

**Village of Clinton**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance led and recited by those present.

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

Others Present: Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer; Shelly Kunkle and Virginia Cic, residents.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Conroy made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2, 2024, second by Mrs. Godwin.

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

**Appointment of 2024 Committees and Chairmen**

Mayor McDaniel indicated that the President of Council, Matt Steiner, who sets up the committees and chairmen was absent, but prepared it in writing and was given to all council members.

Mrs. Gensimore motioned to set aside the acceptance of these committees until we can have a conversation with Mr. Steiner.

Mayor McDaniel indicated that putting this aside has not been done in years past. Mrs. Gensimore said Mr. Steiner is not here to talk to about this as there may be other things to consider, and this is a council matter and her motion will stand. She said Mr. Steiner is the President of Council and is the Finance Committee Chair. Another person needs to now be able to sign checks as Mrs. Conroy is no longer listed on the Finance Committee and a different person will have to go to the bank again to be able to sign checks. Maybe we need to bring this to Mr. Steiner's attention. Mrs. Godwin, who is now listed on the Finance Committee said she could do that. Mayor McDaniel said we still need to go to the bank and change some things.

The motion did not receive a second. The Motion did not pass.

**Solicitor Monthly Report** – Not in attendance.

**Unfinished Business** – No report.

**Mayor's Communications**

Mayor McDaniel indicated the New Franklin Police Chief called him about putting on our Village website a "Contact Us" for the New Franklin Police Department. Mayor McDaniel wanted to let the council know about this request and think about the possibility of adding to our website.

The Mayor brought up shooting off fireworks in the Village. In the State of Ohio, it was made perfectly legal to do this. There are certain rules and restrictions as well, to do so. That's a state law. In the Village of Clinton, we could ban them, and we have done so. You can get permits if you want to set them off here. There are certain dates of the year, per State code, when you can.

Mayor McDaniel added that we can leave our code alone, or match the State of Ohio code. New Franklin is updating their fireworks laws this year. One set of rules will be much easier to follow.

Mrs. Gensimore said when our codified ordinances were updated, that particular section was taken out of the ORC. It wasn't changed. Last year is when this changed at the State level. We contemplated it also, but nothing was changed. Mrs. Gensimore agreed with the Mayor that we need to look at this and maybe see what New Franklin does. Maybe the Laws and Ordinances Committee can discuss.

### **Council Communications and Council Committee Reports**

Mrs. Godwin said someone called her about a fireworks issue. The mayor received a call too. Right now, our code says we cannot set off in the Village. Ours still restricts completely. Mr. Blankenship said we need to stay with the State. We have too many rules and regulations now.

### **Citizens Comments**

Shelly Kunkle brought up the fireworks and thinks we need to stay opted out of following the ORC. Some things that happen and you call the insurance company, they say we are not covering as it was caused by fireworks. There was a fence damaged and a horse injured when a neighbor set off fireworks. She says we are hoping to keep the Village quieter and cause less problems. They have livestock and they are very much affected by them. She requested the Village opt out and let the residents know that and that there are rules you need to follow and permits required.

Virginia Cic said the fireworks set off the night in question when the horse going blind was injured, the size or fireworks and distance needed to set large fireworks was not followed. His neighbor sets these off quite a bit. She had pictures of the aftermath of the fireworks set off, 25 to 30 feet from her property. They were hitting her bee hives and solar panels. This neighbor is supposed to pick up his debris and didn't. The Fire Marshall and Village is responsible according to our code. This neighbor did not get a permit. Mayor McDaniel contacted our solicitor about this and will reach out to him again about this issue. Even with the state law, this person was not in compliance.

Mayor McDaniel said we have very good relationship with the New Franklin Police Department and he is very happy with them.

**Resolutions and Ordinances** – No legislation.

**New Business** - No new business.

### **Council General Discussion**

Mrs. Gensimore brought up the fire lane email council received and that Metro Parks is not wanting to clear out this area and use the old fire lane. We need to do something about access when the roads are blocked. It was suggested we call the rail road even though they are not real receptive. She wanted to know who at Metro Parks was spoken to about this as we may need to go to the next level. Lives are at stake.

Mr. Blankenship stated that he spoke to Terry Siegenthaler who was at the meeting with Kevin White and someone from Metro Parks. Their thought was it was too close to the railroad tracks and could not use a bulldozer to get to the bedrock because of the trees. No one measured the area and they need to get someone to measure it and get someone higher up at Metro Parks who knows what the

law is. It was stated there is no way the railroad will give permission - without asking. Mrs. Gensimore said there was access at one time which is precedence as there were three houses there at one time. Mrs. Gensimore and Mr. Blankenship didn't think the growth in the area was that bad. We need to go to the next level. Mrs. Joseph said what will stop four wheelers from using this access road if it is reopened. Mrs. Gensimore said a gate could be put up with a code. Mayor McDaniel stated that the incident in question, everyone was on this side of the tracks. If you had a right of way on the other side of the tracks, he doesn't think that would have helped anybody as they were stuck over here. There were six fire departments waiting for the train. The train did work well - within 15 minutes the train was separated so that they could get through. Mrs. Gensimore said there was no accessway and that's why the other fire departments were all over there. More discussion continued about how different areas of the Village are blocked at different times and how this access road would possibly resolve the situation. Mayor McDaniel said this issue is worth further discussion.

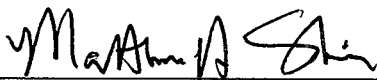
**Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval**


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

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

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn at 7:46 PM, and was seconded by Mrs. Gensimore. Meeting was adjourned.

  
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Mayor Bud McDaniel

  
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Matt Steiner, President of Council

  
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Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer