

**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: Beth Gillman, Pat Hovis, Cathy King, Jerry Tarolli, Richard Morgan and Margaret Phillips. Kelly Gangle excused.

Ms. Phillips moved to approve regular meeting minutes for July 11, 2023; 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 Trish McCartney, 407 Alice Street

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Nothing to report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Last evening the first J1 Welcome Day was held downtown. J1 is a specific visa that college students from overseas obtain to work in the United States over the summer months. There are approximately 300 students in the Port Clinton, Catawba, and Marblehead area. In addition to 200 working at the islands. Yesterday's event there were 145 students in attendance from five different continents. Special thanks to: Ice Shanty, OurGuest Inn, CIC, Wolfie's, Brickhouse, Cleats, Snip & Sharon Snider, Billy Rigoni, Rich's Drive Thru, Mike Shenk Family, Port Clinton Chamber, Jet Express, DJ Hondo, Port Clinton Fire Department, Port Clinton Police Department, Port Clinton Service Department, Chief Scott, Acting Chief Gutman, Tracy Colston, Lake Erie Shores & Islands, Port Clinton Lions Club, Ida Rupp Library, Port Clinton City Schools, Parishioners from St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Firelands Presbyterian Church and St. John's Lutheran Church, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, and Tim Schneider on behalf of Senator JD Vance."

This afternoon the fence along the wetlands is being taken down. Please note that the Army Corp of Engineers request that a portion of the fence along the dune (area of sand between the beach and wetlands) to stay in place; this is to prevent the sand from going into the wetlands.

There is grass growing along the beach; this is intentional to prevent the sand from going across the street.

The Port Clinton Senior Picnic will take place at Lakeview Park on Friday, August 4, 2023, from 11 – 2 pm. The event is free to those (60) sixty years old or older.

The Port Clinton Fire Association is having their annual Chicken BBQ on Sunday, August 13, 2023, from 11 – 2 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 a meal. They can be purchased by any Fire Fighter or call 419-734-3430.

Tickets for Port Clinton Day at Fifth/Third Field is August 20, 2023. Tickets can be purchased at the Mud Hens Ticket office 419-753-4367. Jet Express will not be available, due to the dock in Toledo is under construction.

First Energy has been called to turn the street lights back on. The City has been informed that they are running (10) ten weeks behind. They will do their best to improve that date.

There are reoccurring issues at the new comfort station at the Waterworks Park. The restrooms are cleaned by our staff every day by 8:00 am. The City is receiving calls by 10:00 am that there are issues that need addressed. Recently the City installed new hand dryers to prevent paper towels from being stuffed in the commodes. However, individuals are now brining in their own paper towels and stuffing them in the commodes. The latest instances is throwing dirty diapers on the walls. We will be placing additional cameras on the outside of the comfort stations to determine who is vandalizing the building.

Back in June the Coast Guard announced that they were looking to raise the bridge “On Demand” vs. specific time. As of today, the Coast Guard has not announced their decision. The Ottawa County Commissioners office did reach out to them recently. They responded with the following “I can tell you we are still addressing all 208 comments provided and once that is complete the docket will go through the legal review process and then to the District Commander for his review”.

July 26, 2023, the Ottawa County Engineers office will close Fulton Street from Wilcox to Lockwood Road starting at 2:00 – 6:00 am. Starting at 6:00 am until August 11, 2023, it will be down to one lane for culvert repairs.

Today, Joe Miller a teacher at Port Clinton High School, has been named the Ohio District 2 Teacher of the Year. This is the first time a Port Clinton teacher has been nominated and won the award. Mr. Miller now qualifies for State Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Tarolli stated that we are all on the edge of our seats and wondering why it is taking forever.

Mayor Snider advised the local and state USDA have reviewed what we have provided for Plan A, it is now at the Federal USDA level. Even if they provided us a go ahead today, the timing of everything and asphalt plants closing when they do; plan A will not start until Spring of 2024.

AUDITOR’S REPORT

1. Forest Service Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Program

Grant application submitted June 1, 2023, \$1 billion available

The City requested \$959,000 to pay for contract urban forester, tree plantings, removal, trimming, and training for 5 years.

There are (8) eight partners in total: Ottawa County, Marblehead, Oak Harbor, Danbury, and Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

Advisory partners: Ottawa Soil and Water Conservation District, and Park District of Ottawa County.

City's match would be approx. \$400,000 of personnel costs already planned to be expended plus \$250,000 of new funds over the 5-yr grant period if awarded by Forestry Program.

Funding decision is expected in September.

2. USDOT Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program

Grant application submitted June 13, 2023.

\$350 million available for the "community program".

The City requested \$550,000 for installation of (9) nine EV charging stations or (36) thirty-six Level 2 charging ports at (4) four ports per station.

Site: Multiple (5) downtown, Lakeview Park, Magruder, City Hall, and West End Park.

Thank you to Ottawa County Commissioners for providing a letter of support.

3. USDOJ COPS Law Enforcement Technology & Equipment Earmark Request

Council approved Resolution 23-4 mid-March 2023.

Requests were submitted in March to Senator Sherrod Brown and Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

The City requested \$500,000 for (8) eight police cruisers, safety camera, and canine.

Senator Brown advanced the earmark but was not funded in committee July 13, 2023.

Thanks to Ottawa County Commissioners, Ottawa County Prosecutor, and Ottawa County Sheriff for providing letters of support.

4. State Audit

Began July 18, 2023

Please respond to requests for information, from emails with ohioauditor.gov addresses.

5. City Beautification Fund

Appropriations ordinance passed by Council in February 2023, provided for \$29,000 for the City Beautification Fund, which typically funds tree care and flower planting.

Funds were set aside in a new line item, Public Art, at \$8,800 which remains available today.

I propose to the Economic & Community Development Committee, explore with the Arts Council possibly murals, decorative wraps around city's utility boxes were discussed earlier this year, how might these funds make a meaningful improvement in the City.

6. Recreational Amenities RFP

Preliminary discussions have taken place on developing an actionable plan for new recreational amenities in the City, with Trish McCartney and Mayor Snider.

The City was awarded Ottawa County Park District funds last year to install the new playground at Portage Park.

There will be future opportunities for external funding for these improvements.

To develop an actionable plan – one informed by community input – and with the best available practices in recreation design and site selection, I believe it best to go out for bid for a qualified contractor who knows this world and has demonstrated project success in other communities.

What is being proposed is a Request for Proposals (RFP) for recreational amenity community survey and plan development. Issue the RFP in August, bids due September maybe October, and a vendor selected shortly after and get to work yet this year.

There would be a community engagement component, so we can get meaningful input on at least 3 specific amenities:

Splash pad, dog park, pickle ball court.

So outputs of the plan would ideally be

- (1) Preferred site selection aligned with utility services and accessibility – where can and should an amenity be placed within the City.
- (2) Preliminary design with cost estimates, both construction and operations and maintenance.
- (3) Timeline and forecast of external funding sources to offset direct costs to be paid with residents' tax dollars.

We would come back with an ordinance to advertise for bid.

Ms. McCartney recommended adding the baseball diamond to the specific amenities list.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bed Tax: \$112,818.65 as of July 24, 2023

Watercraft Tax: \$25,551.07 as of July 24, 2023

LAW DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Shenker advised she attended the Ohio Municipal Attorney's Conference the previous week. The following are points that she wanted to share with Council.

- Email & Text messages: when replying to an email with "Reply All". There is case law that this can be considered an "open meeting". What is suggested to do is to reply to the person and blind copy (Bcc) the others included on the email; this would break the reply all chain. This also pertains to text messages. With group text messages, all the comments (even a Thank you) is a chain and can be considered an "open meeting".
- Social Media: Council has to stay off social media and commenting on individuals posts. There is a very fine line that you are representing as yourself or as a Council Member; but you are representing the City. There has been case law on this matter. They don't want Council members perceived as providing legal advice or stating the City's position in responding.
- Executive Session: Whatever is said in Executive Session is completely private and not to leave the room.

There was a presentation on short term rentals that will be beneficial to the Safety Service Committee meeting. Ms. Shenker will draw up a draft proposed ordinance for the Safety Service Committee to review.

Mrs. Gillman inquired how are you to address questions from our constituents.

Ms. Shenker recommended sending an instant message to contact City Hall or fill out a problem report available on the City's webpage.

SAFETY SERVICE

Nothing to present

POLICE CHIEF Not present

FIRE CHIEF Not present

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Ms. Hovis

There will not be a committee meeting on August 8, 2023.

Environment and Public Works Committee

Mr. Tarolli

Nothing to present

Safety Services Committee

Ms. Phillips

Next Committee meeting will be on August 22, 2023, at 5:30 pm; to discuss short term rentals.

Economic and Community Development Committee

Mrs. Gillman

Next Committee meeting will be on August 22, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

CORRESPONDENCE

Planning Commission meeting minutes, June 22, 2023

Architectural Review Board meeting minutes, June 8, 2023

Ms. Phillips moved to approve the correspondence as stated; seconded by Mr. Tarolli. All agreed.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 23-8

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT FOR BUCKEYE COMMUNITY SEVENTY SIX LP, AN OHIO LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

No action taken – Resolution 23-8 will be moved to third reading on August 8, 2023, at the regular scheduled Council meeting

Resolution 23-9

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT FOR RAR HOSPITALITY, LLC

No action taken – Resolution 23-9 will be moved to third reading on August 8, 2023, at the regular scheduled Council meeting

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Hovis – Nothing to present

Mr. Tarolli – Nothing to present

Mrs. King – Nothing to present

Mr. Morgan – Mr. Morgan inquired with Mayor Snider about the intersection at the Armory; when will that be addressed.

Mayor Snider advised that the City received a grant for \$500,000.00. Bids request will be going out in 2023; construction 2024.

Ms. Gangle – Not present

Ms. Phillips – Everything is going fine.

Mrs. Gillman – Concerned for those with no air conditioning. The following locations are open to the public and have air conditioning: Fulton Street Café, Ida Rupp Library, and Ottawa County Museum.

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 6:37 p.m.

Sandra Ostheimer
Clerk of Council

Lisa Sarty
President of Council