

July 22, 2025

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: Pat Hovis, Margaret Phillips. Beth Gillman, Cathy King, Richard Morgan, Avery Robinson, and Jerry Tarolli.

Ms. Phillips moved to approve regular meeting minutes for July 8, 2025, seconded by Mr. Tarolli. 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

President Sarty advised the allotted time to speak during public comment is five minutes. This time is to voice your concerns; there will not be any discussion with Council members or amongst the audience per our Rules of Council.

Joe Steinmetz, 161 Coe Street, Tiffin, Ohio

Mr. Steinmetz provided Council with a business proposal to allow a "Party Bike" also known as a "Peddle Bike"; legal term is a Quadricycle. He owns and runs a "Party Bike" in Bowling Green, Findlay and Sandusky, Ohio. Feels Port Clinton would be a great spot to have these bikes. All bikes are completely road safe with turn signals, lights, and road signals. The bikes are manufactured in Tiffin, Ohio; he also works for the manufacturer. The law states you can bring a bike into a city as long as it has certain requirements. Also needs approval from the municipality to run the business. They want to make sure the bike is community oriented and serves multi purposes. Asking the city to consider this opportunity for the City of Port Clinton.

Mr. Colston advised that any information be provided to Mrs. Ostheimer to pass it on to the Chief of Police and other Administration members.

Drew Gatliff, 119 Madison Street, Port Clinton, Ohio

Mr. Gatliff requested clarification on the latest Planning Commission meeting regarding "Dwelling". Did Planning Commission send a recommendation to Council and if so, how does that work.

President Sarty advised she did receive a recommendation form the Planning Commission. Once a date has been scheduled, we are required to place a legal notice in the local publication for a minimum of thirty days prior to the public meeting. The public hearing meeting will take place on the same day as a Council meeting but be held separately prior to the 6:00 pm Council meeting.

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John Jadwisiak, 519 Harrison Street, Port Clinton, Ohio

Mr. Jadwisiak advised it has been over a year since Chapter 735 (short term rental registration) has passed; and it has little effect in his case. He met with city officials regarding the complaints he had with the short-term rental property next door to him. In 2024. Unacceptable issues still remain: parking issues, fishing rigs too large, trash needs picked up twice a week at times, due to the fish remains, etc. He described it as an unsupervised hotel with limited parking. Mr. Jadwisiak is concerned about safety issues for him and his family with possible altercations. The owner is now the host (who lives in Michigan), for he can't retain a local host (which is against the ordinance the city has in place). Last year, there was a naked guy outside to help his guest find the property.

The owner advised Mr. Jadwisiak that he only rents to five-star guests. However, a woman rented the property, but a bunch of fishermen showed up and had a good time. The woman was not in attendance; then on her review she advised the neighbor complained to them for they were too loud. Last weekend had a bachelorette party and placed a banner on the front of the home saying, "Slut and Bay". Would any of you want to put up with this.

In the next few years, short term rentals could double or triple in the City. In Dearborn, Michigan just banned short term rentals in their residential neighborhoods; they only had seventy-five short-term rental properties.

Tourism belongs to the properly zoned commercial areas, not in single family neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods are meant to stay stable and for long term residents, not revolving doors for tourists. Ban short-term rentals in all residential neighborhoods.

Mrs. King inquired what the address of the property is next door to Mr. Jadwisiak.

515 Harrison Street.

Bev Nietfeld, 725 Madison Street, Port Clinton, Ohio

Ms. Nietfeld inquired about the position posted on the website for someone to take meeting minutes; what department is this for?

It was determined that what Ms. Nietfeld was referencing a legal notice for the Economic & Community Development Committee meeting on the City's Facebook page. Subject: Potential Communication Director position.

President Sarty advised that Mayor Snider asked at the last Council meeting that she assign one of her committees to discuss and put together a job description and salary for a Communication Director for the City as a whole. The Economic & Community Development Committee is meeting immediately after this Council meeting to discuss. The public is welcome to attend.

Kim Bender, 803 Fulton Street, Port Clinton, Ohio

Mrs. Bender advised that she attended the July 10, 2025, Planning Commission meeting. Chris Singerling from OCIC was in attendance and spoke on the housing shortage in Port Clinton and the consequences of

housing shortages in the community. With his position he is creating new businesses and helping and existing businesses to grow. She advised that Mr. Singerling stated that short-term rentals have become a detriment to our community and helped create the shortage of homes available to purchase. Most would not like to live next to a short-term rental. He also spoke on how Port Clinton is single focused in their economy solely on tourism and that is not productive for long term goals for any community. She encourages Council to have a conversation with him for he has a lot of information that each of them should hear.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Under first reading this evening:

- Resolution 25-5
 - Mr. Below and Ms. Shenker will discuss
 - This resolution is time-sensitive; the Administration has requested that the Council consider passing on the second reading.
- At the last Council meeting Mayor Snider requested that the Council look into a Communication Director position be considered for the city to better communicate to the community. This request has been assigned to the Economic & Community Development Committee to provide a job description and salary to provide to the Administration.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Not present

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The ordinance that addresses Short Term Rental Registration is charged to the Auditor to oversee. Mrs. Ostheimer processes and administers the applications and compliance to receive a short-term rental certificate to operate a short-term rental in the City of Port Clinton.

Mr. Below advised that he and Mr. Colston met with Mr. Jadwisiak and Mr. Laird with their concern regarding 515 Harrison Street last year. At that time, it was the only short-term rental that had any police reports received in 2024. The update provided today about 515 Harrison Street is appreciated. Back in 2024 the city did have a conversation with the owner / host of 515 Harrison Street. They understood the complaints and agreed that they would not want to live next to that situation as well. The owner / host advised he would be making changes to the clientele that used his property as a short-term rental. Mr. Below will review and speak further with Mr. Jadwisiak and the owner / host.

Resolution 25-5

The topic was discussed last week at the Finance Committee. It was discussed the financial need for the Fire Department. The Fire levy is based on property tax. No one wants to deal with any additional property tax increase. Especially for example senior citizens on fixed income that continually see their

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property tax valuation increase results in property bills rising. Resulting in a variety of things increase property valuations, the school 20-mill floor, etc. The only other option was to increase the income tax.

The .4% will be dedicated to the Fire Department, this will be a financial solution to continue to build the Fire Department for the future that all of us deserve. The surrounding townships that Ms. Shenker spoke of are under contract and what they pay is not nearly enough. Those townships contracts expire in 2027. If this passes, this puts Chief Gutman in a better financial position to discuss higher rates with the surrounding townships they service. Until then something needs to be done. In the last two years the Council approved a transfer of \$200,000 in 2023 and 2024. If that transfer did not happen last year the end-of-year balance for the Fire Department would have been just over \$11,000. For 2023 there end of year balance would have been \$22,000. In the past Council was asked to approve multiple expenditures for the American Rescue Plan Funds (provided by the Federal Government), most of the funds were provided for long term needs to the Fire Department, but it didn't solve every problem. If Council approves this evening, the voters have their say this November. The Fire Department would be charged with coming up with a long-term success plan and having the townships pay more in the future.

Mr. Tarolli inquired if there is an estimate of the amount of funds that would be taken in.

Mr. Below advised based on last year's and everyone pay it should be over \$900,000.

Mrs. King advised in the ordinance legislation states it is to go into the General Fund, which is that earmarked for the Fire Department. Feels the legislation is unclear and wants to make sure that when it goes to the ballot it needs to be very clear that it is going to the Fire Department General Fund not the City's General Fund.

Mr. Below advised that the ordinance is not going on the ballot, the resolution would go on the ballot. Page 2, section 2 of the resolution states the 4% is going to the Fire Department.

TREASURERS REPORT

As of July 22, 2025

Bed Tax: \$130,245.40

Watercraft Dock Tax: \$21,281.25

STR Registration Fee: \$27,700.00

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Resolution 25-5 (Fire Department)

This resolution solely puts an issue on the ballot. In order to place an item on the ballot, the majority of Council members have to vote to place Resolution 25-5 on the November ballot; then the issue is decided by the voters.

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The issue is that the Port Clinton Fire Department does not have funds due to many different reasons. The Fire Department is running in the red. There are compliance issues; with turn out gear, uniforms, fire

trucks, etc. They are getting close to their end of life and need to be replaced. Once these items reach the end of life they can no longer be used.

Currently the City has a 1.5% Income Tax percentage. This resolution is requesting that it be raised to 1.9/10%. This will help the Fire Department get where it needs to be. The last Income Tax increase was in 1981, from 1% to 1.5%. Prior to this ask the Fire Department has not requested money except the renewal levies and annual fund raisers. The Port Clinton Fire Department does not only serve the city residents but also, EMS services for Catawba and Bay Township. In addition to Fire and EMS service to Portage Township. Mr. Below and Chief Gutman will speak further about this. The deadline to be placed on the November 2025 ballot is August 4, 2025. If not submitted by then, this will not be on the ballot until 2026. If the voters vote to pass the income tax increase of 1.9/10% an ordinance be put in front of the council to adopt the income tax percentage from 1.5% to 1.9/10% after the November 2025 election.

President Sarty advised that the Finance Committee have already met and discussed this Resolution.

SAFETY SERVICE REPORT

Nothing to present

INCOME TAX COMMISSIONER

Not present

POLICE CHIEF

Not present

FIRE CHIEF

Chief Gutman advised he wanted to be transparent and provide a idea where we stand as a Fire Department in Port Clinton.

Attached are the notes that Chief Gutman spoke from. The numbers provided are based on 2024.

Mr. Tarolli spoke, advised this turns his stomach. He always believed the City's department was one of the best in the state. It disgusts him to what has happened to the department.

Mrs. King inquired would we go to Catawba, Bay, and Portage Township and ask to contribute funds for equipment as well as the contract they have for us. She and other Council members would happily support in any of those meetings.

Chief Gutman stated it is definitely worth a conversation.

Mr. Below advised we are trying to right the wrongs of the past, not just in the Fire Department, but also with folks that have served in this room for years, decades before any of us got here.

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Mr. Below urges the council to approve Resolution 25-5, so it can be placed on the ballot and let the citizens / voters decide.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Ms. Hovis

Nothing to report

Environment and Public Works Committee

Mr. Tarolli

Nothing to report

Safety Services Committee

Ms. Phillips

Nothing to report

Economic and Community Development Committee

Mrs. Gillman

The Committee meeting is schedule right after tonight's Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

June 2025, Financial Report, provided by Gabe Below

Mrs. Gillman moved to accept June 2025, Financial Report, provided by Gabe Below; second by Mr. Tarolli. All agreed

Architectural Review Board, June 12, 2025, meeting minutes

Planning Commission / Board of Zoning Appeals, June 12, 2025, meeting minutes

Finance Committee Meeting, July 14, 2025, meeting minutes

Finance Committee Meeting, June 24, 2025, meeting minutes

Ms. Hovis advised the June 14, 2025, Finance Committee meeting minutes be corrected to read July 14, 2025.

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Mrs. Gillman moved to accept the correspondence as amended; seconded by Mr. Tarolli. All agreed.

Mr. Morgan inquired about why we receive the meeting minutes from various meetings six weeks later.

Mrs. Ostheimer advised that the various meeting minutes need to be approved by their Board or Commission prior to them being passed on to Council and the public. There are times that the Boards and Commission may not have a meeting because there are no new applications to review. That delays the time the minutes will be provided to Council and the public.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-5

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF AN ELECTION ON THE QUESTION OF APPROVING AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 183.012 AND 183.013 OF THE PORT CLINTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCOME TAX INCREASE FROM ONE AND ONE HALF PERCENT (1 ½ %) TO ONE AND NINE TENTHS PERCENT (1 9/10%) FOR A CONTINUING PERIOD OF TIME, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PORT CLINTON FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, NEW EQUIPMENT, AND CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Hovis moved to waive the three required readings of Resolution 25-5; seconded by Mr. Tarolli.

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

Ms. Hovis moved to retain the emergency clause of Resolution 25-5; seconded by Mr. Tarolli.

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

Mr. Hovis moved to adopt Resolution 25-5; seconded by Mr. Tarolli.

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

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BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Morgan – Nothing to present

Mr. Robinson – Nothing to present

Ms. Phillips – Nothing to present

Ms. Hovis – Nothing to present

Mr. Tarolli – Nothing to present

Mrs. King – Mrs. King advised she has determined that 7 % of our single-family dwellings are short-term rentals. Requesting that we revisit the ordinance for short-term rentals and consider other items we might want to add to it.

President Sarty advised that Safety & Service Committee reviewed short term rentals in the past and will be assigned this request from Mrs. King. Once a meeting date has been determined the Clerk will post the date and time.

Mrs. Gillman – Nothing to present

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Phillips moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. King. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Sandra Ostheimer
Clerk of Council

Lisa Sarty
President of Council

Finance Committee

Revenue

EMS Billing (Medicount)	\$851,000
Port Clinton Fire Levy	\$259,000
Run Volume 1792 calls	
Catawba EMS Contract	\$203,000
Run Volume 542 calls	
Portage Township Fire & EMS Contract	\$273,000
Run Volume 256 calls	
Bay Township EMS Contract	\$56,000
Run Volume 186 calls	
	<u>\$1,642,000</u>

Expenditure

Personnel	\$1,458,000
Wages/Medical/Medicare/Pension	
Fuel	\$40,000
Ladder truck	\$54,000
Utilities	\$29,000
EMS Supplies	\$32,000
	<u>\$1,613,000</u>

Not Included: Outsourced Training/ Physical training/ Mental Wellness/
Certifications/ Physical Exams/ Building Maintenance/ Truck Maintenance/ PPE/
Uniforms/ Capital budgeting/ Modern Equipment

*In May 2024, all full-time personnel took a 15% pay cut to their yearly wages.

*In the previous 3 years, \$770,000 has been found through grants to help support the department's expenditure.

*Removed full-time Administrative Assistant in 2023.

*Cost to outfit one member in uniforms and turnout gear = \$6,000

*Current Fleet: (NFPA recommends front-line service maximum of 15 years)

Engine 661 – 1998	Squad 691 – 2014
Engine 662 – 2007	Squad 693 – 2011
Truck 663 – 2016	Squad 694 – 2006
Engine 664 – 2001	Squad 696 – 2006
Rescue 665 – 1993	Squad 697 – 2004

*Woodville Township – Call Volume 300 annual - \$250,000/year included station and bought new ambulance for coverage (use for contracts with surrounding townships)

*Comparable areas:

Port Clinton	3200 annual call volume	budget \$1.6m (\$260k from PC)
Bellefontaine	3100 annual call volume	budget \$2.6m
Alliance	1800 annual call volume	budget \$2.9m
Bay Village	1800 annual call volume	budget \$2.1m
Urbana	3000 annual call volume	budget \$2.1m
Huron	1800 annual call volume	budget \$2.1m

With an average income wage at \$50,000 per year, the increase from 1.5% income tax to 1.9% income tax would increase the cost from the constituent by \$7.69 per biweekly pay period.

Conclusion:

Currently, this department lacks the necessary funding to support its daily operations. It was structured solely for basic sustainability, with little consideration for future growth or modernization. Much of the equipment in use is decades old and has long been outpaced by modern standards.

Radio communications are chronically unreliable, often with pagers failing to alert volunteers to emergencies and radios preventing critical transmissions for additional resources on scene. We currently have little to no capabilities to communicate with surrounding departments and agencies to include LifeFlight.

Our vehicle extrication tools remain outdated, relying on generator-powered systems tethered by hoses, while the industry has moved toward more efficient, battery-operated alternatives. This modern version is over ten years old.

Turnout gear, purchased from the lowest bidder, frequently requires repairs—even after routine training exercises. It does not hold up to heat as well, putting our members in unsafe conditions. Since the purchase of this gear, every set has had to be returned to the vendor for adjustments.

We are unable to properly outfit personnel with uniforms. Class A uniforms, worn during oath ceremonies, are decades old, ill-fitting, and passed from person to person, often not accurately representing rank. Financial constraints has required new member turnout gear to be rented from vendors, and most fire gloves are improperly sized, reducing safety and effectiveness. The full-time staff are outfitted with one work shirt, required to be worn each shift. Part-time and volunteers are yet to be supplied.

By next year, 80% of our fleet will exceed the NFPA's 15-year standard for front-line service. The city mechanic is continually challenged to keep the aging fleet operational, frequently resorting to finding discontinued parts on platforms like eBay. Replacing a fire engine takes approximately two years; an ambulance, three.

This funding request is made to bring the department into compliance with modern standards before a catastrophic failure forces the need for emergency funding, or worse, a workplace injury.