

June 11, 2024

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

Ms. Phillips moved to approve regular meeting minutes for May 28, 2024 and special meeting minutes for May 29, 2024, seconded by Mrs. King. 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**

*Lissa Gillman, 714 Taft Street, Port Clinton*

Ms. Gillman's statement is directed to the Administration of the City of Port Clinton regarding the lawsuit published by The Chandra Law Firm, LLC.

"Is the City taking any action to address the Safety Service Director in regard to his comments made during the recorded conversation that came out in Ms. Huskey's amended suit? It was very unnerving that his first instincts were to protect Kent Johnson's name. It makes me question the integrity of this Administration."

Is the City going to do anything about the retaliation that Rebecca Huskey also faced following her return to work? Especially with Charles Zillman's actions toward her.

Is the City Administration taking steps to make the City work place safer and setting up policy's that something like this will never happen again?

Who appoints the Civil Service Commission? Requests that if it is up to this Administration they dismiss Carl Koebel due to Rebecca Huskey's amended suit that recently came out. Because it is conflict of interest and bias."

Ms. Shenker advised that due to the pending law suit they will not be answering any questions. Anything that is said by the Administration is being used against the Administration in the law suit. Once the law suit is over she encouraged Ms. Gillman to speak with Mr. Colston.

"Mr. Johnson is suing the City now; because the City did not play into his game and did not believe the lies we found out that he made. That was a first impression conversation and over the last year there has been a lot of information that came out; which had Mr. Colston had that conversation today, it would have not been the same conversation."

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The Mayor appoints the Civil Service Commission. The City has more than once tried to remove Mr. Koebel from the Civil Service Commission. However, there is a very lengthy process to do so. The City has been advised that once the testimony has been concluded; it has not been concluded, Mr. Koebel will be addressed by the Hearing Officer.

Mr. Morgan inquired if there is any time frame when this will be done?

Ms. Shenker advised that there are two pending lawsuits and there is no time frame available.

Ms. Shenker did advise there is an investigation on the amended allegations Ms. Huskey made. Unfortunately, the City received these allegations just like everyone else when they were published. All allegations are being investigated by an outside agency.

Ms. Shenker advised that until June 6, 2023, no one knew what was going on in regard to Mr. Johnson's conduct. The City found out through Ms. Huskey's attorney, as to what was going on. The City acted very quickly to place Mr. Johnson on paid administration leave. In addition to placing Ms. Huskey on paid administrative leave as requested by her attorney. Two separate investigations have been completed by Clemons Nelson & Associates, Inc. and Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). The Clemons Nelson & Associates, Inc. investigation provided three reasons why Mr. Johnson was terminated. Since then Mr. Johnson is appealing the termination (not to be reinstated). The last hearing will take place on June 14, 2023, at Ottawa County Municipal Court, open to the public. The Henry County Prosecutor's office has been appointed to review and BCI report. We have no time line when that will be completed.

Ms. Gillman inquired if this were to happen next week, allegations of sexual assault, who would they report to?

Ms. Shenker advised that the City Policy and Procedure manual states they are to report to the Safety Service Director.

The City is working with Clemons Nelson & Associates, LLC to update the current policy and procedure manual; the last update was completed in 2014.

## **PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Nothing to present

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Two of the nine projects associated with the Forward Looking infrastructure Project (FLIP), have gone out for bid and accepted; Lakeshore Drive sidewalk / enhanced crosswalk and Plan A Phase 1. Last Friday just over \$4 million dollars was deposited the City's account. There is a Plan A, Phase 1 pre-construction meeting scheduled for June 18, 2024, in hopes of receiving a start date established. The Lakeshore Drive enhanced crosswalk pre-construction meeting was held today; expect some work to take place this summer and continue in the fall. Completion date is early 2025; the light poles are currently on back order.

This week is brush pick up. Due to the volume of brush, may not be completed until early next week.

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On May 1, 2024, the City contacted Ohio Edison to schedule the street lights to be turned off starting May 28, 2024. Unfortunately they did not meet the requested date. Ohio Edison owns all the street lights throughout the City. There isn't a switch to turn the lights off; they have to physically touch each light to turn them off. There are some lights downtown that the City can turn off.

4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks has received donated funds of \$6,120.00. Currently they are short \$3,255 to have fireworks this year. To shave Ms. Phillips hair they are \$13,080.00 short.

### **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Friday, June 7, 2024, the City closed a USDA loan for \$4.355 million at 3.5% interest rate for fifteen years. The payments will begin December 2024; will be funded by the road levy that was approved by the community.

Mr. Tarolli inquired who was awarded the contract for the last bid opening for Plan A, Phase 1.

Mr. Colston advised Erie Black Top.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bed Tax as of June 10, 2024: \$67,192.71

Watercraft Tax as of June 10, 2024: \$18,639.14

Short Term Rental Registration Fee as of June 10, 2024: \$53,700.00

### **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

Nothing to present

### **SAFETY SERVICE REPORT**

Nothing to present

### **ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**

Not present

**POLICE CHIEF** Not present

**FIRE CHIEF** Not present

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### ***Finance Committee***

**Ms. Hovis**

Nothing to present

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***Environment and Public Works Committee***

**Mr. Tarolli**

Will advise of a committee meeting in the near future.

***Safety Services Committee***

**Ms. Phillips**

Nothing to present

***Economic and Community Development Committee***

**Mrs. Gillman**

Nothing to present

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

**Mr. Morgan** – Nothing to present

**Ms. Gangle** – Nothing to present

**Ms. Phillips** – With brush pick up this week; have seen individuals place fallen limbs in the boulevard.

**Ms. Hovis** – Nothing to present

**Mr. Tarolli** – The street crew is doing a fabulous job, with being shorthanded.

**Mrs. King** – Nothing to present

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**Mrs. Gillman** – No one wants to see or smell the May Flies; but they don't bite or sting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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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 6:21 p.m.

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Sandra Ostheimer  
Clerk of Council

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Lisa Sarty  
President of Council