

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. Beth Gillman, Cathy King, Richard Morgan, Jerry Tarolli, and Avery Robinson.

Jerry Tarolli moved to approve regular meeting minutes for December 23, 2025, and special meeting minutes for January 7, 2026, seconded by Ms. Hovis. All agreed.

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

GUEST PRESENTATION

Fire Chief Brian Gutman, Port Clinton Fire & Rescue
Port Clinton Levy

- Original Fire Levy 2006 - 1.9 mill = \$240,000 per year to operate
 - Supported a completely volunteer (paid on-call) fire department and one ambulance provided by an outside private agency
 - In 2018, Danbury FD called for mutual aid 127 times
 - Continued until 2018 at the same rate
- The 2018 Catalyst
 - Private EMS Agency demanded increase in annual contract by ~600%
 - This surpassed what the current Levy could afford
 - Decision was made to transition to a full-time combination department (24 hour day shifts) and volunteers.
- 2019 PCFD Setup
 - With EMS incorporation, run volume increased from 160 calls to 1200 calls a year. Could not be covered by volunteers. (4 calls/day)
 - 6 full-time personnel added to roster
 - Full-time = 24-hour shift spent at station = immediate response. Paid salary
 - Volunteer= personnel at home that respond during emergencies = delayed response. Paid per call
 - Part-time= covers shifts at station= immediate response. Paid for shift hours worked.
 - In 2020, Magruder and Townships began requesting EMS coverage
 - Full-time= additional 6 members were added= 2 full ambulances. Township contracts paid for the wages of the additional crew
 - This allowed additional response capabilities during peak times
 - In 2024, all staffed members required fire certifications by 1/1/26
 - All personnel staffed at station are fire/EMS certified

- Now, personnel can staff 2 ambulances or 1 full engine company
 - All full-time personnel took 15% pay cut
- Dissolved Administrative Assistant position
 - Brought in \$800,000 in federal funding and grant money for the last 3 ½ years. That funding is no longer available.
- 2026 Fire Levy
 - Back to previous setup
 - \$250,000 for part-time Chief and all volunteer fire staff
 - Covers 200 calls per year
 - \$900,000 for EMS coverage for 1 ambulance covered by private EMS agency
 - Covers 1400 calls per year
 - Dissolves contracts with townships so no additional funding source
 - Utilizing this option incurs cost to the community that calls 911 (full medical bill each use)
 - Total funds needed - \$1.15 million/year with no capital spending
 - Current setup
 - \$890,000 per year
 - Covers cost of 6 full-time personnel and additional part-time personnel per shift
 - Covers cost for capital spending
 - Magruder and Townships cover cost for additional full-time roster with additional funding for capital costs (\$960,000)
- The Need
 - Fleet - as of 2026, one vehicle is under 15 years of age. With no additional funding over the last 7 years, unable to have purchase power to replace vehicles
 - Ordering an engine or ambulance is on 3-year waitlist
 - Current engines are 20 and 30 yrs old. \$1m cost
 - All 5 ambulances are over 15 years old. \$300k cost
 - Station roof is leaking
 - Gear exposed to carcinogens
 - Walls, flooring, and plumbing need updated.
 - Equipment
 - Unable to maintain annual testing requirements of ladders, hoses, pumps, air packs
 - Staff are sharing and renting turnout gear
 - Radio communications are outdated – last purchased 8 years ago and they were used then. Employees are buying their own radios currently.

Conclusion

Firefighting is an inherently dangerous profession. Our members are routinely called upon to enter burning structures to protect lives and preserve property within the community. They operate on active roadways in adverse weather conditions, performing extrications and providing critical patient care. This work is carried out amid chronic sleep deprivation and repeated exposure to traumatic incidents that leave lasting effects.

Despite these challenges, our personnel continue to perform their duties using outdated equipment. This funding request is intended to bring the department into compliance with modern safety and operational standards before a catastrophic equipment failure occurs- potentially resulting in emergency expenditures, serious injury, or loss of life.

To view a video of the presentation go to the City of Port Clinton's You Tube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzJyglNOVv0>

Mr. Tarolli inquired if there is any word that any of the federal grants are becoming available.

Chief Gutman advised he has only seen grants for \$15,000 since 2024. Some equipment can be purchased but not fire trucks.

Mr. Tarolli inquired when will NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) get involved?

Chief Gutman advised NFPA will not get involved. Only when an engine failure or injury occurs and it is due to non-compliance a lawyer will cite NFPA standards.

Mr. Tarolli inquired about the situation we are in now, does that affect the community's homeowner's insurance? When we can upgrade equipment would that lower insurance premiums?

Chief Gutman advised ISO are who these rates come from. Prior to 2024 the station was scored 44x. After the 2024 ISO inspection our score lowered to 55x. This was due to not having records of pump and ladder testing. In addition to the nationwide decline in fire fighters we could not bring the mandatory limit of volunteers to the calls. In 2018 the city had forty-one volunteers, 2026 we have fifteen volunteers.

Mr. Tarolli inquired are there plans to get this information to the community? The public needs to hear what you just said.

Chief Gutman advised Eric Zgodzinski and Chris Enoch are leading a committee called "Information Overload". To get all this information out to the community so they can make an informed decision.

Mr. Zgodzinski advised there is a marketing plan, and it will be implemented soon. Will be having meetings at the PAC, information on Facebook, one on one discussions, whatever the community needs to be well informed.

January 13, 2026

Mr. Morgan inquired why do we use the term "Paid Volunteers". Volunteers are not paid.

Chief Gutman advised in our service that certification is called "Volunteer Fire Fighter certification".

Mr. Morgan inquired about two EMS squads on staff at all times.

Chief Gutman advised we have two Fire Fighter / EMT squads that are staffed at all times.

Mr. Morgan inquired if both squads were called out, do we have to farm out a third call to someone else?

Chief Gutman advised no, we can tone out for Fire Fighter / EMT to take that call.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the levy that just ended brought in \$240,000 a year. What would this proposed levy bring in yearly.

Mayor Snider advised \$899,000 a year.

Ms. Hovis wanted confirmation that we support Catawba Township, Portage Township and Bay Township currently?

Chief Gutman confirmed.

Ms. Hovis inquired, would that private EMS company also serve those townships.

Chief Gutman advised those townships would need to independently contract with a private EMS service.

Mrs. King inquired if this levy passed would the Fire Fighter / EMT's be able to get their 15% pay cut returned to them?

Chief Gutman advised the funding would need to be reviewed to determine if that is possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Welcome Carmen Daft as the third ward councilman.

Council should have received an email regarding their required filing for ethics documentation prior to the May deadline. There is a \$35.00 fee.

All newly elected and re-elected officials need to complete the Public Records training once during their term. This can be done online through the Attorney General's Office or at a live presentation.

Under first reading this evening:

- Ordinance 1-26: This will not be assigned to a committee. Mr. Below has requested Council to consider adopting the first reading, due to time sensitivity.
- Resolution 26-2: Will not be assigned to a committee. Can go all three readings.

MAYOR'S REPORT

This year there will be two new festivals this year:

- Pirates Fest at Water Works Park, July 24-26
- Great Lakes Rockabilly Road Trip, Gristmill parking lot, August 1st

Ottawa County Regional Planning Commission has two appointees from the City of Port Clinton.

Recently appointed for 2026 are:

- Todd Bickley, Zoning Inspector
- Avery Robinson, Ward 4 Councilman

This week the 4th of July Celebration committee signed the contract for the Fourth of July fireworks for \$20,000. There will be some fundraising to assist with the expense soon.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or providing any suggestions for the 4th of July Celebration the committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 15th, 6:00 pm at Ala Carte Afterhours.

F.L.I.P

- The Lakeshore Drive revetment project is quickly moving along.
- There are many inquiring about when the below ground construction is going to start on the infrastructure project.
 - September the City submitted the required documents to the five funding entities
 - Government shut down
 - All five funding entities have approved our documents
 - Now the five funding entities are reviewing our bid documents
 - There is a logistical issue with the railroads for the water and sewer lines going under the railroads. That is being reviewed and discussed.

Welcome Carmen Daft as the Ward 3, Councilwomen and Aaron Taylor, Treasurer.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Not present

TREASURERS REPORT

As of January 13, 2026

Provided by Aaron Taylor, Treasurer

Bed Tax: \$1,456.66

Watercraft Dock Tax: \$00.00

STR Registration Fee: \$2,100.00

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

There have been several conversations regarding the need to review and update some ordinances this year.

SAFETY SERVICE REPORT

Mr. Sass advised that there is a salt shortage nationwide. The street crew have been advised to plow the roads as they have in the past. They are only able to salt emergency routes (Fulton Street, Sixth Street and Perry Street) and possibly some intersections. The side streets will not be salted. Please note we live in Northern Ohio, take your time and be patient when conditions are questionable. The closest salt that we can locate is in Nashville. The cost is over \$100 a ton (does not include delivery). We are not unique with other municipalities. This will be a challenge.

F.L.I.P. – Mr. Sass advised he is included on weekly meeting on the status of the infrastructure project. In the short time he has been with the city, there has been progress. There are obstacles and hoops to jump through. We are very lucky to have Doug Nusser as or Special Project Coordinator.

Last week the street crew changed over some of the trucks from snow removal to leaf pick up. Due to the early winter weather, there were many leaves that didn't get picked up. To our knowledge all have been taken care of. Moving forward, all trucks are equipped for snow removal until no longer needed.

Mr. Tarolli inquired what happened to salt?

Mr. Sass advised we were not in a contract. We get our salt from Detroit. No one is getting any salt nationwide. He believes salt may have been based on last year's needs, this year we are having a typical winter.

Mr. Tarolli inquired about what was happening at the beach today.

Mr. Sass advised they were cleaning the sand off the wall to prevent the snow from blowing across.

Mr. Tarolli inquired about rock that is exposed on the beach across from Lakeview Park when the water goes out. Why aren't we removing it?

Mayor Snider advised 100% cost.

Mr. Sass advised years ago old Perry Street was dumped there. If people have questions, please call him.

Mr. Morgan stated he has never heard of a salt shortage. We have tons and tons of salt.

Mr. Sass advised the salt companies have stopped producing and delivering salt.

Mr. Morgan spoke where he previously lived, they used to use rock.

Mr. Sass stated that it is a great idea in a rural area. However, we can't spread rock for it will get in our storm drains and cause problems.

INCOME TAX COMMISSIONER

Not present

POLICE CHIEF

Not present

FIRE CHIEF

Nothing to present

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Ms. Hovis

Nothing to present

Environment and Public Works Committee

Mr. Tarolli

Nothing to present

Economic and Community Development Committee

Mrs. Gillman

The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6, 2026, at 6:00 pm. Subject, short-term rentals and any other topics that may come up.

CORRESPONDENCE

Financial Report, December 2025, provide by Gabe Below

Mrs. Gillman moved to accept the Finance Report, December 2025, seconded by Mr. Tarolli.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Phillips, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 7-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

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

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 36-25

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR PLANNING, DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION OF THE WATER METER REPLACEMENT IMPROVEMENTS, WATER AND SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, LAKESHORE DRIVE/SR 163 REVETMENT IMPROVEMENTS, BROOKLYN STREET SANITARY PUMP STATION REHABILITATION IMPROVEMENTS, PERRY/MONROE/HARRISON IMPROVEMENTS, ELEVATED WATER TANK BASE IMPROVEMENTS, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PUMP AND HEAT/AIR EXCHANGE UNIT IMPROVEMENTS, LAUREL AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION SANITARY SEWER AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY, AND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY(OWDA), OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OEPA), OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT (ODOD), COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF), WATER SUPPLY REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT (WSRLA), OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION (OPWC), OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK (SIB) AND ANY OTHER FUNDING SOURCES OR PROGRAMS THAT BECOME AVAILABLE AND TO EXECUTE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS FOR THE FUNDING SOURCES AS REQUIRED AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Tarolli moved to retain the emergency clause of Ordinance 36-25: seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Phillips, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 7-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Ordinance 36-25: seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Phillips, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 7-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 26-1

A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(I) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY THE QUESTION OF A NEW 3.9-MILL PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING: FIRE AND EMS APPARATUS, THE FIRE STATION, EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT, EMERGENCY VEHICLES, SUPPLIES AND INCIDENTALS, COMMUNICATIONS, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, AND FOR THE PAYMENT OF FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, AND PAID VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL WAGES, BENEFITS, AND EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED BY SECTION 742.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

No action taken. Resolution 26-1 will be moved to its third reading on January 27, 2026.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 1-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR PLANNING SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PROGRAM GRANT AWARD AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Tarolli moved to waive the three required readings of Ordinance 1-26, seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Phillips, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 7-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to retain the emergency clause of Ordinance 1-26: seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Phillips, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 7-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Ordinance 1-26: seconded by Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Morgan inquired what is this ordinance for?

Mrs. King advised it is for the proposed bike path.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Ms. Phillips, yes, and Ms. Daft, yes. Motion carried 7-0: per Mrs. Sarty.

Resolution 26-2

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION

No action taken. Resolution 26-2 will be moved to its third reading on January 27, 2026.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

President Sarty - Spoke on the 2026 Rules of Council draft provided. The proposed changes are highlighted in read. Please review and consider adopting at the January 27, 2026, Council meeting.

Mr. Morgan — Referenced the Lakeshore Drive revetment project. It looks great.

Mr. Robinson — Nothing to present

Mr. Tarolli — Welcome Ms. Daft to Council.

January 13, 2026

Ms. Hovis – Welcome Ms. Daft and Mr. Taylor.

Ms. Daft – Would be willing to help with the 4th of July Celebration.

Mrs. King – Shout out to Halloween.

Mrs. Gillman – Welcome Ms. Daft and Mr. Taylor, look forward to working with both of you.

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 6:59 p.m.

Sandra Chafee
Clerk of Council

Lisa Sarty
President of Council