

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bethany McKenney and recited by those present.

Swearing in of Council Members

The Honorable Judge McKenney swore in Mr. Kent Goch.

The Honorable Judge McKenney swore in Mr. John Henry.

Both members took their seats at the council table.

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Rita Joseph, Ross Blankenship, John Henry, and Kent Goch.

Others Present: Village Attorney Marcum / Solicitor's office; Ellen Conroy, Wayne Conroy, Fire Chief; Office Zampelli, New Franklin PD; Jeff Ferjutz, Zoning Inspector; Michael W. Boggs, Tim Knepper, Doug and Marcy Wilson, Tabi Barbu, Doug and Marcy Wilson, Honorable Judge Todd McKenney, and Bethany McKenney.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Blankenship made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025, second by Mrs. Joseph.

Roll Call: Goch and Henry abstained, Joseph and Blankenship voted yes. Motion passes.

Election of Council President Pro Tempore

Mrs. Joseph made the motion to elect Ross Blankenship as Council President Pro Tempore, second by Mr. Henry.

Roll Call: Joseph, yes; Henry abstained, Blankenship, abstained, Goch, no.

Attorney Marcum indicated that abstention goes with the majority in procedural matters. He asked the Mayor, since there will be a tie, how he will vote, and the Mayor said he would vote yes. Motion passes.

Appointment of Street Commissioner

Mayor McDaniel appointed Kevin White as the Village's Street Commissioner, saying he has done a fine job.

Solicitor Monthly Report – No report.

Police Monthly Report

Officer Zampelli read his report (in packet). The mayor thanked the officer for their presence in the Village.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Chief Conroy read his report (in packet).

Mayor McDaniel asked about what number of calls were fire and how many were EMS/medical. Chief Conroy responded that outside the Village, 10 were medical and five were fire, and inside, 12 were medical, three were fire.

Street Commissioner Report – No report.

Zoning Inspector Quarterly Written Report

Mr. Ferjutz spoke and reported that six permits were approved. There were two Planning Commission meetings – one to approve waiving the fees on the fiber coming to Village Hall. The other was a conditional use for a short-term rental. This will be mentioned in the Mayor's State of the Village. Mr. Ferjutz continued saying there were vehicles towed and two boats were removed that were stored in the right-of-way. He appreciates the backup of the New Franklin PD when vehicles are removed. Violation Notices were sent out as well. Two final notices went out regarding fines that are included in the legislation for the first reading tonight.

He thanked Sue Mayberry and Leah Weirick for all they do to help him, along with the New Franklin PD.

Mayor's Report of Village Affairs (attached)

Mayor McDaniel read his report.

Fiscal Officer's Report – No report.

Unfinished Business – No report.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel said we have received more letters of consideration for the vacant Council seats. Council has 30 days to appoint two new members.

He indicated he had a motion to read about the new members who will need to have their signatures on our account at the bank regarding payroll.

He attended a meeting for the Water Resource Development Act, however at this time it does not affect the Village. Our engineer said there was nothing we could apply for.

He visited with Judy at Canton Data Print regarding printing the Spring community newsletter. The Mayor asked for articles to be sent to him at this time. He will also be meeting with our IT people this Friday. He also called Luke Wagner about our Website who did some updates and plug ins for us and we are caught up. Mr. Wagner said if we wish to keep him on to let him know.

There are two openings on the Planning Commission. Please let the mayor know if you are interested.

Lumos Fiber representatives may be here to speak at a future meeting. There is the potential that fiber may reach our homes by summer.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports – No reports.

Citizen's Comments

Tabi Barbu asked to speak and welcome the new members to council. She asked that all current and future members should keep their personal opinions, feelings, and politics outside the door. It's about what is best for the Village. Please keep that in mind.

Mayor McDaniel agreed with Mrs. Barbu and keeping it non-partisan for the good of the Village.

Resolutions and Ordinances

First Readings

Resolution No. R-26-01

A Resolution Certifying Delinquent Fines to the County Fiscal Office and Declaring an Emergency.

Mayor McDaniel asked Jeff Ferjutz to speak about this legislation and then the Mayor explained the history of how the fines started and why and how they have accrued to \$500 a day. He indicated that after three or four years, there are two properties that are greatly in arrears on payment for the violations. We can waive the fines and there are schools of thought regarding waiving them. The payment won't come out of their pocket, Summit County will assess their homes and when the house is sold, it will come back to us.

Mr. Ferjutz said there were multiple notices sent to the individuals listed in the legislation. Mr. Ferjutz said it has taken many years to get this right and we are finally to that spot. He highly recommends that we do this on the first reading, right now. He said he has been dealing with these two properties and has compliance with one but the one on N. Fourth has never been addressed. Both properties have accumulated thousands of dollars of fines – over \$40,000 each. One we suspended in October but the other kept accumulating. There are a lot of manhours dealing with this to try and address. The Cleveland-Massillon Road address is trying to comply.

Seth Marcum said from a legal perspective, the Village has multiple options here as these two properties are accumulating fines. Sub Section A1, by mid-December, had racked up \$47,400 worth of fines. This was in an email from the Village Administrator for mid-December. That was the property that he believes is still not complying. Sub Section B, he believes is the compliant property on Cleveland-Massillon Road address and believes became compliant once fines reached \$40,900.

Mr. Marcum said under our code, the Mayor can, of his own power, own volition, waive half of the fines, just like that. The other half, council can waive by a resolution or ordinance. That's Option 1. Option 2, council can do what our code allows for and certify these fines as delinquent and understands now that more than enough process has been gone through. He understands that all the letters and notices were sent and the individuals were given a right to be heard and did not avail themselves of any of those protections. Fines are accruing daily on at least one property. The other property he understands is now compliant, so the fines have stopped compiling there. Based upon Resolution No. R-26-01, which is not to cut these funds in half, and because the fines have not yet been cut in half, council can go with its option to either waive them entirely, or what this resolution

is written to do, to certify these findings delinquent. Upon certifying these fines as delinquent, we can then process the paperwork and record a deed restriction or a notice or a lean on the property that would be collected with their property taxes probably in the summer now. Mr. Marcum didn't know if the property tax bills went out yet, or if you could get this on there in time. What would happen is this would go to the property taxes, get assessed to their taxes and when they go to pay their taxes in the summer if there's a loan on the property, the banks will jack your escrow up and you have to pay the bank enough money to cover your escrow, which can cover the tax lien of \$40,900 on one property. \$47,400 on the other.

Mr. Marcum highly recommended to Council they amend this ordinance to reflect those numbers as we don't know how much the first number is off exactly. The old number is \$47,400. Mr. Ferjutz said one number is correct, but remember, we keep adding on \$500 every single day.

Mr. Marcum said what we could do if necessary is continue to issue fine notices to this individual, say we have certified this amount as delinquent, then do a recertification in the future if necessary. Option number 3, we could take them to collections and deal with the headache ourselves. He believes the reason Option 2 is being put forth tonight is because, while it's a slightly longer ROI, longer way to resolve this. What has to happen is it goes to the County tax department, they attempt to collect the taxes and then if they do collect taxes, they apply it towards our loan after the County takes their share of the actual taxes and their share of the collections fees. And if they do not pay the property tax, not pay this tax assessment, then we find ourselves in a spot where the county is going to have to foreclose on the property and the County is essentially the bad guy trying to collect our property taxes or our property tax assessment, which stems from the civil fine. That's how Option 2 operates - the least involved mechanism most likely. In the criminal context we find ourselves with not probation, but in a position where we have a fix, to clean up property and keep that way for one year and we will then wipe this clean. The Village could explore that. This was discussed a month or two ago.

Mr. Blankenship said he would rather help a neighbor instead of taking their property. He encouraged the Mayor and council to waive the fees, saying everyone has a bad time and taking property just doesn't seem right. We should not vote on this tonight and amend it where if they do keep it clear for a year or 90 days, and if so it's waived. If they go back to the way it was, we then enforce it. We have to give them a chance.

Mr. Ferjutz said one individual's property goes back to the same constantly after they clean it up. Mr. Blankenship said we need to give them a shot – 365 days keep your yard clean and I think they will. Mr. Goch agrees with Mr. Blankenship. Mr. Ferjutz said we have ordinances and we have to make an example out of somebody. Mr. Goch said he didn't like to waive the three readings on this one. Mr. Ferjutz said if we don't want to wait the three readings that's fine, but we keep adding money on the total. Mr. Blankenship said passing tonight will not get it on this tax cycle.

Mayor McDaniel said these people should call his office and meet with him about this. We have three readings here.

No Second or Third Readings

New Business

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to the following changes to the signatories at the Apple Creek Bank Company. Leave the current signatories of William McDaniel, and Leah Weirick and add Scott Varney as a signatory. Remove signatories of Ken Goch, Ellen Conroy, Cynthia Payn, and Matt Steiner. This was seconded by Mr. Goch.

Mayor McDaniel added that this may change soon when Council Committees are established. Since Ross Blankenship is the Council President, the motion was amended by Mrs. Joseph to add signatories Scott Varney and Ross Blankenship. Seconded again by Mr. Goch.

Roll Call: Goch, Henry, Joseph and Blankenship voted yes. Motion passes.

Council General Discussion

Mr. Goch asked if everyone got Mr. Rash's email. All said yes.

Mr. Blankenship said he is excited about this coming year and hopes that he and Mr. Goch can agree on more things. I'm glad to see council actually come together and get some stuff done.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mayor McDaniel said there is a total of \$34,959.80 to approve. The mayor mentioned some of the higher payments listed.

Mr. Blankenship made a motion to pay the bills, seconded Mrs. Joseph.

Roll Call: Blankenship, Joseph, Henry and Goch voted yes. Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.


Mayor Bud McDaniel


Ross Blankenship, Council President

Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer