

**Village of Clinton  
Council Meeting Minutes of  
February 2, 2021**

Mayor Clarissa Allega called the meeting to order on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 7:03 p.m. in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sergeant Heimbaugh and recited by those present.

Roll call of Council Members: Kent Goch; Lewis Rash, Marissa Gensimore, Jan Godwin, Bud McDaniel, and Ellen Conroy all voted present.

Others Present: Sergeant Heimbaugh; Solicitor Marshal Pitchford; Fire Chief Conroy and Jeff Ferjutz, Zoning Inspector.

Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2021

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the minutes as printed, second by Mr. Rash.

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

Solicitors Report: No report.

Police Report: Sergeant Heimbaugh read the police report to those present.

Fire Chief Report: No report.

Street Commissioner Report:

No report. Mr. Rash indicated that a tractor is in and another one is gone. Mayor Allega said the roads look great – he has done a great job.

Fiscal Officer's Report: No report.

Unfinished Business – No report.

Mayor's Communications

The State Home Advisory has been extended to February 28. The Positivity Rate in the County is 18%, still high, but is dropping. Vaccine availability is extremely limited. Keep trying to look for facilities that are offering the vaccine.

Unemployment fraud is a large problem. If you believe you have been contacted fraudulently, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services wants you to call and report to them. Summit County's rental / utility assistance program has another round coming. It will be up and running March 1, 2021. This will be based on area median income. If you got money before, you can still get it again.

The Governor's budget has been released and they are not planning on cutting money to local government.

Mrs. Gensimore said people are filing taxes fraudulently, so get yours done as soon as possible.

### Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mrs. Gensimore stated the Laws and Ordinances, HR Committee meeting met and talked through some changes to our Council Rules and will have legislation at the next meeting. Also discussed were some suggestions brought to the committee by our zoning inspector and will be looking at implementing these and then will go through Planning and get it to Mr. Pitchford as well, about going forward. We also looked at our BZA code. We are down two members but three members are a quorum to hold meetings until the seats are filled. In light of that, she does not see anything that a council member cannot be part of this Board. There is a mention of an alternate on this board.

She needs articles and Village community events for the Community Newsletter by February 22.

Citizen Comments: No citizens present to speak.

Resolutions and Ordinances – No second or third readings.

### First Readings

#### Resolution No. R-21-03

A Resolution Adopting the Plan under the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program Administered by the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Board of Participation by “eligible employees” of the Village of Clinton, Summit County, Ohio.

Mrs. Gensimore made a motion to amend the title and make this emergency legislation (and go three readings) and add our normal emergency language (per Mr. Pitchford), second by Mr. McDaniel.

Roll call: Gensimore, McDaniel, Godwin, Conroy, Goch, and Rash voted yes. Motion passes.

### New Business

Mrs. Gensimore said that we are down to three members on the ZBA. They can meet and make decisions with three members. However, if one is sick, they can't meet. To better serve the Village residents she said we need two people to step up and send in a letter of interest to be on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Their purpose and information regarding this Board is listed in our Village Code. This Board meets, if needed, once a month if that. There is nothing ethically wrong with a council member being on this board nor is there anything in our Code or the ORC that says a council member cannot serve in this capacity – I am a resident of the Village of Clinton. Mr. Pitchford said this does happen in other municipalities. Mr. Pitchford said we can amend the code and council select that person to be automatic every time. Amending the code can indicate this person as an alternate and fill that role all the time and you would always have that person – a designated member of the Village. The BZA does not send issues to Council. This member needs to have full voting rights. Mayor Allega said this is a council decision as to what we do here. Council appoints the BZA members. Mr. Pitchford advised to pair this with other zoning

changes that have come up and have the Planning Commission review all together. One piece of legislation can be done for this. Mrs. Gensimore said the BZA has an immediate need. Mr. Pitchford said the BZA member issue needs to go to Planning as well, because it is zoning. He did say that someone can be appointed now as an alternate or member, and in the meantime change the code – start the process. It may take three months - and in the meantime, have this alternate be available if one of the three would get sick.

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to appoint Mrs. Gensimore as an alternate member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, second by Mr. Rash.

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

Mr. Rash said safety is important in this Village. He is not happy with the police department not being able to be funded with more money. He asked the solicitor if there is something we can do. If we are getting 8.25 mills to fund the fire department and four years down the road, we need money in the police department, we have no backup. Mr. Pitchford said this may require a Safety Committee meeting, but your question is, can we combine funding for the police department at the same time we put a levy on for the fire department? The ORC says yes, we can. They can both be in the same levy. It's up to council. It is a policy decision of council and the voters. Mrs. Gensimore said this is a Safety Committee conversation. Mr. Godwin said according to history we can't pass anything in a levy for police – streets and fire department, yes. Mayor Allega said the appropriate venue to discuss this further would be in a Safety Committee meeting.

Solicitor Pitchford added that if his calculations are correct, 1 additional mill would generate approximately \$35,000.

Council General Discussion: No discussion.

Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. McDaniel made a motion to approve the purchase orders and bills, second by Mr. Rash.

Roll call: Conroy, Goch, Rash, Gensimore, McDaniel, and Godwin all voted yes. Motion passes.

Motion was made by Mr. Rash to adjourn, second by Mr. McDaniel. The meeting was adjourned.

  
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Leah Weirick, Village Fiscal Officer

  
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Mayor Clarissa Allega

  
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Bud McDaniel, President of Council