

**PORT CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING**

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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, Beth Gillman, Richard Morgan, Margaret Phillips, Roseann Hickman, and Jerry Tarolli.

Ms. Phillips moved to approve regular meeting minutes for January 11, 2022; seconded by Mr. Tarolli. All agreed.

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

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Ottawa County Auditor: Jennifer Widmer  
Ottawa County Treasurer: Tony Hatmaker  
Port Clinton City Schools Treasurer: Jeff Dornbusch

**Explanation of increase of property taxes in the City of Port Clinton**

***Evaluation (every three years)***

Mrs. Widmer advised at every appraisal evaluation (value) cycle there is a district that is affected more than surrounding communities for a number of reasons. The City of Port Clintons average increase in properties values at this evaluation was 17.6% This is calculated by taking neighborhoods of like property and the sales (from 2018, 2019, and 2020) within these neighborhoods (the City has 50 like neighborhoods). The State says they have to have a value of 92% of the average sale price in that neighborhood.

***The 4.0 mill road tax levy was passed in the November 2021.***

Mrs. Widmer advised due to the evaluation (value) increase there is a reduction factor on the street tax levy to 3.299 mills (residential / agricultural properties) and 3.84 mill (commercial properties). It has reduced its affect rate due to the value increase.

***20 mill floor (School levy from 2003)***

The state says when you have a reduced affective rate and having a reduction factor on the school levies they must bring in a minimum of 20 mills. It allows them to capture some of the growth that House Bill 920 and reduction factor disallowed.

Port Clinton City Schools falls well below the 20 mills floor. They received a 2.77 mill increase in what people are paying in that affect rate of their levies.

Mr. Hatmaker advised that within a taxing district there are 2,000 different parcels moving in relation with each other. Some parcels went up 20%, some 4%, and some 10%. It is hard to make a blanket statement. The average property in City of Port Clinton is close to the overall tax increase is from 1/3 evaluation increase, 1/3 road levy, and 1/3 to school district.

Mrs. Widmer announced if any of the community have questions, please have them call her office and they are more than willing to provide an explanation.

Mayor Snider advised that we as a community adopted a 4.0 mill levy last fall. The mills is just a tool to get you to the dollar value that is needed to pay off the loans we will need to get. As property values go up, the millage will drop so the dollar value stays the same. The community adopted a 4.0 mill but it is currently at 3.299 mill. Values went up, so the millage went down. Therefore, the end dollar amount is still the same. This pertains also to the City Schools. The increased property values brought the City Schools current tax levy below 20 mill, which triggers property tax to increase for levy it to be brought back up to 20 mill.

House Bill 920 passed in 1976 (designed to protect the property owner from unvoted tax increases) it also serves to ensure that each property owner pays his fair share of taxes. Determining a fair property value is the responsibility of the county fiscal officer. Determining fair taxes is the responsibility of each voter.

House Bill 920 states when you have a rate and the Auditor certifies a dollar amount that is to be collected, you cannot exceed that dollar amount you do get to adjust with inflation. Inside millage is different. The 10 mills can be done without a vote. That is what transpired here. Some can fluctuate and others have to be made up to stay at the millage it started at.

Mr. Dornbusch advised that the last school levy for operating dollars was in August, 2003. In 2009, bond issues were passed to build the new buildings. During the recession of 2008 / 2009, it went up. However, with the current increase in evaluation values caused the 20 mill to hit the floor. It goes in cycles and there is no way to predict any of this. It is important that the school district did not put any new levies on the ballot since 2003. It is Ohio law with House Bill 920.

Mrs. Widmer advised that she and other auditors are trying to get the Homestead reduction brought to current numbers for 2021. Currently if you make more than \$34,600 a year and over 65, you are not eligible to receive the homestead reduction. It does not include Social Security, but any other income you may have. Currently the Homesteader reduction is only \$25,000 off the value of the property. Back when Homestead reduction was enacted that was adequate. We are finding it is not any longer. We as an origination have been talking to the Legislators. Due to the fact that the Homesteaders reduction has not kept up with the current

valuations. She encourages all to contact their Legislators and advise them that the language needs to be updated to current values.

Mrs. Gillman inquired if they see these evaluations to continue to go up year after year.

Mrs. Widmer has not seen a considerable slow down yet. She is being hopeful. As interest rates go up, it will not be as appealing to get mortgages. The increase will create a supply of homes available and regulate the price. Currently the supply of homes has fallen very low. She does not see with inflation that things will go down.

The next full appraisal of properties will be in 2024.

Mrs. Widmer advised there is a process if you know your property has been over valued called the Board of Revision. You can apply from January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. The document to submit is online on the Ottawa County Auditor's website. The document must be notarized, and an appraisal must be attached.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the three items above that effected the property tax this year – assuming the City and Schools do not place a levy on the ballot for the next three years; will our property tax remain the same as our current bill?

Mrs. Widmer advised that the only item would effect it would be a special assessment (watershed, a ditch that needs cleaned on your property).

Mr. Below advised Mr. Morgan that he had asked at a previous meeting if the road levy had impacted school levy. He was advised that the two were unrelated; they just happen to take place at the same time. The City levy did not trigger the boost on the school levy.

Mrs. Widmer confirmed the information Mr. Below stated. She advised it was the appraisal evaluation increase that triggered the 20 mill floor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Reminded Council that during their term they must complete a Sun Shine Law / Public Records training.

Rules of Council are on the agenda this evening under Business From the Floor. There was an additional revision under; **Rule 4. Meetings, (4)** "Council shall follow all orders implemented by the Governor during a declared State of Emergency and may hold meetings remotely with the aid of internet or telephone as provided by state law".

This evening there is one new ordinance and two new resolutions for this evening.

- Ordinance 1-22: will not be assigned to a committee; can go the full three readings.
- Resolution 22-1: will not be assigned to a committee; can go the full three readings.
- Resolution 22-2: was provided after the agenda was submitted. This is a time sensitive matter for a grant deadline of January 31, 2022. Mr. Colston will discuss the grant later this evening. Administration has requested it to be added as a first reading if Council so chooses.

Mr. Tarolli moved to add Resolution 22-2 to this evening's agenda; seconded by Mrs. Hickman. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

Results of voice roll call are as follows: Ms. Phillips, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Mrs. Hickman, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. Gillman, yes; and Mr. Tarolli, yes.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Thanked Council members for meeting with him individually to go over future plans for of City of Port Clinton.

Thank you to Lucas Johnson and his crew for plowing the snow. They did a very good job. Sherriff Levorchick called complementing the crew.

The Arts Garage has met with Senator Gavarone and Representative Grainger regarding a request for Capital Budget funds. Mayor Babcock and members of the Arts Garage provided them a presentation. The Arts Garage will be submitting a proposal to the State in mid to late February.

Thank you Faternal Order of Police (F.O.P) for setting up and maintaining the skating rink at Waterworks Park. Receiving positive feedback from the hockey players and skaters.

Reminder of a meeting tomorrow morning hosted by the Port Clinton Chamber and Main Street to go over seagull mitigation. An individual from the US of Agriculture will speaking on a short-term solution for this long-term problem. Once the Special Improvement District gets up and running; seagull mitigation will be part of their regular activities and plans. Funding will be coming from that organization. Invitees for this meeting are the individual building owners, and Administration of Port Clinton to learn what they can and cannot do in regards to the seagulls.

M.O.M. is happening in 2022. Ron Nisch is working on a complete entertainment schedule. Mayor Snider was notified that the Oak Harbor Schools Choir Director wants to have an event at M.O.M. this year. In late

February early March, there will be a meeting with downtown business regarding activities and funding, etc.

With the recent Fire levy and other activities the PC Fire Department will be offering community CPR training. Chief Johnson has also opened his doors to have organizations conduct their meetings at the Fire Station. This will provide the community a chance to see the equipment and facility first hand. A tour and Q & A with the Fire Chief is available.

With the cold temperature, please check on your neighbors to make sure they have proper heat.

Ms. Hovis inquired if there are lights at the ice rink. Mr. Colston advised that the Port Clinton Police Department turn them on when they see individuals there (second shift).

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Nothing to present

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bed tax: \$5,884.25, Watercraft tax: \$0

**LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

Nothing to report

**SAFETY SERVICE**

**Resolution 22-2**

Yesterday, the Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Solid Waste District advised (during an unrelated meeting) that the Competitive Funding grant that they have had in the past is available in 2022. However, the first round of funding deadline date is Monday, January 31, 2022. The application calls for a Resolution by governing Council to be attached. This is the first the City was made aware of this. Resolution 22-2 would allow the City to also submit an application in the June funding deadline. The application being submitted for the first round will be for 6' composite material picnic tables for the City parks. Mr. Colston asked Council to consider adopting Resolution 22-2 on the first reading this evening to meet the application deadline.

Thank you to the Service Department for the snow removal these last couple of days.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Environment and Public Works Committee***

**Mrs. Hickman**

Will be scheduling a meeting in February.

***Safety Services Committee***

**Ms. Phillips**

Will be scheduling a meeting in February.

***Finance Committee***

**Ms. Hovis**

Will be scheduling a meeting in February.

***Environment and Community Development Committee***

**Mrs. Gillman**

Will be scheduling a meeting in February.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Planning Commission, December 9, 2021, minutes  
Architectural Review Board, December 9, 2021, minutes

Motion to approve correspondence as stated by Mr. Tarolli; seconded by Mrs. Hickman. All agreed.

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance 1-22**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ODOT COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE WINTER ROAD SALT CONTRACT, AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

No action taken – Ordinance 1-22 will be moved to second reading on February 8, 2022, at the regular scheduled Council meeting

**Resolution 22-1**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY  
BY INTERNET AUCTION

No action taken – Resolution 22-1 will be moved to second reading on February 8, 2022, at the regular scheduled Council meeting

**Resolution 22-2**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE OTTAWA-SANDUSKY-SENECA JOINT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO SUBMIT SUCH APPLICATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Tarolli moved to waive the three required readings on Resolution 22-2; seconded by Mrs. Hickman.

Results of voice roll call are as follows: Ms. Phillips, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Mrs. Hickman, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. Gillman, yes; and Mr. Tarolli, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

Ms. Phillips moved to retain the emergency clause on Resolution 22-2; seconded by Mr. Tarolli.

Results of voice roll call are as follows: Ms. Phillips, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Mrs. Hickman, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. Gillman, yes; and Mr. Tarolli, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

Ms. Phillips moved to adopt Resolution 22-2; seconded by Mrs. Hickman.

Results of voice roll call are as follows: Ms. Phillips, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Mrs. Hickman, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. Gillman, yes; and Mr. Tarolli, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Rules of Council**

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt the Rules of Council as presented; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

Results of voice roll call are as follows: Ms. Phillips, yes; Mr. Morgan, yes; Mrs. Hickman, yes; Ms. Hovis, yes; Mrs. Gillman, yes; and Mr. Tarolli, yes. Motion carried 6-0: per Mrs. Sarty

**Ms. Hovis** – Nothing to present

**Mr. Tarolli** – Thank you to the Street Department for the wonderful job they did on snow removal. Does the City still offer snow removal on the apron? Mr. Colston stated yes.

**Mrs. Hickman** – Nothing to present

**Mrs. Gillman** – At the latest Main Street meeting, it was confirmed that the Bourbon Chicken vendor will be at the 2022 Walleye Festival.

**Mr. Morgan** – Mr. Morgan advised Mr. Colston that he lives on an alley. He shovels his and his neighbor’s driveway. Generally, a day later, the alleys are plowed and the snow goes back in the driveway. This last storm the snow was plowed in a way that it was not placed in their driveway. Thank you!!!

**Ms. Phillips** – Noticed how the plowing went very well this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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With no further business to discuss Ms. Phillips moved to adjourn; seconded by Mrs. Hickman. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Sandra Ostheimer  
Clerk of Council

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Lisa Sarty

President of Council