

Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Diane Gunter and recited by those present.

Council Members present: Matt Steiner, Ellen Conroy, Janice Godwin, Marissa Gensimore, Rita Joseph, and Ross Blankenship.

Others Present: Officer Zampelli, New Franklin PD; Kevin White, Street Supt./Commissioner; and Diane Gunter, resident

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Godwin made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2024, second by Mrs. Joseph.

Roll Call: Godwin, Blankenship, Gensimore, Joseph, Conroy, and Steiner voted yes. Motion passes.

Solicitor Monthly Report – Not in attendance.

Police Monthly Report

Officer Zampelli read the report to those present. (Also in packet)

Mr. Steiner questioned the number of traffic stops reported and if they were more than normal and the officer indicated after looking through past reports, it's about the same.

Fire Chief Monthly Report – Report in the packet.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mr. White reported that this past month there were a few salting events and filling of potholes. Following up on the last meeting regarding Metro parks and CSX (fire lane), Mr. White stated that he and Mr. Yohey rode the railroad bed and did some measurements. Mr. Yohey talked to CSX and they said there's a 4-foot width walking distance from a train, 7-feet for a vehicle from a train and there is only 15 feet between the tracks and the swamp that's there which that doesn't comply with CSX distance and makes it unsafe for fire trucks to pass by on the tracks safely. Travis Sunder from Metro Parks, was very knowledgeable and when Mr. Siegenthaler, a former employee, and I met with him, we discussed the right-of-way that is there and tree growth - which is quite a bit. The parks bought that for nature conservation. Whether Metro Parks would bend on this, the real issue is the problem of the distance between the tracks and the swamp, a concern of CSX.

Mrs. Gensimore stated it would be a Safety Committee concern – start with the committee and go from there. We can then go back to Metro Parks. They were willing to give up quite a bit of that area for the sewage treatment piping that would have disturbed the conservation area.

Mr. White reported that one section, 75 to 100 feet, that is only about 15 feet from the tracks. When the trains were there were two tracks. They shifted the north track. There is a four foot drop off, maybe five, in the area.

Mr. Blankenship asked Mr. White if he was for or against this road. He responded that he is for whatever makes this Village safe. Mr. Blankenship said that Mr. Siegenthaler is against it as he told him so. Mr. White said you have to maintain the safety of the fire service employees and they need to be able to get through there safely and CSX said the area does not meet their standards.

Mr. Blankenship said he has walked that path and where the swamp is it just didn't grow with the vegetation - it was always there. He was not sure that Mr. White and Mr. Siegenthaler walked that area specifically. Mr. White said where we walked is an old railroad spur that came off of that - that is the old pathway - the railroad spur that's all grown up now. The biggest issue is between Main Street and 400 yards up by the True Value - there isn't enough distance between the tracks and the swamp area per CSX to be safe.

Fiscal Officer's Report - No report.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Gensimore said that we had looked at our meeting schedule and didn't realize there is going to be a primary. There is one on March 19 - the third Tuesday.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to move meetings that are scheduled on March 19 to Thursday, March 21, second by Mrs. Conroy.

Roll Call: Conroy, Steiner, Godwin, Blankenship, Joseph, and Gensimore voted yes. Motion passes.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel said Mr. Blankenship contacted Senator Kristine Roegner's office about the train issues. There was a special meeting published and Senator Roegner attended, as well as several residents. She was a former council member in Hudson, and put Mayor McDaniel in touch with Hudson's engineer and IT person as they had similar train issues. She is also on the Transportation Committee in the State House. Mayor McDaniel also met with Congresswoman Sykes at the Mayors breakfast. She is also on the Transportation Committee and is willing to help.

One idea discussed at that meeting that is doable was LED signage. Hudson used them to notify drivers that up ahead a train is stopped on the tracks - going North or South bound. Mayor McDaniel will look into this.

He then reported that on Monday, April 8, there will be a solar eclipse. He has details on this - 124-mile-wide band going through Ohio. This will be a big tourist attraction and lots of hotels are already booked. The next one will be 2099. You can get glasses on Amazon as you do not look at this directly. A lot of schools have cancelled classes.

With the property tax status came a document on how to dispute. You have till Monday April 1 to dispute your property values. You have to physically go there.

Our police department would like us to add information about their department on our website and wondered if the council would want to do that. The Community Development Committee should meet on this. They meeting on February 20.

Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County requested that a sample support letter for the Heartland Trail Project (grant) be signed by the Mayor and returned this week. This grant will fund a feasibility study to determine the best route to connect the Heartland Trail to the Ohio and Erie Towpath trail in Clinton.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to authorize and direct Mayor McDaniel to sign the letter supporting the Rails-to-Trails in Wayne County to come to that part of Clinton, second by Mrs. Conroy.

Roll Call: Blankenship, Gensimore, Godwin, Steiner, Conroy, and Joseph voted yes. Motion passes.

Mr. Blankenship asked if this trail happens could someone put up a concession stand here? So many profit off of the Towpath Trail.

Mrs. Gensimore said that Summit County is allowing packaged sewer plants in Clinton, maybe more things can happen in the Village.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Blankenship said we need to do more research on the train issue and we need to look at obtaining cameras. Mr. Steiner said we need to self-report. The website sent to us shows the state map and tracks - we can do that. Possibly the fire department can track. Mr. Blankenship said we need cameras – we can't stand down there. Mr. Steiner said the fire department could document the times trains come through and enter that information. Mr. Blankenship does not want to rely on the Fire Department.

Regarding the website we can access, Mr. Steiner said there are no reports on it for our crossings. We need to alert the public to do that.

Mr. Blankenship again stated we need a camera at the corner that could monitor the track. Mrs. Gensimore said our IT department needs to be in control of the cameras in the Village.

Our website company could put that link on our website for the residents' access. Mr. White added that we could add signage by the track saying if a train is sitting on the track, report it on this website. The sign we have could be updated with that link, more prominent, and they need to be at three crossings.

Mr. Steiner will find the website and send to all the officials.

Mrs. Gensimore stated that Council's articles are needed by February 27 for the next community newsletter. This is for plans/events in all Village departments through May of this year.

Citizens Comments – No comments.

Resolutions and Ordinances – No legislation.

New Business - No new business.

Council General Discussion

Get your solar eclipse glasses.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. Steiner reported that the Village of Lakemore bill amount is for the radio grant through the fire departments. Multiple communities are donating for a radio project and Lakemore is spearheading

for \$12,049.35. The second is OHM Advisors, \$10,450 which is for the engineering for our sidewalk project and \$750 of that is their regular monthly fee. Total payments are \$55,267.92.

We already got the grant money from the County for the sidewalk project. The engineering money is not coming out of the general fund. Mayor McDaniel stated that we met with the contractors and bids will be turned in on February 8. This project is from the Veteran's Park, as far as we can, to the south side of Main Street.

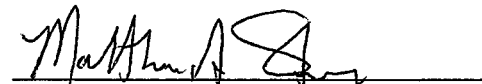
Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to pay the bills as presented, second by Mrs. Conroy.

Roll Call: Blankenship, Gensimore, Joseph, Conroy, Godwin, and Steiner voted yes. Motion passes.

Mr. Steiner made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM, and was seconded by Mrs. Conroy. Meeting was adjourned.



Mayor Bud McDaniel



Matt Steiner, President of Council



Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer