

January 28, 2025

**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, Richard Morgan, Margaret Phillips. Beth Gillman, Avery Robinson, Jerry Tarolli and Cathy King.

Ms. Phillips moved to approve regular meeting minutes for January 14, 2025; seconded by Mr. Robinson. All agreed.

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

**GUEST PRESENTATION**

Richard Norgard, Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy

- See attachment

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

Under first reading this evening:

- Ordinance 2-25
  - Will not be assigned to a committee. Administration asks that Council consider adopting at the first reading; due to being time sensitive.
- Ordinance 3-25
  - Will not be assigned to a committee. Administration asks that Council consider adopting at the first reading; due to being time sensitive.

Under Business from The Floor the 2025 Rules of Council are listed; if Council so chooses you may adopt them at that time.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Happy New Year!!!

Congratulations to Team Jerry's Angels. They participated in the Oak Harbor DECA fundraiser for ALS. They didn't come first or last, but they beat Mr. Tarolli's his sister's team.

The city water bills were estimated this past month due to the extremely cold weather. Adjustments will be made on the next billing cycle.

Vicki Gresh has recently been appointed to the Civil Service Commission. Ms. Gresh is a long-time resident of the community and was a math teacher at the Port Clinton High School.

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A little over a year ago, City Council adopted Ordinance 24-23 (Short Term Rental Registration). The ordinance calls for a Board of Appeals. The following individuals have been appointed: Renee Stine-Bolte, Steve Polter, and Brian Baugh.

Recently the city has conducted interviews for the Utility Department, Heavy Equipment Operator and the Fire Department, Fire Chief. Individuals have been chosen, an official announcement will come at a later date.

The evening of Tuesday, January 14, 2025, the Mayor, Safety Service Director, Law Director, Special Project Coordinator and Wastewater Treatment Foreman attended a public hearing held by the EPA at Camp Perry. To be clear the City of Port Clinton did nothing or had no role in this other than being an entity that had a Waster Water Treatment Plant permit that was up for renewal. In the entire history of the relationship with the Ohio / USA EPA and City of Port Clinton there has never been an objection to a permit renewal. US EPA made an objection to Euclid, Ohio based on phosphorus discharge into Lake Erie several years ago, similar to the one Port Clinton has received. There is nothing that Port Clinton can do; this is between Ohio and US EPA to work out between one another. After the public hearing for Euclid, Ohio, it took two years and two months to resolve. This issue is prohibiting the city doing any future plans to the Wastewater treatment plant.

Dina Shenker advised that the public meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> was a positive meeting for the city. The State EPA gave praise for what the City of Port Clinton is doing. It was a very productive meeting.

Happy Wedding Anniversary Mr. Tarolli (23 years).

Go BUCKS!!!!

## **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Ordinance 3-25

This ordinance authorizes the city to advertise requests for qualifications for the Urban Forestry Grant that the city was awarded. Please consider adopting this evening, due to the movement in Washington D.C. that occurred today.

Yesterday the White House office of Management Budget initiated a freeze on all federal spending for financial assistance, not contracts but grants, loans, and any other financial instruments. The above ordinance will fall under the freeze. There was a challenge in Washington D.C. that halted the freeze until Monday, February 3, 2025, 5:00 pm to figure things out. Regardless, there will be a review of all federal spending; traditionally there is a review not a freeze.

The audit on fiscal year 2023 of the City of Port Clinton should be wrapped up in February by the State Auditors.

Reminder that continuing education is required by all elected officials during each term to be completed. The State Auditors do review the continuing education requirements to confirm all are compliant.

## **TREASURERS REPORT**

Report not available.

## **LAW DIRECTOR REPORT**

Ordinance 2-25

- Chapter 139 outdated. The following changes needed update:
  - 139.11 – clothing allowance for all exempt employees.
  - 139-12 – compensatory time provided to all full-time employees that are not covered by the collective bargaining agreement, with exception of the Director of Safety and Service, Chief of Police and Fire Chief.
  - 139.14 Exempt employees in all departments to be included.

Republic Services

After consideration the Administration is considering extending the current contract with Republic Services through December 2025. The city would post the RFQ for trash / recycling and trash only in July or August 2025. If Republic Services did not get the next contract, they will have time to remove their bins and allow the community to make the vendor change to start 2026. Cyclone Services has recently been purchased by Rumpke Waste & Recycling; they are in the process of transitioning everything over.

Mr. Colston has consulted with our representative of Republic Services and is waiting for their response.

Mr. Tarolli inquired if using smaller trucks / damage to the road been discussed with Republic Services.

Yes, this allows Republic Services time to review what they can do.

Mr. Morgan inquired is the future contract a closed contract.

Ms. Shenker advised yes. The current contract was enacted in 2019 and that was the first time an exclusive waste / recycle remover was required to be used by all single family and dual family residences in the City of Port Clinton. Also, the current ordinance does not specify what a tri-plex property must follow; this would be updated at this time also.

Mr. Colston advised he expects a small increase for the ten-month extension requested by Republic Services to consider. They had a small increase when the city extended, the contract for a year last year. The type of improvements to service that the city is requesting of Republic is not to drive the curb lane (the weakest portion of the road), on the stub streets (8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and a portion of 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>) go down once and get both sides at the same time. This would prevent the trucks going down those roads four times

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on recycling weeks. They have been notified that the city will be watching the roads and determining what damage their trucks are contributing to any damage.

Ms. Shenker advised the Council that the Civil Service Commission upheld Kent Johnson's termination. Mr. Johnson has appealed to the Common Pleas Court.

Mr. Morgan inquired we are hiring a new Fire Chief anyway?

Ms. Shenker advised yes.

## **SAFETY SERVICE REPORT**

Nothing to present

## **ECONOMIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**

Mr. Christman advised that an email went out recently to all elected officials and supervisors on the new website. Asking these individuals to review and advise of any need corrections, improvements and suggestions. The go live date for the website is March 2025.

## **POLICE CHIEF**

Not present

## **INTERIEM FIRE CHIEF**

Not present

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Finance Committee***

#### **Ms. Hovis**

Nothing to report

### ***Environment and Public Works Committee***

#### **Mr. Tarolli**

Nothing to present

### ***Safety Services Committee***

#### **Ms. Phillips**

Conducted a meeting earlier this evening

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***Economic and Community Development Committee***

**Mrs. Gillman**

Nothing to report

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

None

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 25-2**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY INTERNET AUCTION

No action taken – Resolution 25-2 will be moved to third reading on February 11, 2025, at the regular scheduled Council meeting

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance 2-25**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 139 OF THE CITY OF PORT CLINTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Mr. Tarolli moved to waive the three required readings of Ordinance 2-25; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

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

Mr. Tarolli moved to retain the emergency clause of Ordinance 2-25; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

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

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Ordinance 2-25; seconded by Ms. Hovis.

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**Ordinance 3-25**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SERVICE TO ADVERTISE FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR URBAN FORESTRY PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENC

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**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Mr. Tarolli moved to adopt Rules of Council, January 28, 2025; seconded by Ms. Hovis. All agreed.

**Mr. Morgan** – If anyone has lost a wheel and rim it is located in my neighbor’s front yard on Harrison Street.

Briefly reviewed the website, was happy to see the ward map very accessible.

Agrees with Mr. Norgard that Waterworks Park should be considered to be called Lighthouse Park.

**Mr. Robinson** – Nothing to present

**Ms. Phillips** – Agrees that the community consider changing Waterworks Park to Lighthouse Park.

Mrs. Sarty advised changing the name of the park, The Lighthouse Conservancy would need to contact a lawyer, and it would need to be placed on the ballot for community members to vote.

**Ms. Hovis** – Participated in the ALS trivia fundraiser; it was a really good night.

**Mr. Tarolli** – Be safe out there.

**Mrs. King** – Happy Wedding Anniversary to Mr. Tarolli.

**Mrs. Gillman** – Kudos to the Tree Commission and the City with the high winds and branches not falling down.

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Happy Ground Hog Day.

**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 7:06 p.m.

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Sandra Ostheimer  
Clerk of Council

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Lisa Sarty  
President of Council



## **PCLC President's Report to the Port Clinton City Council Delivered January 28, 2025**

As president of the Port Clinton Lighthouse Conservancy, it is my pleasure to provide this annual update of our activities and accomplishments.

The health of the Conservancy is good. The total amount in our various liquid accounts was over \$50,000. Our "rainy day fund", which, per our agreement with the city, is reserved for emergencies only, has grown to over \$50,000.

Our revenue stream is derived primarily from annual memberships, general donations, lighthouse tours, merchandise sales, and the occasional endowment. We also rely on grant money to help fund our lighthouse festival, grounds maintenance, and repairs. The sale of merchandise in the Keeper's Boathouse, online sales, and from our merchant partners in the community contributed almost \$11,000. Our top-selling item was the Lighthouse Passport book.

As of the end of the first of this year, we have 126 members, or Keepers, plus an additional 112 Charter and Lifetime members.

Our major expenses are related to maintenance of the lighthouse and boathouse, as well as groundskeeping and landscaping. Preserving a 128-year-old wooden structure that is constantly exposed to the elements, and which was never designed to exist as long as it has, presents a continuing and considerable challenge and one that we take very seriously.

We are committed to making our historic lighthouse accessible to the public. Our volunteer docents conducted 250 tours in 2024, and an equal number of free tours. In addition to providing free tours to our members in their families, children 10 and under may tour the lighthouse for free, and we conduct many tours on request for special groups.



Last year we held our seventh annual Lighthouse and Maritime Festival, which was our most successful yet. Notable as our first-ever partnership with the United Way of Ottawa County for their Incredible Rubber Duck Race. Our thanks to Mayor Snider for his support of that event. The United Way was excited about the success of the event and they plan to join with us again next year.

Early last year I was contacted by Louise Clemons Terry regarding the placement of a "free library" near the lighthouse. This project was the brainchild of her granddaughter, Bella, as part of her high school community service project. The concept was for a "flight" theme that would honor Harold Brown. They assembled volunteers and installed the library adjacent to the Keeper's Boathouse and we held a dedication ceremony in May with city officials on hand.

We have been talking to the city for some time about paving Washington Street parking lot. We are excited to learn that the Port Clinton Recreation Amenities Plan includes this needed upgrade to the lighthouse area. We look forward to having input into the design of this parking area.

The lighthouse continues to be a major draw for folks visiting our community. It's history is Port Clinton's history, but I would also suggest that its future represents Port Clinton's future. That is why I respectfully ask you to consider the efficacy of changing the name of Waterworks Park to Lighthouse Park. There are generations now who are unaware of what a waterworks was or is. But if you say Lighthouse Park, they will know exactly what you're talking. Food for thought. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Rich Norgard  
PCLC President  
For the PCLC Board