

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led and recited by those present.

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

Others Present: Fire Chief Wayne Conroy and Ellen Conroy, Lewis Rash, Mike Boggs, Doug and Mary Wilson, Diane Gunter, Tabi Barbu, Steve Kristan and George Kemp from Lumos, and Tom Knepper.

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to amend the schedule to appoint two new Council members, second by Mr. Blankenship.

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

Those who had shown an interest in the open council seats came to the podium to speak.

Mrs. Ellen Conroy was a former council member. She said she and her family loves the Village and would like the chance to get back on council.

Mr. Tom Knepper said he loves to be involved in this community and sees a lot of potential and would like the opportunity to help steer the community and Village towards new days and brighter things in the future. He wants to do whatever he can to serve the community.

Mr. Lewis Rash approached council and said has served the community before and played Santa Claus and ensured those in need received turkeys for Thanksgiving. He likes working for the Village and the people.

Mr. Mike Boggs was on the Planning Commission and lives in the Village over 20 years and would like the opportunity to get more involved.

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to appoint Mike Boggs and Tom Knepper to Village Council, second by Mr. Blankenship.

Mr. Goch stated if the two individuals who did try to get on the ballot and had been successful, there would not be a conversation right now. This should not take anything away from anybody.

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

Swearing in of Council Members

Mayor McDaniel swore in Mike Boggs.

Mayor McDaniel swore in Tom Knepper.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to approve the minutes of January 6, 2026, second by Mr. Goch.

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

Unfinished Business

Appointment of the Records Commission

Mayor McDaniel said we need one person from the community to be on this commission who is not a member of this body. Please contact the Mayor if you are interested.

Mayor's Communications

Lumos Representatives

Mayor McDaniel introduced Mr. Kristan and Mr. Kemp from Lumos Fiber. Council was asked what their day looks like - checking phones, text messages, weather, etc. A lot is done online. Ohio ranks 38% in the country in terms of fiber and internet capability. We need to be at the top. We don't have the competition or technology being invested in. Mr. Kristan was approached by Lumos to come on board and work for them in Ohio who was in need of fiber. Many residents in Clinton do not have access to the internet, and they could. He explained how prices can come down with competition. Fiber is the network of tomorrow.

Mayor McDaniel stated this looks expensive and if they have pricing they could share. He was told that Lumos does not spend investment without the intent of being competitive. They are in a joint venture with T-Fiber and you can go online and see what the prices are. There is no contract or equipment cost. T-Fiber offers a five-year price watch.

The timeframe to get to the Village would be a couple months to get started. Maybe be done by the end of the year. Lumos cares about the residents and will ensure property is restored and keep property owners happy. Lumos over-communicates to ensure things are done as it should be done. Information is sent to the residents so they can know the timeline and when work will start. Yard darts are installed a couple weeks before construction and a week before, door hangers are provided with Lumos contact information. They make sure they do not damage private underground utilities. They find them ahead of time to make sure they are not damaged.

Lumos needs to meet with our engineer.

The installation will be underground, from the street to house will be underground as well. It is more stable in storms, and it is flush to the ground.

Mr. Blankenship asked if we get sewer down the road and the Lumos lines are in the way, how will that work. Will we have to pay to have that replaced. He was told they like to hug the back side of the right of ways, closer to the house, and that the fiber lines will not be in the way. Road widening happens a lot and utilities can be in the way. Lumos will move our fiber if we need to for construction plans if given enough notification. Lumos would benefit from knowing the future sewer work being done a couple years in the future and will adjust what they do for that. The Village engineer has been talked to about this.

Mr. Knepper asked about the method of installation and if it is horizontal drilling. He was told yes, 90% of the installation will go underground and on one side of the road. It was explained how they run the line. If there is an electric power line close, they may use that.

Mr. Knepper also asked if there is a charge to open the main box into the home or if they are going to horizontally drill to each home. The response was that a little box will be put between two houses - it will all be done in the public right of way, not on private property. If you want service, then they do a line and trench with a small trencher in the ground. It goes in shorter.

Mayor McDaniel asked about people who want to stay with who they already have. If they decide later after Lumos is done, what happens then. He was told that Operations takes care of that - like if you are having a house built. They may not get the same price as those who had it installed a year before.

Mayor McDaniel thanked Lumos for attending the meeting and sharing this with the Village.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported that the theme for this year's Storm Water Management Program is "On the Road to Clean Water." A great theme as we are trying to get the sewer project going again.

The flagpole at Village Hall is made out of fiberglass. The base is going bad and the pole is cracking all the way up. It needs replaced to avoid going down in heavy winds. Mr. White, the Street Superintendent, is getting quotes at around \$2,600 for the pole and then to get mounted.

The four-way light at the intersection by the post office is not operating correctly and needs replaced. Mr. White is also getting quotes and so far, it is around \$2,500. It will be LED.

The Summit County Fiber project is coming through, and the trace wire is in so that in the future you can locate it.

The Mayor provided the letters for the Community newspaper to the City of Canal Fulton and once committees are assigned, he hopes they can take it over.

Committee Appointments

Mayor McDaniel stated that this is normally done the second meeting of the year by the President of Council. He asked Mr. Blankenship as the new President of Council if he wanted to wait till the next meeting, but Mr. Blankenship said he was able to assign tonight. They decided to do this under New Business.

The Planning Commission has two open seats and Mayor McDaniel said he would like to appoint Mike Boggs as the Council Representative on Planning. There are two openings left to fill. We have nothing planned right now for the Commission and we can wait until we get more people interested.

The Mayor met with Trent Gasser from SBT (Village IT Company) two Fridays ago. There is something coming down - Ohio House Bill 96 about cyber security and it has to be in place by June. The Mayor has received quotes from SBT and the committee that is assigned to handle this will get the quotes to review.

Mr. Blankenship asked if the flagpole is dangerous and if it should be taken down. The Mayor said Mr. White should be asked about this and will talk to him.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Blankenship assigned the committees.

Finance: Chair, Ross Blankenship; Rita Joseph and John Henry.

Laws and Ordinances: Chair, Rita Joseph, Kent Goch and Ross Blankenship.

Safety Committee: Chair, Kent Goch, Ross Blankenship and Tom Knepper.

Streets, Sidewalks and Parks: Chair, Mike Boggs, Kent Goch and John Henry.

Community Development: Chair, Tom Knepper, Mike Boggs and Rita Joseph.

Public Utilities: Chair, John Henry, Mike Boggs and Tom Knepper.

Mr. Blankenship said Mr. Goch helped with the Police Contract before so he wanted him as chair with his experience, Mr. Boggs will do a great job on the roads, and Mrs. Joseph has done a great job regarding the laws and ordinances.

Citizen's Comments

Tabi Barbu said at the last meeting there was discussion about waiving the three-reading rule on fines for a couple of people. Her concern since then is, would it be beneficial for the Council and Village pause the daily fines until the decision is made. She said while council is doing their thing the property owners are incurring more fines. Mayor McDaniel will be at a meeting with other neighboring community mayors and will ask them about this. If we don't have a cost, then we will have people not following the code. Mr. Goch said there are options that we can do - there are ways to clean this up. He said he was there when the fee schedule was done and is not out of line with other communities. The fact that we didn't waive the three reading rule is why you can discuss it now with us. One property owner has cleaned the property up, the other has done nothing. Mayor McDaniel said the fees are accumulating and they could pay the fees now. We also meet with individuals and discuss a resolution if they contact us. If you get a letter from zoning, contact us and we can discuss it.

Mr. Blankenship said he was disappointed the property owners were not here to discuss and hear one or both property owners plead their case since we could waive half their fines. It must not be that important to them. Maybe the night of the third reading.

Resolutions and Ordinances

No First Readings.

Second Readings

Resolution No. R-26-01

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

No Third Readings.

New Business

Mr. Blankenship made the motion to appoint Mike Boggs to be the Council Representative for the Planning Commission, second by Mrs. Joseph.

Roll Call: Joseph, Goch, Knepper and Blankenship voted yes, Boggs abstained. Motion passed.

Council General Discussion

Mr. Knepper asked to go back to the legislation regarding the two properties and what the original infractions were. Mayor McDaniel mentioned junk cars and a lot of junk, messy yards. One was cleaned up, and junk cars were towed, but the other is not looking the best. He was going to ask the zoning inspector to revisit each site again. The final opinion is the zoning inspector. The information on these properties is a public record. There are some things we can redact if necessary. The packets contain the legislation with the addresses you can drive by. Mr. Goch said grass is measurable, but to say something looks "ick," in the zoning code it says unsightliness, and how do you measure that? Mayor McDaniel said we need to consider and be objective with a certain set of rules.


Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. Boggs made a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$73,441.78, second by Mr. Goch.

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

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Boggs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Ross Blankenship, Council President



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer