

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

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

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

Others Present: Officer Zampelli, New Franklin Police Department; Assistant Chief Matkowski; Kevin White, Street Commissioner/Supt.; Atty. Seth Marcum, Village Solicitor's Office; Diane Gunter, Tabi Barbu, Jackie Goch, and Ken Noon.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Joseph to approve the minutes of March 17, 2026, and was seconded by Mr. Boggs.

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

Solicitor Monthly Report- No report.

Police Monthly Report

Officer Zampelli read his report (in the packet). Mayor McDaniel asked the officer about one of the issues in his report relative to a self-inflicted gunshot that led to the individual's death. The officer provided more information on this issue.

There was also discussion brought up about a speeding motorcycle on Hickory Street.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Ron Matkowski read the report (in the packet). Mayor McDaniel said he received thanks for our fire department's mutual aid. Especially on Route 21 during the construction and the recent fires they responded to in the Village.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mr. White reported on the road salting done due to the snow and is now getting ready to mow grass. Regarding the flagpole, the thickness was in question, and the original prices didn't account for the ¼" more thickness that was desired. We will wait until the next meeting as we need to revisit the specifications.

Mr. Boggs brought up Van Buren, and the shoulder is starting to crack and fall off. Mr. White said the paving company is going to get with him on this issue.

Mrs. Joseph said the driveway at Cebe's is perfect right now.

Zoning Inspector Quarterly Written Report - In the packet

Fiscal Officer's Report – No Report.

Unfinished Business – No unfinished business.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported about another Cyber Security workshop next month. He will let Council know.

The RITA annual meeting is June 11, 2026. He cannot attend and asked if a representative from Council could attend and to please let him know.

The Route 21 project will be completed in June.

The adding of goose eggs will happen soon.

The Clinton Road project is very much on. Mayor McDaniel received an email and on August 21, 2026, at 4 PM, we will receive a check in the amount of \$1.55 million dollars. A photo shoot receiving this check will be at Village Hall. The engineering fee has been paid. The Village may need to add a few thousand dollars. The reason we got this funding is because of the businesses in Warwick so if you know any business owners in Warwick, please invite them to this photo shoot.

Regarding the sewer project, Amelia Sykes indicated that 12 million dollars has been put in the budget this fall for this project.

Mr. Blankenship asked why the eggs are shaken. He was told that if we just get rid of them, the geese will lay more.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Knepper reported that the Community Development Committee met on March 31 and started planning the American 250 community event. This is in the early stages, and the event has been posted on the Village's Facebook page. A date will be set at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Knepper made a motion for Council to authorize the Community Development Committee to proceed and continue planning the Village of Clinton's American 250th Celebration, including developing the event details, coordinating with surrounding communities and seeking community support through sponsorships, donations and volunteer involvement. At some point will bring to Council expenditures in the form of budget requests. In order to receive donations and sponsorships, I would need council permission. This motion was seconded by Mr. Blankenship.

Mayor McDaniel said this is a big event and thanked Mr. Knepper for his work on this Village celebration as it will also be celebrated throughout the country.

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

Citizens Comments

Mrs. Goch asked if there is anything anyone wants to add to the parade for Memorial Day, please send her a message if you do. Everything is coming together. She's working on getting the guest speaker.

Mr. Noon indicated that the Cemetery issued Cemetery Rules and Regulations for both Clinton Cemetery and Cemetery East. Cemetery rules are state enforced laws. Violation of cemetery rules

is a violation of state law. Addressing the Mayor, Mr. Noon said he has the obligation to follow and enforce state law.

Mr. Noon said in August 2025, OVMP board member Bob McCullough emailed the OVMP questioning a letter that the cemetery sent about the rules of the OVMP. Mr. McCullough said in the email that we need to stop the bleeding of our funds for lawyer fees and get the helicopter in the air, like the Cobra helicopter. The Mayor's response to Bob McCullough was that some issues now are secondary, like the Huey placement. The issue at hand now is ownership and what is legal according to our OVMP attorney and the state and federal law surrounding that. It is ours.

Mr. Noon asked Mayor McDaniel now that the cemetery has implemented cemetery rules which they sent to you, if he and the OVMP board still plan on fighting the cemetery over ownership. Mr. Noon asked, if so, who is paying the attorney fees? And if so, are you using donated money, or is this coming out of your pocket? Mr. Noon said if you're using donated funds, as a donor, he would be disappointed in you as a steward of the funds. The OVMP are stewards of the 1.7 acres, not the owners.

Mr. Boggs stated that as he is a new council member and a fair man. He is not aware of this situation and would need more facts as to what is going on and why.

Resolutions and Ordinances

No legislation.

New Business

Moving Council meetings due to upcoming elections.

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to move the Tuesday, May 5, 2026 Council meeting to Thursday, May 7, 2026 for the Primary Election, and the November 3, 2026 meeting will be moved to Thursday, November 5, 2026 for the General Election, second by Mr. Goch.

Mayor McDaniel explained how this was handled in the past and why.

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

Council General Discussion

Mr. Goch addressed Mr. Noon and said he does not know the whole issue. It is not a Village issue. It needs resolved. There was a vote of no confidence last year. The noise needs to stop.

Mr. Blankenship asked Seth about rules being laws and how does this work with property? Involve the Ohio Department of Commerce? He said council can't tell either party what to do. He wants to know who rules on this?

Seth Marcum said for the Village to have authority we would have to own the cemetery, or the cemetery's finances erode so bad that we would take it over.

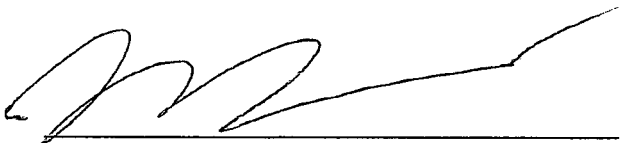
There was much back and forth at this time with Mr. Noon and members of council and the solicitor.

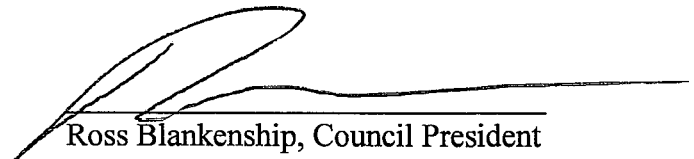
Mr. Blankenship stated that unless we pay the mayor a full-time salary he can do whatever he wants. The mayor was voted into the OVMP as President.

Mr. Noon said this is the only place you can come and ask questions.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval- Nothing to approve at this time.

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Boggs. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.



Mayor Bud McDaniel

Ross Blankenship, Council President

Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer