

**Village of Clinton
Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mayor Bud McDaniel called the meeting to order on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7:00 PM in Clinton Village Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry Crookston and recited by those present.

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

Others Present: Seth Marcum, Solicitor; Karen McDaniel, Larry Crookston, Diane Gunter, Lora Finn, Eric Finn, and Ethan Towey (? Spelling), Mike Reischman, New Franklin Officer Zampelli, Assistant Fire Chief Ron Matkowski, Street Supt. Kevin White, and Jenna Stacek.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Joseph to approve the minutes of August 4, 2026, second by Mr. Boggs.

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

Mr. Goch made a motion to amend the agenda and add Jenna Stacek on the agenda at this time to speak prior to the Solicitor Monthly Report, second by Mrs. Joseph.

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

Jenna Stacek – Grant Writer (Works at the City of Hudson)

Mayor McDaniel introduced Mrs. Stacek. She explained what she has done over the past 12 years with experience and exposure to state, local and federal grants. She provides grant support and contracting work for other municipalities. She mentioned that she learned about a new pot of money called the Environmental Infrastructure Fund that would be an option for the Village to look into in addition to the funding we received from Amelia Sykes' office. She noticed some avenues to seek in the Village if we would like her to do more research on this. She explained we may want to resubmit the grant for the Clinton Road project. She would like to put together a proposal to support the Village on this project, suggesting possibilities. You can ask for a technical correction on the award we have already received and there are options and no deadline to spend the money.

Mr. Blankenship asked about why our engineer is not getting us grants like this. That was what we were told when we renewed his contract that they would do for us. Mrs. Stacek says she focuses on local/state grants while engineers focus on technical and federal grants. She indicated they could go beyond to find other grants and said we need to talk to them about this. Mayor McDaniel said that regarding our sewer project, our engineer will look at other grants for that as well. We need to ask him some questions. She will provide contact information to council. She will work up a proposal and bring back the first Tuesday in October.

Solicitor Monthly Report – Nothing to report.

Police Monthly Report - Officer Zampelli read the report (in the packet).

Fire Chief Monthly Report – Assistant Chief Matkowski read the report (in the packet).

Mayor McDaniel called 911 when a tree went down, the fire department showed up and called First Energy and first thing in the morning the tree was getting addressed. The Mayor thanked him for the good response.

Mr. Boggs asked about the size of a bonfire pit. He was told 3 x 3 and he said there are other rules – under the EPA online, find burning bans. In October/November there will be a ban, 6 AM to 6 PM. It was asked what would happen if a larger fire would be started, and was told if reported, the fire department would go out and see what is being burned and the entire situation.

Street Commissioner Monthly Report

Mr. White said he continued roadside mowing, grass mowing and storm damage during the month. 350 ton of salt came in and also did some ditch work.

Mr. Boggs said the flagpole project and the big hangup is why we don't have a flagpole up. The main piece for the U.S. flag had not arrived. Administration has tried to contact the company and just found out it was in route. He wants to have Mr. White reach out to some vendors to see if we can get this done by Applefest - at least the U.S. flagpole. Mr. Blankenship said others said they would step up and help.

Fiscal Officer's Report - No report.

Unfinished Business – Nothing to report.

Mayor's Communications

Mayor McDaniel presented the check in the amount from \$250,000 from Amelia Syke's office for the Clinton Road project. Much more will be needed to get this road completed.

The police contract is up this year. He met with the Chief of Police of New Franklin and put a contract in the Safety Committee's mailboxes.

The Akron Zoo is offering free admission to the Village of Clinton residents in September. For those who do not have computers to order tickets online you can pick up a limit of 4, at Village Hall. There are 20 tickets available.

The Mayor attended a meeting where Timothy Cosgrove spoke and gave an update on the State of Ohio. He brought up the Governor's race which is neck and neck, with Vivek Ramaswamy spending millions in television ads and Amy Acton has spent nothing. Data Centers were also a topic at the meeting and the tide is changing. Ohio is looking to pass legislation to make them more restrictive.

Frank LaRose's office is sending out absentee ballot information to households.

Council Communications and Council Committee Reports

Mr. Blakenship asked about getting a Laws and Ordinances meeting and Safety Committee meeting scheduled. The Safety Committee will be Thursday at 7:00. There will also be a Planning Meeting on September 8 at 6 PM. The Laws and Ordinances Committee will meet on September 18th at 7 PM.

Citizens Comments

Larry Crookston asked how Clinton Road is designated. He was told it is a County Road and being a county road helps with the funding.

Mr. Crookston then asked about the issue he had with noise in his area. He drafted something and passed it out to council to review for the next meeting. He mentioned some items in the current legislation that may need to be revisited and changed. It does not mention the volume of noise for target practicing, etc. and no one is to blame as it is not in the code to follow. He did some research with help on different levels of noise depending on the weapon. There needs to be restrictions. Mayor McDaniel would love to help him with this.

Mr. Blankenship challenged Mr. Crookston about what his intentions were as Mr. Blankenship stated that Mr. Crookston was on Mr. Blankenship's property videotaping.

Mr. Boggs said this is a rational issue Mr. Crookston has calmly brought up, and we now know our legislation needs to be reviewed on this issue. Mr. Crookston played a recording of a gun being shot rapidly. Mayor McDaniel wants to hear this live.

Lora Finn thank Diane Gunter for all the beauty with flowers she has brought to the Village. She then indicated that it is being overshadowed by what's happening at Gordons Garage. It is not a junk yard – it is a service station. It is an eyesore. It is a service station and should be zoned as such. She has counted 31 cars and some may not have license plates. They impede your vision as well, which is a safety concern.

Mayor McDaniel said Gordon was written up about this and in the winter, he was given a reprieve. The Mayor indicated he gave the zoning inspector a list of three properties on Main Street to look at. Two have been notified, but not Gordon's. Mr. Ferjutz is on vacation right now or he would be here and will be addressing this.

Mr. Blankenship said when fines were set on the other properties as Mr. Ferjutz had asked to be done, the Mayor said Gordon would be written up on this. That was in the beginning of the year and now we are 10 months in. The Mayor responded that Gordon was written up and that he met with Seth Marcum and I about the issue. It was decided we would not enforce until spring. He did put up a fence.

Mr. Boggs said at some point we have laws in place and its like, if mom says no, go ask dad. We are being too lenient. Laws should be well defined and easily understood. When we say it's cold outside, that's when we get in the grey area.

Mayor McDaniel said this issue will be addressed when Mr. Ferjutz gets back from vacation next week and will address this issue.

Resolutions and Ordinances

First Readings

Resolution No. R-26-09

A Resolution Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and, Certifying Them to the County Fiscal Officer for 2027 and Declaring an Emergency.

No second readings.

Third 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.

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

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

Resolution No. R-26-08

Resolution No. R-26-08 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Street Equipment Reserve Fund ("Reserve Fund") of the Village of Clinton and Declaring the Same to be an Emergency.

Mr. Boggs made a motion to adopt, second by Mr. Goch.

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

New Business – No new business.

Council General Discussion

Mr. Boggs said on our Village website, there is a tab available and when you click on it, it is a blank page. He said he is writing down generic questions that seem to be something residents would like a quick answer to and this is where that information could be placed.

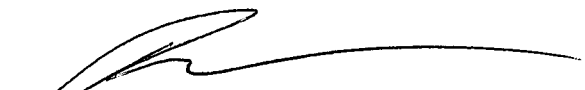
Presentation of Purchase Orders and Bills for Approval

Mr. Goch made a motion to pay the bills, second by Mr. Knepper.

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

Mrs. Joseph made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Boggs. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.



Mayor Bud McDaniel

Ross Blankenship, Council President

Leah Weirick, Fiscal Officer