

April 28, 2026

**PORT CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

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The regular meeting of the Port Clinton City Council held in the Linda Hartlaub City Hall Chambers. Lisa Sarty, President of Council, presided and the meeting opened at 6:00 p.m.

The roll was called, and the following Council members were present: Pat Hovis, Cathy King, Avery Robinson, Carmen Daft, and Beth Gillman. Jerry Tarolli and Richard Morgan excused

Mrs. Gillman moved to move Executive Session up on the agenda under roll call; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, no; Ms. Daft, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; and Mrs. Gillman, yes. Motion carried 4-1: per Mrs. Sarty

Mrs. Gillman moved to enter Executive Session to discuss compensation public employee official; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Ms. Daft, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; and Mrs. Gillman, yes. Motion carried 5-0: per Mrs. Sarty

Executive session began at 6:02 pm.

Mrs. Gillman moved to enter regular session; seconded by Mrs. King.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Ms. Daft, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; and Mrs. Gillman, yes. Motion carried 5-0: per Mrs. Sarty

Regular session began at 6:38 pm.

Ms. Hovis moved to approve regular meeting minutes for April 14, 2026, and special meeting minutes for April 21, 2026, seconded by Mr. Robinson. All agreed.

The chair notes certification had been received regarding the compliance with the rules and notification of this meeting.

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Vickie Ward, 738 Taft Street, Port Clinton, Ohio*

Ms. Ward advised that she has lived at 738 Taft Street for 48 years, the road is a mess. On April 8, 2026, Doug Nuesser, Special Project Coordinator, went to Mrs. Ward's home and discussed the road condition and the scheduled water line replacement and road repair to Taft Street. He advised that if all goes well the road will be repaired in the summer of 2027; this is not acceptable to Mrs. Ward. Mrs. Ward advised that Mr. Nusser advised her that the Railroad is holding up all the work that needs to be completed on the west end of the city, Mrs. Ward does not understand why the Railroad affects Taft or any of the surrounding streets on the west end of the city.

Mayor Snider advised that for the last twenty-six months the city has been talking to the railroad about going underneath Jefferson Street with the new water and sewer lines. We had an accepted plan by the Railroad to go directly down the center under the railroad on Jefferson Street, then the individual that we were working with was replaced and his replacement revoked approval. The first week of February 2026 we submitted a second proposal to the Railroad, with an understanding that it would be four to six weeks before we would receive a response; we are still waiting.

Mrs. Ward advised there is a hole in the center of the street that needs fixed ASAP. She was advised by Mr. Nusser that in different seasons (winter, spring, summer, and fall) specific product can only be used and is not a permanent fix. She advised that this very disheartening that she pays taxes for forty-eight years and then the infrastructure fee and we can't get our street fixed. Mrs. Ward advised that since she has lived on Taft Street nothing has been done on her street.

Mayor Snider stated there is no argument that Taft Street is in horrible condition. We are working the best we can to make this happen. There has never been a comprehensive plan to address the streets in the City of Port Clinton.

*Michelle Bodie, 371 E. Bayview Drive, Port Clinton, Ohio*

Mrs. Bodie read a letter that was sent to City Council earlier in the day, so it is on record.

To The Members of Port Clinton City Council:

We are writing to express concerns regarding Ordinance No. 17–26, which will receive its first reading at tonight's City Council meeting. This ordinance declares a state of emergency to increase the salary range and expand residency eligibility for the Safety Service Director to include candidates living anywhere in Ottawa or adjoining counties.

The stated justification is that the current salary and residency requirements are "preventing qualified candidates from applying."

However, passage of this ordinance could result in appointing a candidate who lives more than an hour from Port Clinton, lacks familiarity with the city and its government operations, and requires additional taxpayer funds to incentivize acceptance of the role.

Before expanding the search beyond individuals with meaningful ties to Port Clinton, we urge Council to examine what efforts were made to attract qualified local candidates. The position was quietly posted on March 2, with only a single post to the City's Facebook page. This raises serious concerns about whether there was a genuine effort to recruit within the community, or merely a procedural step to justify looking elsewhere.

Additionally, while it is standard practice to keep a position posted until it is filled, the listing has already been removed from the City's website.

We are aware of *at least* one local applicant who met all stated qualifications. This individual was born and raised in Port Clinton, has a business in the city, decades of public safety experience, involvement in local government and nonprofit work, and resides within two miles of downtown and City Hall. This candidate was considered qualified enough to be brought in for multiple interviews.

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We are not writing to challenge the Mayor's authority in selecting a candidate. However, we do question whether the limited public outreach, narrow interview pool, removal of the job posting, and now the urgent push to expand eligibility under emergency status are aligned with the best interests of the community—or driven by a predetermined outcome that favors a specific individual or political interest over the residents of Port Clinton.

We will be in attendance at tonight's meeting and respectfully request clear answers to the following:

- What specific efforts were made to promote this position to the public and attract local applicants?
- Why is expanding the search area being treated as an emergency, when four months elapsed before the position was posted?
- Given that the job description already indicated residency requirements may be waived by ordinance, why is this action being pursued now under emergency status?
- Has a candidate already been identified who does not meet the current residency or compensation parameters, prompting this last-minute effort to alter the requirements?
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We expect Council to ensure this process is conducted transparently and to reject any action that appears to prioritize political convenience or personal interests over those of the Port Clinton community.

Thank you,  
Erin Lucas  
Michelle Bodie  
Roberta Meister  
Jennifer Cadmus

President Sarty advised that Council has nothing to do with hiring / firing; that is all taken care by the Administration.

Mayor Snider advised that the Safety Service Director position was posted on the city's Facebook page, Ohio Municipal League, Indeed.com, and the city's website. The city hired an HR firm out of Bowling Green to assist us with the search; the locations that were chosen to be posted were recommended by the firm to find the highest and best candidates for this executive level position. There were twelve applicants. There were five members of the interview review team. Those five members chose to interview five of the applicants based on a variety of reasons. Three of the applicants declined to interview due to the residency requirement. It was unanimous opinion that the two applicants that were interviewed just didn't check sufficient boxes. Both candidates had substantial law enforcement backgrounds. Neither one of the candidates had the service side. Both were great people, would not have any inclination of not being hired for other positions. Neither applicant managed personnel over their career, nor involved in budgeting.

Mayor Snider advised when Mr. Colston passed and we needed to place an Interim Safety Service Director immediately he approached ten individuals that lived in the city limits and two that lived outside the city limits. At that time Mayor Snider requested Council to waive the required residency to appoint an Interim Safety Service Director.

It has been recommended by all five of the interview team that Administration go to Council requesting the changes that we made (Ordinance 17-26). In addition, Administration has consulted with neighboring communities that have gone through this issue and have taken similar actions to make it happen. Mayor Snider advised if he had someone in mind he would contact them. He feels removing the residency requirement will open up the pool to qualified candidates to apply.

*Drew Gatliff, 119 Madison Street, Port Clinton, Ohio*

Mr. Gatliff spoke about his concern having someone considered for Safety Service Director that lives outside Ottawa County, feeling they should reside in the zip code. Largely because they won't be experiencing living in the City of Port Clinton. Mr. Gatliff did announce that he did apply for the Safety Service Director position but was not selected for an interview. The City of Port Clinton needs someone who cares about a small town.

## **PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Under first reading this evening:

- Ordinance 17-26 – Administration has asked for Council to consider adopting at the second reading, due to time sensitivity. Will not be assigned to a committee
- Resolution 26-4 – Can do the full readings

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The 100 block of Madison Street will be closed starting Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, to set up the entertainment area for "The District". The first entertainment will be on May 21, 2026. A list of all entertainment can be located on the Main Street Facebook page. Crown Battery is sponsoring opening day of "The District", this includes a dedication of the stage to Tracy Colston; dedication ceremony will take place at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 3:00 pm, Mayor Snider is participating in Pine Wood Derby competition sponsored by local Scouts at Twin Oast Brewing. Thank you for Bobby Good, the Stem, Robotics & Engineering teacher and his students at Port Clinton High School designed, manufactured, and painted his speedster.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, Bike to School Day will take place. Ms. Shenker, Law Director, will be escorting the students on Mayor Snider's behalf.

Spring has arrived and so has "Living Room Lawns" (furniture left on the boulevard) and "Grass Holes" (individuals blowing grass into the streets) and "Weed Warriors" (properties not mowed). To report any of these actions, please call Police Department on 419-734-3121 to report or email a photo with the address to [dispatch@portclintonpd.org](mailto:dispatch@portclintonpd.org). Yet this week and next week a city employee will drive through the city to identify the above items. A certified letter will be mailed to the property owner to address. Please note if the City is forced to mow any private property this year, it will not be until June.

Exchange visitors (students) will be arriving around May 1<sup>st</sup> to be working in Port Clinton and surrounding communities (approximately 540 students). The annual "Welcome Event" will take place on August 3, 2026, 5-9 pm at "The District". The goal of this event is to make the community memorable for those coming to this area.

Special Thank You to ODNR for organizing and having a beach cleanup this past Saturday.

Thank you to the Tree Commission (Jerry Tarolli, Lisa Bodi, Roger Domokos, Ed Urban, and Larry Holman) for conducting the Arbor Day Celebration at Lakeview Park on April 24, 2026.

The Tree Commission has been tasked to locate a Christmas Tree for the intersection of Madison and Perry Street. If anyone has a Christmas Tree that you want removed and donate to the City of Port Clinton, please call Sandye at 419-734-5522, extension 239.

Special Improvement District (SID) was created in November 2025 for downtown; a special committee was created to look at a variety of activities. The committee has met with several vendors and will be making a recommendation to the SID Board soon. At the next SID Board meeting they will choose a vendor to conduct trash removal, snow removal and weed control. (Board Members: Dr. Kevin Francis, Chairman, Alex Morgan-Johnson, Lori Konkins, Richard Morgan, Steve Dearth, Jamie Polter, and Mayor Mike Snider)

Mrs. King inquired when the streetlights will be turned off for Mayfly season?

Mayor Snider confirmed Ohio Edison has been contacted; he will confirm the shut off date and advise Council yet this week.

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Not present

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

As of April 28, 2026

Presented by Ms. Chafee

Bed Tax: \$41,760.16

Watercraft Dock Tax: \$2,475.00

STR Registration Fee: \$24,300.00

## **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

Ms. Shenker provided an explanation of "Emergency Clause". Emergency Clause is not a State of Emergency; it is written in the revised code and echoes throughout municipalities, counties, villages, and townships. Usually when an ordinance goes it three readings then there is a thirty-day wait period before the mayor is to sign the piece of legislation (ordinance). That means an ordinance does not take effect for six weeks plus the 30-day waiting period. Due to time constraints on items an "Emergency Clause" is used. That means the mayor can sign the ordinance right away after Council has adopted the ordinance.

The reason for the 30-day waiting period is for a referendum can be filed. A referendum is a very challenging process; to file a referendum it must go to the citizens (a certain number of signatures and votes are required) and placed on the ballot to be heard.

Ordinance 17-26 is time-sensitive; due to our Interim Safety Service Director having provided a date he would like to move on, and the date is fast approaching. If we don't have a permanent Safety Service Director in place the mayor will take on those duties (not salary) until a candidate has been chosen and they have can start.

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## **SAFETY SERVICE REPORT**

Not present

## **INCOME TAX COMMISSIONER**

Not present

## **POLICE CHIEF**

Not present

## **FIRE CHIEF**

Not present

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Finance Committee***

**Ms. Hovis**

Nothing to present

### ***Safety Service & Public Works Committee***

**Mr. Tarolli**

Not present

### ***Economic and Community Development Committee***

**Mrs. Gillman**

Next committee meeting date is to be determined

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

## **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

## **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **Ordinance 17-26**

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE BY ALLOWING THE DIRECTOR TO RESIDE IN OTTAWA COUNTY OR ADJOINING COUNTY AND REVISING AND FIXING THE SALARY RANGE FOR THIS EMPLOYMENT POSITION NOT COVERED BY A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

No action taken. Ordinance 17-26 will be moved to its second reading at a Special Council meeting, date yet to be determined.

### **Resolution 26-4**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE AND AUDITOR TO RESUME GRANT ACTIVITIES UNDER THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GRANT AWARD

No action taken. Resolution 24-6 will be moved to its second reading on May 12, 2026

## **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Mr. Morgan** – Not present

**Mr. Robinson** – Nothing to present

**Mr. Tarolli** – Not present

**Ms. Hovis** – Nothing to present

**Ms. Daft** – Nothing to present

**Mrs. King** – Concerned about cyber security within in the city. Hope we are looking into measures of cyber security.

Ms. Shenker advised that the two gentlemen that were presented at a previous Council meeting, met with Administration earlier today.

**Mrs. Gillman** – Requested that the mayor consider that the perfect candidate may not check all the boxes or have the experience. Having managerial skills but not experience goes a long way. As long as they are willing and eager to learn and love the community.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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With no further business to discuss, Mrs. Gillman moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. King. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Sandra Chafee  
Clerk of Council

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Lisa Sarty  
President of Council