

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

Jerry Tarolli moved to approve regular meeting minutes for February 24, 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

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Miller, 5296 E. Ellithorpe Drive, Port Clinton.

Mr. Miller is a bus driver for the Port Clinton City School District. Mr. Miller spoke on the condition of Lay Drive, Monroe Street (near Veterans Park) and Seventh Street. Rumors going around town are that the money that is for the Infrastructure Project has been spent on other items and that is why the roads are not being fixed, and that Erie Black Top hasn't been paid. What is going on with the streets?

Mr. Sass advised don't believe everything you hear. Erie Blacktop has been paid, and they will be returning to fix some areas that need address on recently paved roads.

Mr. Sass advised construction will start this fall. Daily our Special Projects Coordinator is having conversations with the architects, design firm, and engineers. The street project is a huge priority; many don't realize what goes into funding such a project. The city can't have a contractor come in and fix a road without having the money in hand before we can release the bid. The street project has six or seven funding agencies to help pay for this project. Recently President of Council, Lisa Sarty signed a letter requesting our congressman and two senators to make Port Clinton part of the "ASK" during the congressional earmarks; they pick out certain projects and provide funds. Other communities are doing the same.

Mr. Sass continued to state that there are so many funding streams for the street project; they all must come together. Seventh Street, Jefferson Street, Washington Street, and Fourth Street are all one project. The railroad is holding this project up because they have not approved the plans our engineer has submitted to them. We cannot start the project and then the railroad says no, "you can't run it the way we want to". They have their own specifications. This prevents us from submitting a bid request for contractors to provide quotes. On Jefferson Street we had to change the fall on a sewer line a ¼%, because EPA wouldn't approve it. There are so... many hoops to jump through to get a project completed. No one wants these streets completed more than the Administration.

In 2028 there will be a roundabout at W. Perry and Monroe Street, in that area there is a pump station that needs placed; that pump station costs \$3,000,000.

The city is not stealing any money. The money is being generated from the Infrastructure Fund that is placed in an account.

Ms. Shenker advised that the Infrastructure Project is in two different phases. The most seriously needed streets that haven't been completed will have water and sewer replaced then paved (Phase 2). The roads completed so far have only been mill and fill (Phase 1). This summer we will be going out to bid for Phase 2 on Seventh Street, Jefferson Street, Washington Street, and Fourth Street. Also, the Lakeshore Shore Drive revetment project is nearly completed.

Ms. Shenker spoke about the grant funds; we have not received the funds for Phase 2 yet due to the government shutdown. To funds for the infrastructure project are coming from low interest loans, grant funds and the collected infrastructure fund.

Mr. Miller inquired about Lay Street, the buses go down that street daily and it is in very poor shape.

Mr. Sass will inquire when that street is scheduled to be addressed.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Under first reading this evening:

- Ordinance 11-26 – Administration has asked for Council to consider adopting at the second, will not be assigned to a committee
- Ordinance 12-26 – Can go all three readings. Will be assigned to Safety Service & Public Works Committee
- Ordinance 13-26 - Can go all three readings. Will be assigned to Safety Service & Public Works Committee
- Resolution 26-3 – Can go all three readings. Will not be assigned to a committee.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be on March 28, 2026, at 10:00 am at Lakeview Park. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ms. Chafee

MAYOR'S REPORT

Not present

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Not present

TREASURERS REPORT

As of March 9, 2026

Provided by Sandye Chafee

Bed Tax: \$16,604.06

Watercraft Dock Tax: \$650.00

STR Registration Fee: \$19,300

Mr. Morgan inquired if we know how many of the STR Registrations fees are first time registering?

Ms. Chafee advised eighteen.

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Ordinance 11-26

Ms. Shenker advised in 1999 a consent decree was placed on the City to clean up the water and sewer area. Since then, the city has done what was required plus more. In 2019, the former Law Director, George Wilber presented an ordinance to terminate the consent decree that was placed on the city. Due to COVID and then the disagreements between the Federal EPA and Ohio EPA. The Ohio EPA was trying to make the City of Port Clinton an example. The Federal EPA showed how the City of Port Clinton was doing an exceptional job and the State EPA no longer had a case. 2026 the Federal EPA called Dave Bacak, Wastewater Treatment Foreman to start the paperwork to have the consent decree terminated.

SAFETY SERVICE REPORT

The stop lights have returned to Lakeshore Drive due to the contractor saw cutting along the road and installing an erosion pad.

This past week we have put together letters of support to submit to Representative Kaptur and two Senators to be considered for the earmarked program to assist with funding on existing infrastructure projects. The project will proceed, but it would be good to have additional funding available.

Republic Services yard waste service will begin on April 3rd and proceed every other week through October.

Last Wednesday evening there was a water leak on E. Perry Street between Salvation Army and Auto Zone. This leak was 10' away from the previous leak three weeks prior. Our crew was onsite for nearly 12 hours. The line is 8' to 10' deep to get to the line. We are looking at the possibility of replacing that line. This would be in addition to the current infrastructure project. What also needs taken in consideration is the electrical lines above the waterline. May need to have Ohio Edison relocate the poles if necessary.

The Administration is working every day to be able to go for bid on Phase 2, waiting patiently on the Railroad to approve the specs.

Mr. Morgan inquired about what the Railroad has to do with the project.

Mr. Sass advised the viaducts on Jefferson Street have two steel beams that come down to the road. The railroads have their own parameters on how close you can be to the beams. The railroad is concerned with the supports caving in. The railroad does not own the street, but they own the overpass. The sewer line on Jefferson Street needs to be deeper than normal. It is not just in Port Clinton; this is true anywhere the railroad is these parameters need to be followed.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the yard waste service Republic Service is offering; do we use our own trash bin.

Ms. Chafee advise you can use your own trash bin (not the Republic tote) or the brown landscape bags.

Mr. Morgan asked if there is a sticker that needs to be placed.

Ms. Chafee advised no, the drivers know who has paid and who hasn't, just like regular garbage pick-up.

Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Sass when he referenced Fourth Street, how would the work would go to Monroe?

Mr. Sass corrected his statement not Monroe to Harrison Street.

Mrs. King inquired about the earmarks we are asking for funding, is this only for infrastructure or other projects also.

Mr. Sass advised only on the infrastructure project.

INCOME TAX COMMISSIONER

Not present

POLICE CHIEF

Not present

FIRE CHIEF

Not present

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Ms. Hovis

A Finance Committee meeting once she call speak to committee on a date.

Safety Service & Public Works Committee

Mr. Tarolli

A Safety Service & Public Works Committee meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss Ordinance 12-26 & 13-26.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Mrs. Gillman

Not present

CORRESPONDENCE

February 2026 Financial Report, provided by Gabe Below, Auditor

Mr. Tarolli moved to approve the February 2026 Financial Report: seconded by Mr. Robertson.

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

Mr. Tarolli moved to accept the correspondence as presented; seconded by Mr. Robinson. All agreed.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 9-26

AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPACT AND PRESERVATION 2026 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON AND OTTAWA COUNTY AND TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

No action taken. Ordinance 9-26 will be moved to its third reading on March 24, 2026.

Ordinance 10-26

AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON, COUNTY OF OTTAWA, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2026

No action taken. Ordinance 10-26 will be moved to its third reading on March 24, 2026

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 11-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO TAKE ACTION TO TERMINATE THE SEPTEMBER 8, 1999, CONSENT DECREE NEGOTIATED BY AND AMONG THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE STATE OF OHIO, AND THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

No action taken. Ordinance 11-26 will be moved to its second reading on March 24, 2026

Ordinance 12-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONCESSION LICENSE FOR THE LAKEVIEW PARK CONCESSION AREA

No action taken. Ordinance 12-26 will be moved to its second reading on March 24, 2026

Ordinance 13-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDED RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT CLINTON LIGHTHOUSE CONSERVANCY TO EXPAND THE LICENSE AREA AT WATERWORKS PARK TO INCLUDE THE AREAS OCCUPIED BY FOUR LANDSCAPE MOUNDS, THIRTEEN MEMORIAL BENCHES AND SIX PICNIC TABLES TO ALLOW FOR THE PLACEMENT OF TWO ADDITIONAL MOVEABLE PICNIC TABLES IN WATERWORKS PARK AND TO MODIFY AND EXPAND THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND THE LICENSE FEE

No action taken. Ordinance 13-26 will be moved to its second reading on March 24, 2026

Resolution 26-3

A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DECORATION OF GRAVES, CONDUCTING MEMORIAL SERVICES AND OTHERWISE ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES APPROPRIATE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MEMORIAL DAY 2026

No action taken. Resolution 26-3 will be moved to its second reading on March 24, 2026

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Morgan — Mr. Morgan inquired with Mr. Sass if he has any additional information regarding traffic lights.

Mr. Sass advised no.

Mr. Morgan inquired if we would consider reestablishing the bricks on Seventh Street, once the underground work and base has been completed. This was done on the roads in a town he previously lived in.

Mr. Sass advised the funding agencies to agree, may be difficult, due to it is pure beautification. He will consult Doug Nusser, Special Project Coordinator.

Mr. Robinson — Nothing to present

Mr. Tarolli — Nothing to present

Ms. Hovis — Nothing to present

Mrs. King – Mrs. King suggested using the bricks from Seventh Street to make planters for downtown.

Mrs. Gillman – Not present

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 6:40 p.m.

Sandra Chafee
Clerk of Council

Lisa Sarty
President of Council