

Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 7:05 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim McCormick and recited by those present.

Council Members present: Janice Godwin, Ellen Conroy, Matt Steiner, Marissa Gensimore, Lewis Rash, and Kent Goch.

Others Present: Jim McCormick, resident; Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; Kevin White, Street Dept./Commissioner.

Approval of Council Minutes

Mr. Goch made a motion to amend the minutes of January 3, 2023, second by Mr. Steiner.

Mr. Goch indicated his name under Election of President of Council should be Kent and not Ken. It was also requested by Mr. Steiner to remove the work "occasionally" on page 2, under the Fire Chief's Monthly Report regarding 911 calls going to Wayne County. It wasn't occasionally, it was all the time for one resident. Mr. Steiner asked Chief Conroy about this issue. This will be addressed later in the meeting with Chief Conroy.

Roll call: Rash, Steiner, Goch, Gensimore, Godwin, voted yes. Mrs. Conroy abstained. Motion passed.

Mrs. Gensimore indicated that it was stated at the last meeting that Chief Conroy was ill, and accurately reported as such in the minutes, but he was not ill. He was working.

Electric Aggregation Program Presentation – Tom Bellish, Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc.

Mr. Bellish passed out a packet to council and presented what his company offers to all present. He explained the advantages of going with Buckeye Energy. To restart with an aggregate, it would be in May 2023. Ohio Edison will go to 12 cents per hour. Buckeye Energy at this time starting in May would be 7 cents per hour or so. Another option is with Summit County aggregate and their certification. The Village can run its own program but there are costs involved, rate would still be 7 cents, but it could go higher. The benefit going with the County was discussed as well, and that cost could be a better rate but at this time, we can't get in with the County. The market changes daily regarding cost. Mr. Bellish will follow up with the Village as to what is decided. Whether public meetings would be required, he will check on that for us. His company will provide legislation that is needed as well. We have six weeks to work on this.

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Chief Conroy read his report to those present. He also discussed the payment in the packet for a Medic School program at Stark State. Fire Department members attend Medic School, fronted by the Village, and over a period of time (3 years) they pay it back. Mr. Rash asked how to get fire extinguishers refilled.

Unfinished Business – Nothing to report.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported that Ohio Edison has hired tree trimmers to trim trees in the Village. We have a new key policy. There is a sign out sheet for this.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mrs. Gensimore said she has not heard from Mayor Schultz regarding *Your Community News*. She asked that council still get articles together they may want to have ready - events, street projects, etc. through the end of May.

Mrs. Gensimore said the key policy is a suggestion as it needs to go through Council. The Laws and Ordinances Committee will go over it at the first meeting of February. She was thankful that Mrs. Weirick was proactive on this.

Mr. Steiner asked about the reason for the locks to be changed - like passage of legislation by emergency. He didn't understand the urgency. We cannot be reactive instead of active. Mrs. Gensimore said council should have been informed of changing the locks. There should have been discussion. Mr. Goch asked the reasoning of rekeying Village Hall. Mayor McDaniel indicated a key was needed to access the downstairs for his son's tutoring. It was stated that this cannot be allowed having a minor have access to the building. Mayor McDaniel said the only key we could find only opened the main door and to the basement. Mr. Steiner read the code we have on this issue which gives authorization to use this space. The upstairs are off limits. Jared McDaniel's key only got him into the basement, not upstairs. It was stated an adult should have that key and be accountable for possession. Mayor McDaniel said there was only one key to access downstairs and we had no way of knowing who all had keys to Village Hall. The new keys are master keys to the upstairs and downstairs.

Mr. Rash asked if anyone who uses the downstairs room pays a small fee and he was told yes, \$50 to rent. He questioned if it then puts the burden on the person using the room. It was stated that we have a rental agreement in place, but this issue needs to go to committee. Mrs. Gensimore said if we are going to allow this to continue we need to note that the adult needs to be in charge of the key and is registered at the Village.

Mr. Goch asked but why the urgency to change the locks and get new keys? Mayor McDaniel said Mrs. Mayberry scheduled the lock change. It was stated that Mrs. Mayberry would not have taken this upon herself. Mr. McDaniel said he was aware of issues with the doors/keys, but how this has spiraled - he will talk with Mrs. Mayberry on Thursday.

Mr. Steiner said it would be nice if the committee met on the issue, sent to council to vote on it, and the mayor then instructed administration to get new keys.

Citizens Comments

Jim McCormick wanted to thank the road department for plowing the roads on Christmas. Regarding the presentation by Mr. Bellish, he questioned the price that was given – 7 cents. Energy Harbor right now is 8.79 cents for 48 months – this changes daily. You could get 7.69 for a three-month contract.

He asked about using the basement and is he able to rent the basement too? He was advised that he could. He asked if elected officials use for free? He was told no, and this will all be reviewed. He added, that to him, this issue appeared to be like “the cart before the horse.”

Resolutions and Ordinances

No legislation for this evening.

New Business

Mr. Goch brought up another situation, he called debauchery, involving what arose from the key issue. He still doesn't understand the urgency on changing the locks at Village Hall however he does understand the urgency of changing the locks to the street garage. The mayor asked for a key to the street building. The street superintendent wasn't comfortable and said no. He then called me and told me he said no. Mr. Goch said he does not fault him for saying no. A day later he heard we were changing the locks on the street building as we were already going to change the locks at Village Hall. The way the situation was handled became the issue. After talking to the solicitor, the mayor informed the street superintendent he was not to take the truck home until further notice. However, Mr. Goch said he and the mayor discussed last year it was a good idea for Kevin to take the truck home in case he has to come back in which happens frequently. It became clear to Mr. Goch the truck had nothing to do with anything other than Kevin told the mayor no.

Mayor McDaniel responded that after being told no about the key, he called the solicitor who said he had every right to have the key. The solicitor asked about the policy about taking the truck home as it could be an issue. We need to create policy for taking the truck home. If the insurance company is OK with it, then the truck can be driven home.

Mrs. Gensimore said this had never been a problem and our insurance policy covers the truck no matter where it goes. This is not an issue.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to authorize our street superintendent to have full use of the truck as needed, second by Mr. Rash.

Mr. Steiner said he agrees, insurance follows the vehicle.

Roll Call: Gensimore, Goch, Godwin, Conroy, Steiner, and Rash voted yes. Motion passes.

Mr. Steiner emphasized, how the key situation was handled became the issue. This had put council in a bad position. Why are we messing with the street department in the middle of winter?

Mrs. Gensimore does not believe the mayor needs a key to the street garage. Access, yes. If there is an emergency, we can get a lock box there. She said the mayor's street garage key should be turned into the office or given to the street committee chair at this time.

The mayor added that the internet will soon be going into the street garage. He stated that it was in the budget to do so, but was advised it was only for internet, not the equipment. Mayor McDaniel said the mayor is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the Village and access to the buildings. Mrs. Gensimore said, yes, during business hours.

Mr. Steiner said the mayor is the chief executive and would have access, but it's the way it's handled. The internet at the garage is not necessary. We have access to the cameras through an MVR if necessary – cameras inside the street garage are not necessary.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion that the mayor surrender his keys until we can create a better work environment and if any work is done down there, it's done by another company.

Mr. Steiner asked if the cameras are accessible by village computers. He was told no. He then asked if there are other cameras in the village and if we have a camera policy and he was told no. Mr. Steiner asked whose computers have access to these cameras and the answer was none, so far. It was clarified that there was a camera in the drug room at the fire house. Mrs. Gensimore said the only one who should have access to that camera is the fire chief. The mayor has access to it on his personal phone. A camera policy is needed.

Mrs. Gensimore reiterated her motion. Mr. Steiner stated that we need to have more discussion before we start making motions – this is all needing constructive thought first. Mr. Rash agreed.

There was no second to the motion. Motion fails.

Mrs. Gensimore stated that the street superintendent is responsible for all that is inside the street garage. Mayor McDaniel said he is responsible for the entire village. Mrs. Gensimore said that as far as internet in there, we do not have a cost to approve at this time. Cameras should be covering the back door, like the one facing the front now. The mayor indicated that the solicitor said to put one inside the building. Mayor McDaniel reported on the installation of internet and the cost. We did approve internet – not what it would cost. Mr. Rash said we should not spend money for nothing.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion that we do not put a camera inside the street garage, second by Mr. Rash.

Roll Call: Goch, Godwin, Conroy, Rash, and Gensimore voted yes. Steiner abstained. Motion passes.

Council General Discussion – No discussion.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

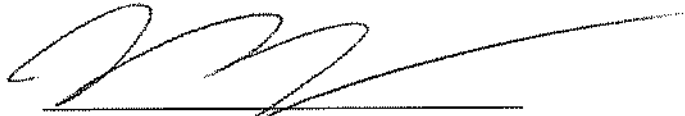
Mr. Steiner reported on the payments. He indicated the fire chief reported on the Stark State College amount of \$2,120 earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Steiner made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$26,163.09, the second made by Mr. Rash.


Roll call: Godwin, Conroy, Steiner, Rash, Gensimore, and Goch voted yes. Motion passed.

Mr. Rash motioned to adjourn at 8:29 PM, second by Mr. Steiner.


Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Kent Goch, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer