

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

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wayne Conroy and recited by those present.

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

Others Present: Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; Residents Mike Robinson, Tom Knepper and Tobi Barbi.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Steiner made a motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2023 as written, second by Mr. Rash.

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

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Gensimore introduced Mike Robinson who volunteered to be a member of the BZA board. He gave a short bio of himself.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to approve Mike Robinson as a new member of the BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals), second by Mr. Goch.

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

Mr. Steiner brought up the QR code that Holly Miller presented at the last meeting. We were to get information from the County that can be of assistance to our residents if they wanted to participate and qualified for different programs offered.

Mr. Steiner said that Casey Roch was going to hopefully provide information relative to the property tax values. Mr. Goch said he talked to him and Mr. Roch said a real estate appraisal is not the same as a tax appraisal. Mr. Roch indicated that property values have gone up and property values will actually show higher than what the county is assessing on average.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel reported that Dominion is raising the gas rates – the supplier side. The main light switch in Village Hall is on and will remain on so the outside LED Village Hall light and the flag light is on all night.

The Summit County Intergovernmental MOU for job creation, retention and tax sharing is in the packet. The last time council passed this was in 2019 and he feels strongly about passing again this year. Legislation will need to be prepared if we want to proceed.

Mr. Steiner said when COVID hit many worked from home. Those taxes should go to the local community instead of the company they work for in the county. This is a question I would have about this MOU. Mayor McDaniel stated this is not for individuals but for the complete industry.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion that legislation regarding the MOU is prepared for the next meeting, second by Mr. Goch.

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

Mayor McDaniel discussed the Go Rail letters that were in the packet to decide which to use to send to Honorable Emilia Sykes, Sherrod Brown, and JD Vance in Washington, DC. He says there is a lot funding out there for programs like that. Mr. Rash asked if every railroad crossing has to have a gate. He was told this is not true. He asked for council to review and decide at the next meeting.

Mayor McDaniel attended a Summit Soil and Water Meeting a few weeks ago. It was mainly about the planting of native plants in your yard and was very interesting.

The US Naval Academy Class of 1983 did a coast-to-coast bike ride and stopped at the Tudor House in New Franklin.

On October 3, Mayor McDaniel met with Aileen Shapiro regarding the issue of moving to Stark County. He told her about what was being said in the Village and to send us a list of what Summit County does for us. The Clinton Road project is one of the items - they give us 12 points towards getting funded, which they don't have to do.

He was at a mayor's meeting and the topic of the solar eclipse came up. Tourism ramps up during those times.

He shared that he was told Summit County raised our taxes this year during the reevaluation, and Stark County is doing it next year. Over a 5-year period every county does this.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Steiner requested a final Finance Committee for the 2024 budget on October the 24th at 6 PM.

At this time, it was discovered that those viewing the meeting online could not hear anything but a buzzing sound. The equipment was rebooted.

Citizens Comments

Mr. Knepper stated with the increase in property taxes his house payments are higher than when he first bought his house. He was told this can be disputed but needs to wait until January 1, 2024. Mr. Knepper said someone did something wrong. Mr. Goch didn't agree as the County got their direction from the State of Ohio and they were looking at the housing market and how the selling rates have ballooned - buying houses for more than what they were worth. The County didn't make this up. Mr. Knepper sees nothing coming back to the Village from the County. He said we have no water or sewers to sustain the Village and neighboring communities thrive and grow. We need to be fighting more for our tax dollars. He also said we need more street lighting as well.

Mr. Steiner said it's not a straight across the board 34% increase - it only applies to fixed levies. The permanent fire levies go up 34% and the Village has three fire levies. This is not income tax.

Mrs. Gensimore added that Holly Miller from the County was at the last council meeting and she talked about the programs available to the citizens of the Village to help senior citizens, lower income families, internet access possibilities (hot spot with minimal fee). We were given a lot of information from her. It may not help everyone, but does help those who fall into certain income brackets. There are pamphlets available as well that we can provide. The sewer issue has changed and the County is approving the package plants. A building downtown was approved for a new package plant. So, the County is providing help.

Mr. Knepper will be interested in hearing the other benefits Mayor McDaniel indicated he was going to get from Mrs. Shapiro. He wants to see the amount of money we are receiving from the County.

Mr. Steiner said our income tax is 1% - what has changed? Nothing has changed but we could not have survived without it. Area communities are 2%.

Resolutions and Ordinances

Third Readings

Resolution No. R-23-20

A Resolution Authorizing Expenditure from American Rescue Plan Acts Funds for Use in the Clinton Road Project, and Declaring an Emergency.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adopt, second by Mr. Goch.

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

Ordinance No. O-23-21

An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Fund Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 5705.13 (C) for the Purpose of Accumulating Resources for the Purchase of Street Equipment for the Village of Clinton, and Declaring an Emergency.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to adopt, second by Mr. Goch.

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

No Second or First Readings

New Business

Mrs. Gensimore stated our street lights need to be in working order as we will have trick or treaters out and about. She noticed a few that may need reported unless it just was not dark enough for them to come on. If not operating we need to get numbers off the poles and report. Mr. Rash said he gets reports they are off and find they are on.

Council General Discussion

Mrs. Gensimore said we need to reach out to New Franklin and ask them to make sure they come around on Halloween night.

Mr. Rash asked for help with getting Thanksgiving turkeys so the less fortunate have a nice Thanksgiving. He was reminded to contact the Barberton charity program director. Maybe at the next meeting after speaking with the director, we will have a date set up for when donations can be dropped off.

Mrs. Gensimore reminded everyone the first meeting in November is Thursday the 9th, as Tuesday is voting day.

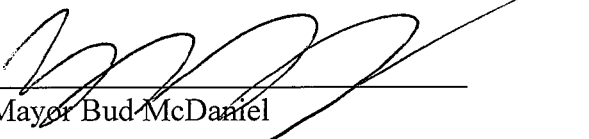
Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. Steiner indicated the bills totaled \$52,603. Ohio Edison, \$2,400.12, is the typical amount every month and a large portion of that amount is for street lighting.


Mr. Goch made a motion to approve purchase orders and bills, second by Mrs. Godwin.

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

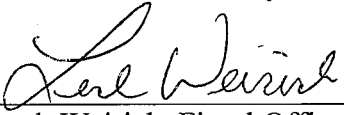
Mr. Rash made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM, and was seconded by Mrs. Gensimore. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Kent Goch, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer