mr. Rash said Mr. Siegenthaler would call him to help him do this, drive this when we do this ditch, can you do this. We should not pay money when we just bought a brand-new backhoe. Mr. Steiner said doing something different and wrong is not the same. Mrs. Gensimore said it did not cost the Village a thing. Mayor McDaniel said your time is up and will talk to Kevin about patching the roads when the weather clears up.

Dan Clatt

He wanted to discuss fireworks. He asked what code we follow. Mayor McDaniel said we are under the current Clinton code and are stricter than the ORC regarding fireworks. Mr. Clatt asked what needs to be done to change our code to match what is on the state code. He said that he sat and watched his neighbors shooting off fireworks, and he commends them for it. He said that he could not do it because one neighbor complained. Mr. Steiner said we recently updated our ordinances and in going through them, we did not see anything regarding fireworks. Mr. Steiner indicated that we have changed the company who does our codification as the one we were using was not updating to the new state standards. He has been talking with Officer Zampelli about this as the officer feels we are following state law. So we have to figure out for sure what our ordinance is. Once we know that, we would address changes and if it is to follow the state law, we can do that. We will have a committee meeting.

Mayor McDaniel said that when this issue came up before, no one showed up to the meeting to voice their opinion. Now you have shown up, and we encourage residents to do that.

Mrs. Gensimore said under a different mayor and council, when the state was discussing changing the fireworks law, she would not force her opinion on anyone else. There was not enough support at that time from anyone on council to go forward and change that. She said she wrote an article in the Community News about this very issue.

Mr. Clatt said he will get a petition together if that's what it takes. He would rather discuss it with the council and ask what we can do to change it. Mr. Steiner said we are open to changes, and a committee meeting will be scheduled.

Mrs. Gensimore said that an agenda will be posted on the Village Facebook page and also you can email the Village for a copy of the agenda and entire packet if you want. We will post the agenda on our Facebook page.

James Elam

His question about what the legal statute is regarding fireworks – the Village or the State of Ohio. He asked what the process is to make that determination. He was told to look at our code and confirm with our solicitor which we will do. Mayor McDaniel said there are provisions in our code for obtaining a permit for fireworks. Mr. Elam said our fire chief could not answer this question for him.

Mrs. Gensimore said she applied for a permit, the paperwork is at the fire station, and the process was followed. She said there must have been a misunderstanding with the fire chief.

Resolutions and Ordinances: No legislation.

New Business – No new business.

Council General Discussion

Mr. Blankenship brought up the potholes and that Canal Fulton is patching now and using our machine to do their patching. He asked the Mayor if the Village has used it since we bought it. The mayor said no. Mr. Blankenship asked if we charge the City and if there is an agreement if they break it they need to fix it. Mayor McDaniel said it's common for municipalities to loan equipment and he said we will take care of the patching. Mr. Blankenship said we keep spending money and raise taxes to pay for this stuff. Mayor McDaniel commented on how much rain we have had, and you can't patch in wet potholes. Mr. Blankenship added that he's talking about the past 10 weeks when it has not been raining. Mr. Steiner said Canal Fulton has more manpower. The part time workers have not worked out in the Village. We do get other municipalities to help with projects much larger than helping with potholes. Our Street Superintendent has also helped other communities.

Mr. Blankenship asked about the street department bathroom and zoning for that building. He was told by Mr. Clackler nothing at this time. Mr. Blankenship said we need to set an example dealing with zoning issues we've been talking about for eighteen months.

Mrs. Gensimore read a statement she wanted attached to this meeting's minutes for July 15, 2025.

Mr. Blankenship responded to her statement as he said there were inaccuracies in what she just said. His comments involved her emails to the New Franklin mayor and what was stated in them. The timeline she spoke about was way off - the issue of cost and rejoining the two fire departments. The emails and minutes are time dated. You are spending lots of money on our attorney including issues about getting Hillside closed. Mr. Blankenship went on to say that he witnessed Mrs. Gensimore and Mr. Steiner talking to the solicitor in an area of Village Hall about how to get Hillside shut down not

realizing he was still there. Mr. Blankenship said we got cameras and everything is time-dated. Mrs. Gensimore said she can produce the email laying out what she said in her statement talking about the offer he had been discussing with Mayor Adamson about the fire department. More discussion continued about what went on between the Village and New Franklin. Mr. Steiner said we are so far apart on this issue, we are not even close. Mr. Blankenship wants to see the emails to know who is lying.

Mr. McDaniel then said he has 1.02 acres. The deed contains the acreage out to the center of the road. Usable land in the tax records at the County is .94. There was more conversation about how much acreage is legal to have a certain number of chickens or roosters on your property. Mrs. Gensimore said there was a Facebook post about a resident who was being held to our code as she was in violation. She went to the council president about it.

Per Matt Steiner, regarding the fire department, this is not helping with our negotiations with New Franklin. Regarding the chickens, he checked our ordinance and then went to Mayor McDaniel about it and we discussed the ordinance and my comment was three things: You can change the ordinance, get a variance, or get rid of some chickens. It was a private conversation as I wanted to get our house in order before Jeff goes out and does enforcement of our chicken ordinances. Obviously, that private conversation got out too. I wanted to be prepared in case the resident came to a meeting, and I got with the mayor to see if he was in compliance, cause asking our employees to enforce things when we are not is not a good position to put our Zoning inspector in. The mayor did say that indeed Mr. Steiner did go to him privately. The Mayor also said that he qualifies as an acre.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. Steiner said the payment listing is everything in June – new is the \$46,000 to the City of New Franklin for the police service which is a quarterly payment.


Mrs. Godwin made a motion to pay the purchase orders and bills in the amount of \$146,231.41, second by Mr. Blankenship.

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

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 PM, second by Mr. Steiner. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Matt Steiner, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer

Statement for Village of Clinton Council meeting July 15, 2025

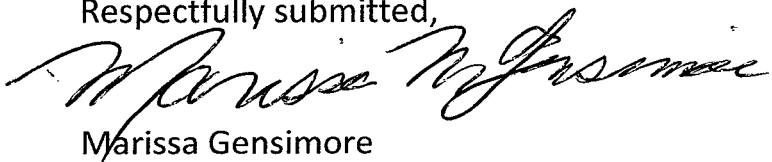
As the inflammatory and inaccurate statements continue to roll out on a public platform, I choose this public meeting to address the false narrative that is being pushed out on social media.

I was stated that I was spending thousands of tax payer's dollars in attorney fees trying to get Bud out of office. That is that I was contacted by three different resident's asking about the recall procedure. I directed them to the ORC and the Summit County Board of Elections. They came back with the information that they gathered and asked me to contact the Village Solicitor to ask if their understanding of the process was accurate. Which I did, at the resident's request, whom the Village Solicitor represents. It was a couple of emails back and forth that did not come close to equaling the thousands of dollars mentioned in that particular rant. Interestingly, I did not mention which elected official they had in mind when they contacted me. Even more interesting is how the information was attained, as it was a private, protected exchange. You have to ask yourself, did the only elected official having access to our email server invade that privacy and share that information with his best friend? It's just a question, I don't know it could be worth a look. By the way, the elected official of their focus was not Bud, it was Roscoe.

Another inflammatory, inaccurate statement is that supposedly I am always trying to find a way to shut down Hillside. Again, I have been contacted on multiple occasions by residents concerned about what appears to be people actually living at the camp ground on a year round basis. That is not what is provided for in our Codified Ordinances. There has been some investigating gong on concerning that claim. Previously, the Zoning Inspector has been met with the "grandfather clause" when trying to deal with situations at the campground. The camp ground was sold a couple of years ago. Anything that may or may not have been "grandfathered" became void upon the sale of the property. The new group owning that property needs to apply for a conditional use permit. At that meeting, perhaps these claims could be addressed. Is asking a business to follow that code driving them out of business? Or is it just asking them to do the right thing?

Stay tuned, as the drama continues to be played out on social media, I am sure that I will be forced to address the inaccuracies, again.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marissa Gensimore", written in a cursive style.

Marissa Gensimore