

PORT CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

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: Carmen Daft, Pat Hovis, Cathy King, Richard Morgan, Jerry Tarolli, and Avery Robinson. Beth Gillman excused.

Jerry Tarolli moved to approve regular meeting minutes for January 27, 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

Pat McCauley, Office of State Treasurer, Robert Sprague

Mr. McCauley presented programs available through the State Treasurer's office and offered any assistance in the future to the city.

- Star Ohio
 - Investment program for government entities
 - Currently sitting at \$22.5 billion
 - Yield at 4.3% currently
 - 2,117 communities and institutions are participating in this program throughout Ohio currently
- Ohio Homebuyer Plus (invest fund)
 - This program allows anyone to save for a home to allow for a 3% increase interest in the funds they are saving
 - You can save up to \$100,000, which must be used for closing costs or down payment
 - Currently 2,139 accounts open across the state. There are 75 financial institutions across the state participating in this program
- Buckeye Business Advantage
 - This program targets small businesses, 150 or less employees, or minimum of 3 employees
 - A loan associated with the program may be up to \$1 million over two years and will allow for up to a 3% rate reduction
 - Business must be headquartered in Ohio, 51% of the employees must be from Ohio
 - Business must be a for profit

- **STABLE Account**
 - This program specializes in savings and investment accounts for people with disabilities that allow for savings and investing without losing eligibility for certain means tested benefits.
 - Individuals can save up to \$19,000 a year without losing their Social Security benefits.
 - If the individual works, they can save an additional \$15,000 a year without losing their Social Security benefits
 - Anyone can put funds into the STABLE account (parents, friends, siblings, etc.)
 - These funds can be used for housing, transportation, medical, education, vacation (it is about improving the quality of life)
 - The eligibility age that the disability must occur is 46
 - The Treasurer's office picks up all the maintenance costs for the accounts
 - If the individual passes away, it will go to the listed beneficiary, not the state
 - To see if you qualify go to ohiotreasurer.gov

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Under first reading this evening:

- Ordinance 4-26 – will not be assigned to a committee. Administration asked to consider passing at the first reading, due to time sensitivity.
- Ordinance 5-26 – will not be assigned to a committee. Administration asked to consider passing at the second reading.
- Ordinance 6-26 – will not be assigned to a committee. Administration asked to consider passing at the first reading, due to time sensitivity.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Since the start of the very cold weather, the city has had twelve water line breaks. Two have happened in the last fourteen hours.

F.L.I.P.

- Revetment project on Lakeshore Drive is moving along.
- Doug Nusser, City Special Project Coordinator, advised on Plan B (below ground) funding issues with the five funding sources have been resolved, see no issues going forward.
- All five funding agencies also review the engineering diagrams, four of the five agencies have signed off. USDA has a delay due to their engineer dealing with a medical issue.
- Norfolk Southern and the City are evaluating Jefferson / Third Street as the best location to place the water / sewer lines with the least amount of disturbance to the rail route. Could possibly affect the Ottawa County Court House property.
- Mr. Nusser will attend a Council meeting in the very near future to provide an update.

Reminder to Council the invitation that Mayor Snider sent for elected officials to attend Ottawa County Senior Resources, Community Champions week, March 16th – 20th. This includes ride along with Mobile meals and visiting Senior Centers. Please register to the site listed on the email provided.

Port Clinton Fire Department

- The ballot issue for the Fire Department has been submitted and accepted at the Ottawa County Board of Elections, to be placed on the May 2026 ballot.
- January 30 – 31, 2026, twelve members of the Fire & Rescue Department participated in ice rescue training. Since then, there have been three ice rescue calls.
- For generations weekly training at the Fire Department has been on Tuesday evenings. Starting March 1st, training will be moved to Monday evening. This is due to surrounding fire departments having their training on Mondays, and this will allow for multi-department training sessions.

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at St. Johns Lutheran Church is Shrove Pancake Supper, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Free will offering accepted.

Saturday, February 28, 2026, Burning Snowman will be held at Doc's Beach House. Parking will not be allowed along Lakeshore Drive.

The 6th Annual PC Day at Fifth Third Field will be on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 4:05 pm. First pitch will be thrown out by Interim Safety Service Director, Jim Sass.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the twelve water line breaks, are the lines deep enough?

Mr. Sass advised some of these lines are over 100 years old. In addition, these lines are under pressure (55 lbs. of pressure). The water is moving and causes friction and wear.

Mr. Mogan inquired, does the USDA only have one engineer?

Mayor Snider advised, one in this area.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Below advised he emailed the 2026 January Financial Report, please consider approving by or on February 24, 2026, Council meeting.

At the February 24, 2026, there will be an ordinance for the full 2026 budget on that agenda. Hope to review with the Finance Committee soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of February 10, 2026
Provided by Sandye Chafee

Bed Tax: \$13,794.86
Watercraft Dock Tax: \$00.00
STR Registration Fee: \$9,900.00

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Ordinance 4-26, Waste Water Treatment plant needs to do different soil studies and this needs to be conducted in the Spring of 2026. Rain is required for these studies, and most of our rain occurs during the spring months. If this ordinance is not adopted on the first reading, it will prevent us from starting as required and will be delayed by a year.

Ordinance 5-26, Wastewater Treatment plant 2007 utility crane truck is unsafe, and it is not reasonably repairable. This piece of equipment is specialized. There are only a couple of companies that offer this crane truck. The City's Wastewater Treatment plant foreman requested multiple quotes and has chosen the lowest quote to purchase the truck from.

Ordinance 6-26, Chapter 139 has been amended twice previously.

- During those amendments in error the Fire Department uniforms allowance was removed. This needs to be corrected and the Fire Department employees made whole.
- The residency requirement for the Safety Service Director was documented incorrectly for some time and needs corrected. Per the Ohio Revised Code 737.01, The director shall be appointed by the mayor and need not be a resident of the city at the time of his appointment but shall become a resident thereof within six months after his appointment unless such residence requirement is waived by ordinance.
 - Council does have the right to waive the residency requirement if they so, choose.

Mr. Morgan inquired why we can't fix the crane truck?

Mr. Sass advised that the boom is broken, would you want to stand under a crane truck with a broken boom? In addition, the floor is rusted out. How much do you want to put in a truck that is a 2007. Some of the pumps they lift are heavier than the current truck is rated to lift.

Mrs. King inquired about Ordinance 4-26, what is the cost of the study, it is not listed on the ordinance.

Mayor Snider had Doug Nusser on the phone, and he advised \$348,000 proposal cost. This is a zero-interest planning loan for five years, that can be rolled into a zero-interest design loan for projects that may result from this for design. Then that can be rolled over to a construction loan for 1% for 30 to 40 years.

SAFETY SERVICE REPORT

Friday, February 13, 2026, 8:00 am there will be a swearing in for Officer Brian Sloan for the Port Clinton Police Department.

Ordinance 4-26, Verdantas's study is a four-month flow monitoring system. There will be twelve monitors placed in the storm drain with two rain gauges placed. They need three high velocity rain events. They will monitor the flow. The study will provide implementation schedule, recommendation supporting data. This is project to be completed by October 2026. The intent is to reduce the INI

(Inflow and Infiltration). The intent is to reduce the inflow that goes into the sanitary sewers so that water doesn't have to be treated. It is everyone's benefit to decrease storage and treatment.

Mayor Snider advised that the US EPA put a hold on our City Water Treatment Plant certificate in 2025. This is one of items that was also placed on hold. If that had not occurred this would have been brought before you months ago and not needed it to be expedited.

Mr. Morgan asked aren't our sewer and water drains combined. How are we going to separate them.

Mr. Sass advised that it is part of the F.L.I.P project. These monitors will be only placed in the storm drains.

Mr. Tarolli stated water breaks are one of the worst breaks to locate. Water always goes to the path of least resistance. Cudos to the crew.

Mr. Sass advised that the water break they had today, the leak was located fifteen feet from the puddled water above ground.

Mrs. King inquired when the spring clean-up will take place.

Ms. Chafee advised it will be in April. Will advise via email the exact date.

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

Next committee meeting will take place on February 24, 2026, 5:00 pm.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Mrs. Gillman

Not present

CORRESPONDENCE

Economic & Community Development Committee, January 14, 2026, meeting minutes

Mr. Tarolli moved to accept the correspondence as provided, seconded by Mr. Robinson. All agreed

Financial Report, January 2026, provided by Gabe Below

Mr. Tarolli moved to accept the January 2026, Financial Report; seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 26-2

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Resolution 26-2; seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Ordinance 2-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A DOCKAGE AND WHARF AGREEMENT WITH THE SASSY SAL'S CHARTER SERVICE, INC., AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Tarolli moved to retain the emergency clause of Ordinance 2-26; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Ordinance 2-26; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 4-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH VERDANTAS LLC FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES TO CONDUCT A NO FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE (NFA) STUDY FOR THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Tarolli moved to waive the three required readings of Ordinance 4-26, seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to retain the emergency clause of Ordinance 4-26, seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Ordinance 4-26; seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

Ordinance 5 – 26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH QT EQUIPMENT TO PURCHASE A NEW UTILITY CRANE TRUCK FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, WITHOUT FORMAL BIDDING AND ADVERTISING, DUE TO A REAL AND PRESENT EMERGENCY THAT AROSE WHEN THE CITY'S CURRENT UTILITY CRANE TRUCK WAS RENDERED UNSAFE FOR USE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

No action taken. Ordinance 5-26 will be moved to its second reading on February 24, 2026.

Ordinance 6 – 26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 139 IN THE PORT CLINTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Tarolli moved to waive the three required readings of Ordinance 6-26, seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Ordinance 4-26; seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Tarolli, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Morgan — Nothing to present

Mr. Robinson — Nothing to present

Mr. Tarolli — Mr. Tarolli announced that the City of Port Clinton is at its 36th year of being recognized as Tree City USA. We are great at taken trees down. We are terrible at planting trees. We do plant trees in recognition of Arbor Day; however, we don't plant trees beyond that.

When Ottawa County put a new water line down Third Street, they provided the city with \$25,000 to replant the trees that were taking town due to the project. As of today, no trees have been planted. We need to put trees back in the tree lawn.

Ms. Hovis — Ms. Hovis shared her appreciation for the city crew and emergency services for all they did when we had the severe cold and winter weather in the last month.

Ms. Daft — Nothing to present

Mrs. King — Happy Valentines and President Day.

Mrs. Gillman — Not present

Ms. Shenker — Ms. Shenker advised at the February 24, 2026, Council meeting there will be an ordinance to repeal a recent ordinance that was recently adopted. This is due to the Federal Government requesting that within the F.L.I.P. project we identify a fund as "Infrastructure Fund" and they request that it be named the "Water and Sewer Fund". We will be identifying it as "Infrastructure Fund and/or Water and Sewer Fund". This ordinance will need to be passed on February 24, 2026, meeting to meet the Federal Governments' February 26, 2026, deadline.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Tarolli moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. King. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Sandra Chafee
Clerk of Council

Lisa Sarty
President of Council