

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, June 2, 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, Rita Joseph, John Henry, Ross Blankenship, Kent Goch, and Mike Boggs.

Others Present: New Franklin Police Officer; Fire Chief Wayne Conroy; Kevin White, Street Commissioner/Supt.; Atty. Seth Marcum, Village Solicitor's Office; Diane Gunter, Tabi Barbu and Ken Noon.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Joseph to approve the minutes of May 7, 2026, and was seconded by Mr. Boggs.

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

Solicitor Monthly Report- No report.

Police Monthly Report

The New Franklin Officer read his report (in the packet).

Mayor McDaniel asked about a vehicle issue that was stated by the officer and was advised that it was not known if it was stolen or not.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Chief Conroy read his report (in the packet).

Mayor McDaniel asked about the fire that the chief reported on in his report. He asked about how it spread and if there was enough clearance to other surroundings. The Chief was not sure about that.

The burn ban is up right now and will again around October. The ODNR website shows when the bans are in effect.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mr. White reported this month there has been a lot of mowing and thanked Diane and Leah for mulching town hall and the trees. Flags were put up. Street projects are starting and pricing being checked. Tree work will be done soon, and he is looking into pricing for that as well.

Mr. White also brought up cutting the trees down next to Village Hall and will be addressed later in the meeting. They are very invasive.

Fiscal Officer's Report – Financials are in the packet.

Unfinished Business – No business.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported that the Northeast Ohio Mayor's Association and MAPPS took a trip to Columbus and there was a state rep there that spoke on the housing shortage and other impressive topics. They also took a bus tour and went to New Albany, the wealthiest city in Ohio. They have data centers, many are against them, but New Albany set regulations to be more proactive. Water was allotted and not one drop more and this has not been an issue. The noise is not a problem, which they can make due to specific fans they use, so they changed suppliers which has made the noise go away. There are cities that have brought in \$9.2 million dollars a year for a city when run properly. They have a special type of tax for them as well. If any calls come into Village Hall, this is something we can consider regarding data centers.

The grant coming in for Clinton Road, \$1.5 million, the project needs to go out to bid. We need to do more paperwork. But, the date now is 2029.

Mr. Blankenship asked why so long - who dropped the ball. We cannot wait till 2029. Mayor McDaniel said he will have our engineer in here hopefully by Fall.

Mayor McDaniel brought up the email he sent everyone about applying for a train grant. The engineer said there isn't enough time to get that in this year but we can do it next year. We have time to prepare for that for next year. Mr. Blankenship said he thought part of their job being our engineer was looking for grants that we can get.

The Mayor stated we have a You Tube channel now and can broadcast on You Tube soon. They maintain videos a lot longer than how they were stored before.

The Mayor attended a tree planting ceremony which was very nice.

The Mayor got a call about noise and there is a noise ordinance in place at the Village. It's 9 PM to 7 AM.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Knepper reported on the America 250 Celebration on July 5. He indicated as it is mostly his work, he is not concerned about what the turnout may be. If 100 people show, he will be ecstatic. There will be Facebook posts coming out. There are two food vendors showing up, maybe three, and a snow cone vendor. The event will be from 12 to 5. There is a band booked. A DJ is in the works as well. A pie baking contest and a vintage baseball game. Horseshoes, tug of rope. He's working on port-o-pots. He is amazed how much they are. There will be a clean up day as well. June 27 10 to noon the gazebo and picnic areas will be cleaned up and we welcome helpers that day. Parking will be behind Purdy Paws too. A golf cart decorating contest and for kids, bikes, scooters too. The Mayor has been asked to give a short speech. There will be a dunk tank as well. Please contact Mr. Knepper at tknepper@clintonoh.gov. Mr. Blankenship may have one he can use at the event but cleaning after the event may be an issue we need to be aware of. Mr. Henry may have a vendor for the port-o-pots and will advise Mr. Knepper.

Mr. Knepper will be checking on port-o-pots in the fall for more reasonable costs on what the Village pays now. More will come up at the next meeting and what funding needs might be. We may need more money now and if we don't use we will put back. I need to get better costs on what we may need.

Citizens Comments

Mr. Noon said the last time he spoke; he was asked how he thought Council should get involved in a dispute between the OVMP organization and the Clinton Cemetery Association. Mr. Noon said that unfortunately, he did not make it clear - that was not what he was trying to accomplish. He asked the solicitor a question. He said his concern is not whether council should insert itself into a dispute between two organizations but is with the Mayor's potential involvement in violation of cemetery's rules which could be a violation of state reserve code. As part-time Mayor does his role as chief conservative of the peace require him not only to avoid breaking the law, Ohio statutes, with regards to cemetery rules, but also help enforce it. The cemetery has posted its rules on its website, along with publication, explaining everything that is going on. Has council familiarized itself with the cemetery rules given the mayor's position with the OVMP. He said he was not here as a representative of the cemetery association, but he is one of the large number of people who have donated time, money, and work to this memorial. The OVMP has been making it clear for the last year and a half that they do not intend to mount the Huey as originally proposed, which would also be a violation of the rules the cemetery has implemented. Mr. Noon wants to know if the mayor is required to follow the law pertaining to cemetery rules even if he's only a part-time mayor.

Solicitor Marcum responded that at a very high level, they have reviewed the situation and advised council and the mayor's office on how to address the situation. This is a situation that involves entities that are separate and distinct from the village that essentially this dispute is non-village business. Mr. Marcum advised the mayor when this instance comes up when he speaks, when other folks discussing these events come up and speak, he advised the mayor not to speak on those comments as the solicitor doesn't want to confuse the mayor's office with the OVMP because the OVMP is separate and distinct from the village, as well as the cemetery. Mr. Marcum said his understanding of the situation is there is a potential breach of contract argument about that between these two separate completely unrelated parties, and this essentially is not the village's business. Mr. Noon interjected if the mayor violates state cemetery's rules, he's violating state law. It was stated there is not a lawsuit. Mr. Marcum said there are lawyers going back and forth - one for the OVMP and one for the cemetery board and between those lawyers, hopefully they'll figure it out.

Resolutions and Ordinances

No legislation.

New Business

Mr. Blankenship wants to discuss the data centers. He said this is a nice small town and data centers are bad places. He does not want them coming to Clinton and wants to make a motion to where they cannot come to Clinton.

Solicitor Marcum said the proper way to address data centers is to look at our zoning code for "holes" it may have and where could someone put a data center in my community and close those holes as much as possible. Mr. Marcum said technically speaking, it's not like marijuana. The State of Ohio gave political subdivisions the right authority to ban marijuana facilities within their jurisdiction. The Constitution and state law combined give municipalities the ability to ban or regulate alcohol within their jurisdiction. There's no state law currently, that gives us the right and authority to ban data centers outright, so we could face a constitutional challenge on that. However, even though you don't necessarily ban something, you can regulate something to such an extent that they're not going to come here.

Mr. Blankenship asked to change his motion to make a moratorium that they can't come, that'll last for a year and that'll give us plenty of time to find out what we can do to pass it to make it where they can't come.

Mayor McDaniel said there is plenty of time if a data center would call me tomorrow, we would not have any place for several years. Mr. Blankenship said we make a motion not to even talk to them. That's why we have a moratorium. He said he respects what the mayor is saying but we are not entertaining this.

Solicitor Marcum is comfortable with a six-month moratorium that is extendable to do this. He highly recommends that he, the Mayor, Council President, Laws and Ordinances Chair meet to discuss the best approach on this moving forward. Mr. Marcum will draw up a resolution for a six-month moratorium for the next meeting.

Mr. Knepper said his concern would be taxing the electrical grid in our town. Mr. Boggs said in the Bolivar-New Philadelphia area there are data centers that have built their own power plant. When they do lose power, it pushes power back to the grid for the residents. Mr. Blankenship said these data centers take up acres of land displacing wildlife. Their electric bills go up too. A data center would kill our small town.

Mr. Blankenship said the trees next to Village Hall need to come down. They are very invasive.

Mr. Blankenship made a motion to take the trees down, second by Mrs. Joseph.

Questions were asked about what issues they are posing. They were not supposed to get as big as they are, and two have fallen on their own in the recent past. There are 10 trees that need to come down. There will be other types of trees looked at to replace what is removed. New signs/plaques of those who did donate the original trees will be considered.

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

Mr. Blankenship said we need to restrict the zoning inspector's hours greatly or pay him more money. He said that Mr. Ferjutz has been working more than we are paying him and I've told him not to work as many hours. But he has a job to do.

I make the motion that Mr. Ferjutz the zoning inspector sends a citation to 7799 Main Street, next to Gordons' to clean it up. Last year and the year before, council talked about having him doing it and it never got done. We need to talk about increasing Mr. Ferjutz' rate or have him stop working the hours he's doing. Now, I want to make a motion, so the citation gets done.

Mr. Marcum said legally we have no way of tracking his hours. If we are to pay him more, he turns in a timesheet or tracks his hours. Are we trusting he's working 4 hours a week? Time sheets will show exactly how many hours he is working.

Mr. Blankenship made a motion that the Zoning Inspector send a citation to 7799 Main Street to clean up the property, second by Mr. Knepper.

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

Mr. Knepper asked if council could receive a monthly report of citations he has issued, besides his quarterly reports. Mayor McDaniel said he will discuss this with Mr. Ferjutz.

Mr. Blankenship asked about the two properties and the status. Solicitor Marcum indicated they were assessed and taxed and will see something soon.

Mr. Knepper will be going to the RITA meeting soon and needs a motion from Council to approve his voting on behalf of the Village of Clinton. They will be voting on new members and on an amendment on remote attendance as some cannot physically attend.

Mr. Blankenship made a motion allowing Councilman Knepper to be the spokesman at the RITA meeting and vote on Council's behalf, second by Mr. Boggs.

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

Council General Discussion

Mr. Goch, on behalf of Jackie Goch, thanked everyone for their assistance on Memorial Day. The parade was well received.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

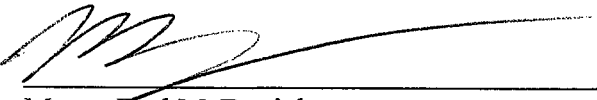
Mr. Boggs made a motion to pay the purchase orders and bills, second by Mr. Knepper.

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

Tabi Barbu said the Community Action Group is working on setting up the annual Community Garage Sale downtown by the park area and get Council's approval for using that greenspace area to set up tents and things. Flea market style. That area is Village property. Mr. Blankenship said a sign needs erected there saying it's for public use. The third Saturday of July is when they want to do this. Details are still being discussed. Individuals can still have garage sales at their own homes. Or they can bring their items to the park area and will be helped to set up. Some residents may volunteer their yards.

All of council was in favor of the Community Action Group using this greenspace.

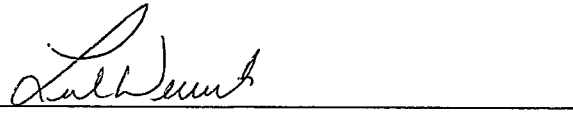
Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn and was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Ross Blankenship, Council President



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer