

October 28, 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 October 14, 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

Shannon Schlipf, 224 E. Fourth Street

Mrs. Schlipf spoke about the alley that is proposed to be vacated along E. Fourth Street (Ordinance 26-25). She provided a back story about how she put a small fence up at her property and was notified after that she needed a permit to do so. Once that was all resolved she heard that her neighbor had provided the proper paperwork to the City to vacate the alley and pass the property to him since he owns the property on both sides of the alley. She was very shocked that she and her husband were not informed by the city that this was happening. Instead, one day driving home she would have a gate across the entrance with no explanation. She was only made aware of it because of her fence issue prior.

Mrs. Schlipf contacted her City Councilman, Richard Morgan. He investigated how and why an alley is vacated. He agreed with her and sympathized that the neighbor had a right to request the vacated alley due to owning each of the properties along the alley. It is unfathomable to her that an alley that is used by so many can be closed by just one person. She also spoke to Mayor Snider, and he explained in detail how the alleys are outdated, how they are not meant to be used by pedestrians and that there are other ways to access the back of her property. In addition, that the city could no longer afford to maintain them. Mrs. Schlipf feels that is a poor excuse. She was also advised that alleys are not to be used as a throughway.

Mrs. Schlipf provided a bit of history on alleys and how towns are using them to their advantage, not their disadvantage. Alleys are a quintessential part of living in a small town. People use them to get home quicker; kids use them to walk home from school; people ride their bikes and walk their dog. Alleys are used when street work is being done. Instead of the city trying to get rid of alleys, they should start embracing them.

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Daniel Maciejewski, 711 E. Second Street

Mr. Maciejewski advised he was here on behalf of his in-laws Sharon & Jarrod Schlipf and neighbors who will be negatively impacted by the vacated alley.

Mr. Maciejewski read a portion Ohio Revised Code

- ORC 723.01 - The legislative authority of a municipal corporation shall have the care, supervision, and control of the public highways, streets, avenues, alleys, sidewalks, public grounds, bridges, aqueducts, and viaducts within the municipal corporation
- When a municipality goes to vacate an alley or a street ORC 723.05 allows it to do so, only if the Council finds both good cause and the vacation will not be detrimental to the general interest of the municipality or its residents.
- Ohio courts have consistently reinforced the standard: Eastlands Woods vs. Talmadge (1983) Ohio Supreme Court held that a city may vacate a public right-of-way only when it clearly serves the public interest.
- Likewise in Smith vs. Winterville (1962) Ohio 7th District Court of Appeals affirmed that as such decisions must not be made for private convenience alone.

Those ruling underscore the Council's duty is to protect the community's general welfare not private gain. In this case neither condition is met. The sole purpose of this closure is to enable one person's private gain. This alley closure is not being requested for the public good. Example improved traffic flow, safety or infrastructure.

Mr. Maciejewski recommended to council deny or least table Ordinance 26-25. To conduct a traffic study analysis, direct review of access, disability accommodation, property value impact and utility consideration to ensure the general interest of all Port Clinton residents is fully protected.

Eric Luethold, 1111 Lee Avenue

Mr. Luethold advised he is the Port Clinton High School Head Football Coach.

Mr. Luethold addressed the petition his daughter posted late the night prior regarding trick or treat being moved to another day, so people don't have to choose between going Trick or Treating or attending the PC football playoff game at Edison Chargers field.

Mr. Luethold advised that he took his position with the vision of building something that makes an impact on the high school level and youth level. Also, wanting to build a program our community is proud of and getting our youth there. What a better opportunity than to make the playoffs to build a product they are proud of. He is disappointed with the decision not to reschedule trick or treat. His family is torn on what is the right thing to do for them. Also, as a father he is proud of his daughter (Ashton) for standing up for what she believes in.

Ashton provided a small speech reaffirming her request to consider moving trick or treat to another date so she and others can attend the PC football game on the 31st.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

The next regular scheduled Council meeting lands on Veterans Day. Therefore, that Council meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm at City Hall in the Linda Hartlaub Council Chambers.

Under first reading this evening:

- Ordinance 29-25 will not be assigned to a committee. This ordinance can go the three readings.
- Ordinance 30-25, the Administration has requested that Council consider adopting at the second reading. Ms. Bryant will be attending the next Council meeting to explain Ordinance 30-25.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Thank you to Magruder Hospital for donating the Christmas tree that will be placed at the intersection of Perry and Madison Street. This tree is currently located just outside the Fulton Street Café outdoor seating area. The tree lighting will take place on Saturday, November 22, 2025, 6:00 pm.

Community Christmas Parade will take place on December 6, 2025, 6:00 pm. A tree lighting will take place at Adams Street Park following the Parade.

Santa House hours:

- Wednesday, December 11th & 17th from 5:00 – 6:00 pm
- Sunday, December 7th & 14th from 12:00 – 1:00 pm

The City of Port Clinton employees and elected officials are asked to ring the bell for Salvation Army at Friendship on E. Perry and Buckeye Blvd. December 11, 2025, starting at 10:00 am to 8:00 pm (two-hour shifts) Please contact Mrs. Ostheimer to sign up.

F.L.I.P. there is no update at this time due to the shutdown.

There was a consent decree issued to the city in the late 1900s related to sewage treatment plant. In 2017 all the issues were remedy. In 202 city council requested that the US EPA drop the consent decree. They didn't take any action until recently. With the government shut down this is on hold.

Kiwanis will be hosting "Evening at the Races" on Friday, November 14, 2025, doors open at 6:00 pm, at the Elks Lodge. See Mayor Snider for tickets.

Saturday, November 8, 2025, doors open at 6:00 pm is the Port Clinton Firefighters Association Annual Feather Party at the Port Clinton Fire Department.

The date for leaf pickup has not been determined yet. The city starts to pick up leaves when most leaves have fallen. Per a meteorologist out of Toledo stated that the leaves are about 10 days behind due to the warm and dry weather we had.

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All the leaves we pick up go somewhere. The City Street Forman advised Mayor Snider that we can fill the parking lot in front of the building we are in from Perry Street to the PD 6' to 8' high with leaves that we pick up for the season. The location that we took leaves to in Bay Township is no longer accepting leaves. We have reached out to several locations. There are a couple of locations that will take **some** leaves but not all. If anyone knows of a location to take a large number of leaves, please have them contact City Hall.

Thank you to Bible Methodist Church on Maple Street. They held dinner this evening for First Responders. It was wonderful.

Mr. Morgan inquired if the Street Forman contacted the surrounding communities inquiring where they place their leaves. Do we grind up the leaves to reduce the volume?

Mayor Snider advised yes. He also advised that there is a gentleman on Catawba willing to take some of the leaves but not all. The city doesn't have equipment to grind the leaves.

Mrs. King inquired if Trick or Treat be on another date?

Mayor Snider advised no. Thank you, Ashton, for speaking out.

Mrs. King inquired if there would be any communication regarding the income tax increase to benefit the Fire Department; there seems to be a lot of miscommunications throughout the community. Hasn't seen anything official from the city or Fire Department.

Mayor Snider advised that the ballot explains everything. Mrs. King disagreed.

Mary Snieder advised it is taking the income tax from 1.5% to 1.9% that .4% is the 21%.

Mrs. King understands this, however there is a lot of miscommunications in the community and if the Fire Department really needs the funds, she is really concerned.

Mr. Tarolli advised that he disagree with the mayor's decision not to change the date for neighborhood trick or treat.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Resolution 27.5 is a resolution that is adopted on an annual basis. It is provided by the County Budget Commission and is due back to the County Auditor this week. Please consider adopting Resolution 25 - 7 this evening.

TREASURERS REPORT

As of October 28, 2025, provided by Sandye Ostheimer

Bed Tax: \$317,801.62

Watercraft Dock Tax: \$23,236.50

STR Registration Fee: \$30,800.00

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Ordinance 30-25 was requested by the Tax Commissioner. This is a clerical ordinance, the State Tax Department stated years ago that if you are an employer and have more the (25) employees you must file their W-2's and other documents electronically to the municipality they are located in. Recently, the State has revised to say if you have (10) or more employees you must file all W2's and other documents electronically to the municipality they are located in.

The Tax Commissioner has requested that Council consider adopting on the second reading, because she needs to send employers a letter by the November 23, 2025, and wants to include this information also; to be fiscally responsible and have everything in one letter. This follows the Ohio Revised Code.

Ms. Bryant will attend the next meeting to discuss further.

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

Environment and Public Works Committee

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Mr. Tarolli

Nothing to present

Safety Services Committee

Ms. Phillips

Nothing to present

Economic and Community Development Committee

Mrs. Gillman

A committee meeting will take place this evening after the Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 26-25

AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PROTION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH ALLEY LOCATED BETWEEN LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCK 23, OF THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON

Ms. Hovis moved to table Ordinance 26-25, until Fourth Street construction is completed; seconded by Mrs. King.

Results of the voice-roll call are as follows: Mrs. Gillman, abstain; Ms. Phillips, no; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. King, yes; Mr. Robinson; no, and Mr. Tarolli, yes. Motion carried 4-2-1: per Mrs. Sarty

Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Macijewski how many people use the alley daily.

Mr. Macijewski advised he doesn't know, that is why he recommended a traffic analysis to be done.

Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Hatt if he asked others about vacating the alley.

Mr. Hatt stated no. He advised he was approached by the city about vacating the alley. He had a perfect situation for it. He stated he has a safety issue with his cars, home having stones hitting them; also, family members nearly getting hit when crossing the alley.

Mr. Morgan inquired with Ms. Shenker, "can a pole barn be built on an empty lot.

Mr. Hatt stated he had investigated that and if it has living quarters and a bathroom the pole barn can be built.

Ms. Shenker provided the legal description of an alley: A street or highway that intended to gain access to rear or side lots or buildings in urban districts; and not intended for the purpose of thorough way vehicular traffic.

Resolution 25-7

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Resolution 25-7; second by Mrs. King.

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

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance 29 – 25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TO APPROVE JULY 2025 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE PORT CLINTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

No action taken. Ordinance 29-25 will be moved to its second reading on November 10, 2025.

ORDINANCE 30 -25

RAN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE JULY 2025 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE PORT CLINTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AND EMERGENCY

No action taken. Ordinance 30-25 will be moved to its second reading on November 10, 2025.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Morgan – The beach across from Lakeview Park is full of rock and stones. He stated that he was advised that the stones / asphalt was dumped there many years ago. It is difficult and expensive to have it removed with machines. What if we placed five-gallon buckets at the beach for anyone to fill the buckets if they choose. We are wasting valuable resources because it is not swimmable.

Mayor Snider advised it has been estimated that it will cost \$115,000 to have the debris and stone removed. Since 2019 we have spent \$20,000. Some of them are old Perry Street and some of them are native rock. We don't know how much it is there or how deep it goes.

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Mr. Robinson – Nothing to present

Ms. Phillips – Nothing to present

Ms. Hovis – Ashton you are a brave little girl for posting your petition.

Mr. Tarolli – Mr. Tarolli has gone back and forth on Ordinance 26-25.

Mrs. King – Looking forward to the football game Friday.

Mrs. Gillman – The alley is very difficult. There is no reason it should be adopted.
Good Luck to Port Clinton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Phillips moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Tarolli. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Sandra Ostheimer
Clerk of Council

Lisa Sarty
President of Council