

**PORT CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING**

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The special meeting of the Port Clinton City Council was held at Port Clinton City Hall with Mike Snider, President ProTem, presiding. The meeting was opened at 8:10am

The roll was called and the following Council members were present: Mike Snider, Gabe Below, Jerry Tarolli, Nicole DeFreitas and Margaret Phillips. Ron Aukerman was excused from this meeting.

Mr. Tarolli made a motion, seconded by Ms. Phillips to waive any and all irregularities in the calling and conduct of this meeting. With all those in favor, motion carried.

The Chair noted that certification has been received regarding compliance with the rules and notification of this meeting.

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**PURPOSE AND DISCUSSION:**

**A FACT FINDING TRIP TO WOOSTER, OHIO.**

Mr. Below made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tarolli to suspend all action until Council arrives in Wooster, Ohio. With all those in favor, motion carried. Council suspended the meeting at 8:12am.

Mr. Below made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tarolli to enter back into the Special Meeting. With all those in favor, motion carried. Council entered back into session at 10:30am.

Council met with Sandra from Main Street Wooster/Chamber of Commerce Building at 733 Liberty Street, Main Street, Wooster, Ohio. She reviewed what the economic standing of Wooster prior to the revitalization. They had decreased economy, decreased business, with 50% of the stores empty and 60% of the residential empty. The city had to do something. Their current project is 26 years in the making. Now the city has 5-8% vacancy. They re-invested into the downtown. It has not been an overnight success. She emphasized that they have always had Council and the Administration as a partner. She also noted that a private/public partnership is a huge portion of the deal.

Mr. Tarolli asked if the citizens have always had their back. She indicated no. It took a while to get them on board, but they did get on board. The community had events downtown throughout the year and they gradually gained the community's support behind them.

Sandra noted that they have an Economic Development Committee that helps determine who can go in the empty store fronts. They have a list of what they are looking for and who wants to have a business there.

Ms. Phillips asked about the condos and parking issues. Sandra indicated they have 12 total and 3 are left. There is parking available at the condos. Downtown there is also 1 and 3 hour free parking. She noted that she doesn't feel Port Clinton has a parking problem, she feels there is a walking and management problem. She encouraged to work with the police and Administration and don't be afraid to change and adjust with the times.

Sandra stated some starting points would be to get part of the bed tax, with the help of the Administration, obtain pledge contributions and sponsorships.

Ms. Phillips asked the number of residents in Wooster. Sandra indicated 26,000.

Mr. Snider asked how long after the revitalization did it increase the rest. Sandra noted they had a waiting list, but she emphasized that you have to go out and get the businesses and all local.

Mr. Snider asked how they got through the parking issue. She noted they used Heritage Ohio ask a huge resource to get through it. They can provide some training to get through some of the issues, such as ADA and parking.

Mr. Snider asked what is the first thing Port Clinton should do. Sandra stated a building survey then target Madison Street business owners and create a CRA (Community Reinvestment Area).

Council then visited some local businesses.

113 N. Walnut Street, Wooster, Ohio. Mike Rose met Council at this condo and gave a tour.

146 Liberty Street, Wooster, Ohio. Liberty Street Commons - Council was shown the building.

123 Liberty Street, Wooster, Ohio. Broken Rocks Restaurant

Mr. Tarolli made a motion, seconded by Mr. Below to suspend the Council Meeting for lunch. With all those in favor, motion carried. The meeting was suspended at 12:19pm.

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tarolli to enter back into the Special Meeting. With all those in favor, motion carried. The meeting entered back into session at 1:44pm

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With no further business to discuss Mr. Below made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. DeFreitas. With all those in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm

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Leah Sprenger  
Clerk of Council

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Mike Snider  
President ProTem