

Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jason Popiel and recited by those present.

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Tom Knepper, Rita Joseph, John Henry, Ross Blankenship, and Kent Goch. Mike Boggs was absent.

Others Present: Jason Popiel, OHM Advisors (Village Engineer), Ken Noon, Jackie Goch, Marissa Gensimore, and Jeremiah Kneffler, residents.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Blankenship to approve the minutes of June 16, 2026, second by Mr. Knepper.

Roll Call: Joseph, Blankenship, Goch, Henry, and Knepper voted yes. Motion passes.

Presentation by Jason Popiel

Mr. Popiel passed out information about the Clinton Road Funding and Project. Initially the amount we requested, \$1.5 Million, approved by Amelia Sykes office, was cut to \$250,000. This does not cover our funding gap. He explained the information he provided to council and the other avenues of funding. We now must abide by ODOT standards because AMATS is involved in the project which is federal funding. We will have to hire a third-party engineer to review the 2.5 million project. We were not the only community to have our funding cut. Giving the change of funds available, there is a new plan, but the scope is cut down but within our budget to just resurfacing that will allow us to complete the project with no extra cost to the Village. AMATS will still be involved. We can reapply in 2027 to Amelia Sykes office and reapply for the full plan and amount. We will advise which plan we will be doing in 2028. However, we will be asking for more money and go back to the original plan if the original funding is put back on the table. We will have to go out for bid for the plans to be changed to ODOT specifications.

Mr. Ross asked how it will cost \$50K to design to repair and resurface. Mr. Popiel explained that ODOT's standards require specifics and an entire plan set which is much more in depth than the plans we currently have. Unfortunately, the resurfacing will not fix the drainage issues, but it's what will have to be done with the funds that will be available if we do not get any additional funding in 2027. In March of 2027 we will apply for additional funding and then we should find our answer in the fall of 2027 and know which plan we will move forward with.

Discussion was had on the semi traffic on Clinton Rd and if anything can be done to eliminate this now that it is a County road. Mr. Popiel suggested that this issue be brought up with the law director to see what the options would be. Mr. Marcum said he will investigate weight limits and what options the Village has.

Solicitor Monthly Report – Nothing to report.

Police Monthly Report – No Report

Fire Chief Monthly Report

Chief Conroy read his July report (in the packet). He wanted to note a correction to the report that they ran 33 calls, not 34. 21 medical, 2 trauma and 10 fire.

The Mayor thanked Chief Conroy for his help at the festival.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mayor McDaniel noted that the Street Commissioner was on vacation but was provided a report by Kevin. He has been working on the mowing around the Village as well as the roadside mowing. Tree trimming at the Park was completed and a couple of old trees had to come down as well. The Guardrail was replaced on South Second Ave and the stumps were removed next to Village Hall. The flag poles have been delivered for the display next to Village Hall. We are still waiting for the installation material for the main pole. Leah has been in contact with the company to get those materials.

Zoning Inspector Quarterly Report

Jeff Ferjutz presented his report. There were 5 high grass notices sent out. 4 complied and 1 is up today. He will check on that tomorrow. Two planning meetings were held. One was for a lot consolidation on Cleveland-Massillon Road and one was a conditional use for Trailhead pizza for an outdoor refreshment stand. There was one variance applied for that was denied by zoning and then a BZA meeting was held for the property due to that denial where the structure fire was at on W. Comet. The owner wanted to rebuild the barn in the exact same footprint, however, due to the current setbacks, it required a variance. The Variance was passed at that BZA meeting and he believes that construction has begun. Total 9 permits, 2 approved by planning, 1 by BZA and 6 approved by Mr. Ferjutz.

Two planning meetings are coming up, one for a lot consolidation and one for a conditional use for an accessory dwelling on Serfass Rd and one BZA meeting to discuss a front yard setback variance on Cleveland-Massillon Road for a new residential structure.

Mr. Blankenship asked if the structure with the fire caused damage to the neighbor and was informed by Mr. Ferjutz that yes there was damage. He then questioned the approval to rebuild in the exact spot if damage had occurred. Mr. Ferjutz informed that it caused damage to the neighbor's garage, and he believes the passage was due to the house being 50 foot away and it got damaged and the garage was only 10 foot away and got damaged so even with the setbacks, it wouldn't have mattered. The structure should be 20 feet by the current code. The old structure that was built previously was built right on the property line.

Fiscal Officer's Report

The Fiscal Officer noted that the audit should be starting next month. Audits are performed every two years. Mr. McDaniel asked if there was anything they needed to be aware of or if they would be contacted. The Fiscal Officer informed them that communication had already been completed between Mr. Blankenship and the audit team.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Ferjutz wanted to thank Kevin for allowing himself and Mr. Boggs to repaint the lines in the parking lot.

Mayor's Communications

Mr. McDaniel commented on the event over the weekend. He felt that it went very well. He feels the weather drove away people and the turnout would have been even greater had it not been for the forecast. Thank you to Sue Mayberry for all her help as well as the citizens group.

Mr. McDaniel attended a meeting at First Energy. He reported on the TYPR (Three Year Rate Plan). First Energy is working on a way to keep the energy costs more stable. He toured their command center where they monitor everything. He also learned of their safety trailer which is active with a generator that has 7,000 live volts. They gave a lot of good safety tips.

The Village is now on YouTube for our Council Meetings rather than Facebook. You don't have to have an account to be able to watch the meetings and hopefully will get out to more people. Videos can also be saved and won't be deleted after one month.

The mayor informed Council that no one has contacted him in regard to putting in a Data Center and doesn't believe that anyone ever will. He said the three primary concerns people have been sound, power usage and water usage. He believes if we update our sound ordinance, that would be a good start that would have a decibel level they would have to comply with. His biggest concern is what our neighboring cities, villages, etc., are doing. He would like Council to visit those communities and see if we can match them in what they are going to do. We really need to get our neighbors on board whether it is banned, restricting or whatever.

Mr. Blankenship asked about the noise ordinance and if that would really work. He brought up Clinton Township in Michigan that a data center sued each resident to be able to construct there. He feels we need to protect our own Village before we worry about our neighbors and what they are doing. We need to have something in place before anyone wants to come in.

Mr. Marcum stated that he feels the Village should start tackling this issue of the data centers by looking at the zoning code of the Village. Find a place in the Village that the data centers could be, then look at the regulations, rules and restrictions for that section of the zoning code. This is where you can control issues such as sound, water and noise.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Knepper reported on the American 250 Celebration. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to numerous individuals and thoughts on the event and how it went. Overall, he couldn't be happier on how it turned out and given weather and the first year he felt the turnout was great.

Mr. Knepper also reported on the increase in our social media presence. The Village Facebook page generated more than 65,000 views an 850% increase over the previous months. Gained 91 new followers and more than 78% of new views came from people that weren't already following us. That exposure benefits local business, organizations and the Village for future events.

Mr. Knepper would like Council to consider making this an annual event going forward.

Mr. Blankenship made a motion to make the event an annual thing for the Village, second by Mr. Henry.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion passes.

Citizens Comments

Ken Noon had two questions in regard to June 16th council meeting. He referred to Mr. Marcum making a statement that he had reviewed the OVMP situation at a very high level, he asked Mr. Marcum what did you mean by that statement at a very high level? Mr. Marcum stated that an answer would violate attorney-client privilege and could not comment. Ken Noon then asked Council if prior to June 16th, did the Solicitor review the OVMP situation with you? He would like to hear a yes or no from each person on council. Mr. Marcum advised the council members that any communications between legal counsel and council members would be protected by attorney-client privilege, and he would advise that you not waive that attorney-client privilege by discussing that in an open meeting as Council would have to vote to waive that attorney-client privilege. Mr. Blankenship stated that he did speak with legal counsel, but he would not be discussing any of that with anyone. He stated that everyone has talked about this issue at one time or another.

Jackie Goch wanted to bring everyone up to date on the yard sales. Details will be posted tomorrow, and Trailhead Pizza will be available that day for food purchases. A map of the locations will be posted as well. The date will be Saturday July 25th from 9-4.

Marissa Gensimore wanted to apologize to Council for the prior meeting that a super majority was needed to waive the three-reading rule and apologized for not advising them of the rule. She also wanted to point out a rule that she learned about when she was on council and that is in regard to Chapter 30.02L – Reconsideration which states that any member who voted with the prevailing side may move a reconsideration of any action of the Council, provided that the motion be made not later than the next regular meeting after such action was taken, but not more than once shall a matter be reconsidered. She just wanted to bring that to their attention for future actions. She also asked Mr. Marcum for clarification on resolution R-26-06 in section 2. She read it to say one thing and others read it another, so she just wanted clarification as to the intent of the Ordinance. Mr. Marcum stated that yes, it is more of a recommendation for the Mayor to research and come back to council with suggestions on how best to mitigate the risks and take advantage of the advantages if possible.

Jackie Goch also asked if the Village would put the ad in the paper for the yard sale. Mr. Knepper made a motion to use leftover funds from the American 250 Celebration to place the ad for the yard sales, seconded by Mr. Blankenship.

Roll Call: All Ayes. Motion passes.

Jeremiah Kneffler, a resident in the Village since 2020, and he is here tonight due to concerns from others around our second amendment and shooting on their property. He does shoot on his property and feels he is respectful to others and is not in violation of any laws and rules especially the noise ordinance. Mr. McDaniel wanted to clarify that the noise ordinance is not to stop the right to shoot, it more for the hours of operation such as 10pm to 7am or along those lines. He doesn't feel the noise ordinance would curtail the right to be able to shoot on their property.

Resolutions and Ordinances

First Readings

Resolution No. R-26-07

A Resolution Amending the Annual Appropriations for the Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the Village for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026, and Declaring an Emergency.

The Fiscal Officer commented on the two items that are being amended. The \$2,500 is for the American 250 Celebration that was already approved and the \$5,000 is a combination of the flags and the trees that were removed. All this has previously been approved, the budget just needed to be amended to go along with those approvals.

Resolution No. R-26-08

A Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Street Equipment Reserve Fund ("Reserve Fund"), of the Village of Clinton, and Declaring an Emergency.

The Fiscal Officer stated that this was approved in the 2026 budget to set money aside in the reserve fund for our 10-year capital plan so that when the time comes to purchase a new truck, the funds will be available.

First Readings

Second Reading

Resolution No. R-26-06

A Resolution Implementing a Moratorium on the Development of Data Centers within the Village and Declaring an Emergency.

No Third Readings

New Business

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to go to one meeting a month for the months of July and August, which will be the first meeting of each month. Seconded by Mr. Knepper.

Mr. Blankenship wanted to confirm that the request by Jackie Goch in the previous meeting about road closures for the yard sales were good and that a second meeting for July would not be needed. It was the consensus of council that road closures did not need to go through council and that the roads could be closed if necessary.

Roll Call: Blankenship, Goch, Henry, Knepper, and Joseph voted yes. Motion passes.

Council General Discussion

Mr. Blankenship asked Mr. McDaniel if the helicopter was going to be hung at the OVMP. Mr. McDaniel stated that yes, it was. Mr. Blankenship asked if it was going to be done soon and Mr. McDaniel replied that he hoped so and that it has always been the OVMP's intent to hang the Huey. Mr. Blankenship also asked for volunteers to step up and help with pulling weeds at the OVMP. There will be a workday on Saturday the 11th.

Mr. Blankenship also wanted to say to Mr. Knepper that he did a great job with the celebration, and he is happy he is taking it on for next year as well.

Mrs. Joseph has had several complaints about the trees coming down because they had spent money and donated those trees in memory of their loved ones. The Fiscal Officer stated that we have kept all of the plaques that were on the trees and they would be going back out in the new flower bed once it has been redone one way or another.

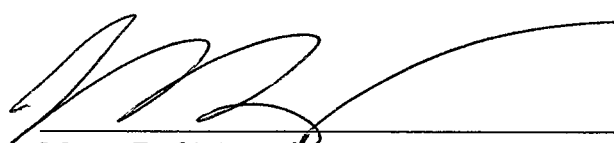
Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

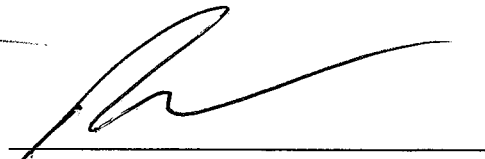
Mr. Knepper made a motion to approve the bills, second by Mrs. Joseph.

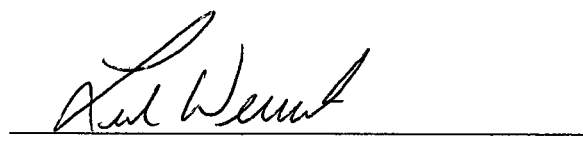
Mr. Blankenship commented on the payment for the tree invoice that was \$9,000 that included alley cleanup. He feels that the alleys need to be given away to the citizens, especially if they are not used. Mr. Marcum stated that the laws and ordinances committee would be best for this issue to be looked at. Mr. McDaniel also stated that part of that invoice was the removal of two trees at the park and the cleanup.

Roll Call: Goch, Henry, Knepper, Joseph, and Blankenship voted yes. Motion passes.

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Knepper. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.



Mayor Bud McDaniel

Ross Blankenship, Council President

Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer