

Minutes of March 20, 2025 Council

Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio City Council
Clayton Government Center
March 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stevens at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Stevens and Councilmembers Farmer, Henning, Gorman, Merkle, Kelly, and Bachman.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Tony Thomas and Linda Blum presented Northmont Schools' Reduction Plan and asked for support for their upcoming levy.

Randy Sanders, Public Service Director, introduced Clayton's Service Department's new employee, Seth Ryan

Mayor Stevens gave his annual State of the City address

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Seim presented the minutes of the March 6, 2025 Council meeting. Councilman Farmer asked that under Old Business, paragraph four be modified with a clarification on his statement. Motion by Gorman, second by Kelly to approve the minutes as amended. All yeas, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 23 A Resolution Declaring the Necessity of Repairing and/or Removing and Replacing Curbs, Gutters, Sidewalks, and Driveway Approaches within the City of Clayton, Ohio Relative to the Properties Identified on the Attached Exhibit A. Randy Sanders, Public Service Director, advised we have completed inspections for the 2025 curb, gutter, and driveway approach program. Individual letters will be sent to each property owner containing the parcel number and address of the property, the noted deficiencies, and an estimated cost for the city to make the repairs. Property owners will have a minimum of 30 days to make repairs, or the city will make the repairs and the cost of repairs will be filed with the county auditor's office and assessed on property taxes. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, second by Kelly. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-yes, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-abstain, and Stevens-yes. Motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 24 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management, LLC for a New 2025 Bucket Truck for Use by the Street Department at a Total Cost of \$233,935.00. Sanders advised this new 2025 Ford 550 bucket truck will replace the 2007 International Low Pro truck. The Low Pro truck, a multi-use truck, is in very poor condition and has served as one of our plow trucks as well as our bucket truck for years. This truck will no longer be a part of our fleet and will be auctioned off in the

summer of 2025. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, second by Farmer. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 25 A Resolution to Declare Surplus Equipment Available for Disposal through Sale or Auction. Matt Hamlin, Police Chief, advised our 2020 Ford Police Interceptor was formerly part of the police fleet, needs a transmission replacement, and is no longer cost effective to maintain. Therefore, the Ford Police Interceptor is requested to be deemed surplus and disposed of in a manner prescribed by law. To minimize the cost of disposing of this item, and to maximize the amount to be recovered on the sale of such item, staff recommends we place the vehicles for resale at GovDeals. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 26 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Lease Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management. LLC for a New 2025 Ford Interceptor Utility SUV for use by the Police Department at a Total Cost of \$63,771.00. Chief Hamlin advised the new 2025 Police Interceptor will replace one of the oldest marked cruisers in the police fleet, having mileage of at/or near 100,000 miles, and is part of the ongoing fleet maintenance/replacement schedule. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 27 A Resolution Approving a Contract with the Clayton Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 4379, for the Period April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager, asked that this Resolution be moved to after an Executive Session. Motion by Henning to move the reading of this Resolution until after a discussion during Executive Session, motion was seconded by Merkle. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 28 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Five (5) Year Agreement with Stryker Medical Emergency Care to Provide Repair and Maintenance to Fire Department Equipment at an Annual Cost of \$15,202.02 with the Total Cost to the City for the Five (5) Year Agreement Not to Exceed \$76,010.10. Chief Garver advised the fire department utilizes Stryker to conduct annual preventative maintenance as well as repairs to all our Stryker equipment. This includes 2 heart monitors, 2 power cots, 2 load systems, 1 stair chair, and 1 LUCAS device. These devices are utilized often if not every day in life-saving situations and require high level preventive maintenance to ensure they are working properly. This contract also covers repairs and labor when needed during the 5-year contract. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, second by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 29 A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of One (1) 2027 Medic Unit for Use by the Fire Department Utilizing the State Bid at a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$360,000.00. Chief Garver advised the Fire Department's intent is to utilize a front out medic for 7-10 years as well as get an estimated 150,000 miles on the unit before replacing it. The medic will be 8 years old when the replacement arrives and has an estimated 200,000 miles. Currently the building time for a medic unit is 30 months, thus the reason for the early request to purchase. The amount is also an estimate due to the fact there is no pricing from Ford on a 2027 chassis as well pricing from other vendors (Yipe Stripes and P&R Communications) for 2027. We have estimated what we think is a reasonable inflation factor, but it is still an estimate. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 30 A Resolution Authorizing the Use of Law Enforcement Trust Funds in the Amount of \$4,000.00 for Law Enforcement Training Purposes. Chief Hamlin advised due to budget constraints, the police department training budget was cut, however we can utilize the Law Enforcement Trust Funds, acquired through participation with the RANGE Task Force, for training and equipment purposes. These funds will be utilized for attendance at multiple conferences which offer additional executive training for upper-command staff. We are requesting \$4,000.00 from the Law Enforcement Trust Funds to be appropriated into the current police training budget. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 31 A Resolution Approving Amendment of 2025 Appropriations and Estimated Resources. Kevin Schweitzer, Finance Director, advised the Service department is leasing a bucket truck that was not included in the 2025 budget. There are carryover funds to cover this cost for the 2025 expenses. The sale of the current bucket truck will be done via GovDeals and proceeds will be placed back into the CIP fund. Additionally, the Police department wants to use \$4,000 for training purposes from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, second by Merkle. All yeas, motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Amanda Zimmerlin, City Manager, advised our Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday April 12th at Meadowbrook at Clayton, it starts at 9:30 a.m. sharp, so be there early as it goes quickly. We have discovered that we are having a slight issue with some basketball hoops in the right of way. In 2008 we passed Ordinance O-08-08-14 creating the Clayton codified ordinance 311.04 basketball equipment in city streets. This Ordinance prohibits the permanent placement or portable basketball hoop placement in city right of ways. The street department has encountered issues with plowing the streets and sweeping due to the continued placement of these poles. We will be sending out a letter to residents that we've seen that have these in the right of way. Chief, Randy and I have had conversations about the portable basketball hoops in the street or at cul-de-sacs. It's not so much we don't want children playing, it's when you're finished pull them out of the roadway. The letters are going to go out and if they have questions, they can call Randy or me. You also have in your City Manager report the blinds that were included in the CIP for 2025. They have been replaced at Meadowbrook and they look beautiful. They look very nice and hopefully you will have an opportunity to get over there to take a look at them in person. The parks advisory commission has moved their meeting dates from the second Tuesday of each month to the second Wednesday of each month. This was to accommodate schedules and proper notification will be given about the change to the meeting date. At the last meeting Mr. Farmer talked about Council Rules and the possible augmentation of those, after discussion Council agreed to schedule a work session to discuss further. I've had a request from a developer to ask about a work session for a future development and I would like to get that moved forward. The Taywood and Westbrook Road property that's been cleared, I know people have had questions about that and I was aware they were going to want to submit to the Planning Commission eventually. They have indicated they would like to build at that location, and its currently zoned residential single family. We have been in contact with American Structure Point, the engineer for the property, they have reached out to staff and requested that Council hold a work session to discuss their plans prior to submission to Planning Commission. They have requested that Council hold a work session at the April 3, 2025 meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. CCA's tax assistance schedule has been finalized, residents will need to schedule an appointment by calling

Eric Hine at 216-857-3174 or Michelle Jordan at 216-857-7382 and they will be here at the city next Tuesday March 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then Thursday, April 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the sessions are held here in the Council Chambers. The Montgomery County soil and water project at Hoke and Wenger, the city received notice that that project is slated to begin on the 1st of April. It was sold to C&M Farm Drain and they plan to have the work done by July of 2025.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Earl Harlamert of Clayton's Park Commission advised they started their park clean up last Saturday but it was rained out, we will be rescheduling. Parks Commission members will be stuffing eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, that will be held April 12th. During the month of July we will be holding exercise classes each week and will be using different instructors each week, so there will be options for everyone.

Jon Gudorf addressed Council on issues he is having with a neighbor's dogs. Four were loose recently and attacked his dog and he was bit when he saved his dog. They have been dealing with this issue for years, but the Police, ARC and Courts have their hands tied. This issue has gone through the Courts 28 times with no resolution. Law Director Dillon asked for copies of the cases and she will look into the matter.

Izzy Mair spoke on the dog issue, stating at one point there were 12 dogs at that property, and they keep getting out. She shared her concerns that someone may eventually be a victim and didn't want to be someone who stood on the sideline and not come forward.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Bachman thanked Mr. Thomas and Ms. Blum for the presentation earlier this evening. I am a '03 Northmont grad, starting at Northmoor. I remember as a kid there were levy issues back then, it took a couple of times but the community in the end usually comes around in support of the schools. Hopefully this time it will, after a couple of times, especially the first time being so close. I support the levy, and you can put a sign in my yard.

Kelly I am a Northmont grad as well and support the levy personally. You have to know the facts, if you don't know the facts, please educate yourself before you vote. I think it's vitally important to go out and vote for it, not to mention our property values are on the line if it's not. It's like a circle of life, everyone that supports Northmont even if you have a child or don't have a child, grandparents or whoever, it's just very important to support your schools. The new blinds at Meadowbrook, I had a shower for my daughter and tried to open the old blinds to get the beautiful view and I think I broke the blind, so thank goodness that the new ones are in.

Merkle stated I'm just going to add on to what the message already been said, it's the community that supports the school, the school supports the community. As one grows and develops and is recognized, the other one is recognized and grows as well. The two are related and if the school fails in this city, the community fails so I think it's important to make that decision as far as where you stand in support. Unfortunately, the message that was given by the school board when they were here was that you read the local paper, there has been stories recently about what the state budget looked like and the one item that was in the paper not too long ago was how the state was reappropriating monies from the education fund. Essentially it will go to support vouchers and things other than basically supporting the school systems. When you take a billion dollars out of the budget and redirect it someplace else other than supporting the schools where

does the money come from, it comes from us as far as our tax dollars, as far as our properties. Unfortunately, Ms. Blum had a Chamber of Commerce session last year when she asked that question and it seems like there is a lesser priority on the state level as far as supporting and funding education. It's unfortunate because we pay for it and I question whether or not the guys in Columbus actually care and that's my opinion. We all end up having to pay for it. I'm on a fixed income and I have to make decisions as far as how I spend my money and I have to support the community. I'm going to have to make some decisions as far as other things that I do because what I need to do is support the community. I hope that people who have questions about what's needed to be done ask the person with the knowledge for information and not rely on rumor mills.

Gorman I too would like to promote the school levy because as everyone knows we do need good schools, and also I'd like to welcome Seth Ryan to our city and wish him a long and happy tenure here.

Henning stated I wanted to thank Meadowbrook's staff for hosting the Northmont Education Foundation auction a few weeks ago, over \$27,000 was raised for scholarships for Northmont seniors. It was great to see so many people from the community. I know Ms. Kelly donated to the NEF auction and it was a great event, so thank you to everybody that attended. In regards to the police and service recognition tonight; police, fire, service obviously we appreciate your efficiency and response times, they're amazing. We said it tonight, you're the experts. Put something on our agenda, we usually approve it because you know what you're doing and the residents really do appreciate that. Mayor, I wanted to thank you for the State of the City tonight. We may not agree on everything, but I would say I think the speech on future opportunities was nice, you highlighted the City's plan. I would say that we should be open to maybe changing the plan because it was adopted five plus years ago and I believe we can make it better and work for the residents. I think a future opportunity would be engaging residents more and seeking their input. I hope in the future we can survey and seek more from them as to what they would want to see here in our City. I agree with needing to create a strong local economy, it was awesome to hear about Caterpillar's investment in Clayton and then of course Bella Sorella posted that they put their ground down and started putting up walls. Finally, I would agree with everybody up here that Northmont is an extremely important component of our community, it does a phenomenal job with student preparation for the future. I obviously have a son who goes to Kleptz and I am a 2008 graduate, my wife is a 2009 graduate, my parents went to Northmont, and my Mom works at Northmont. We've been in the community for a long time and I am always grateful for the education I had from Northmont that enabled me to go to the University of Dayton for my undergrad and grad studies. I obviously support the levy; it sounds like we all did so far. I would obviously be in favor of maybe putting on the next agenda a proclamation for it or something from the City.

Farmer well I guess I'm the odd duck; I'm not from around here but I will say schools are important. Northmont is critical, to not just Clayton, but to Union and Englewood, so I'm on board with whatever we can do to support our schools. Earl, I want to say thanks to the Parks Commission for everything you're doing. I was late on Saturday and so everybody was gone but I did get a nice tour of all the parks looking for people. We have some great parks and after last night's storm we have a lot more sticks to pick up so I'm looking forward to that, whenever that is. Thanks to our residents tonight for sharing your concerns, I appreciate that. That was the point I wanted to make tonight that if you're a resident out there and you've got a concern with the city whether just something local with your own place or reviewing city documents, please

reach out to us as Council, we would enjoy the opportunity to address that. I've had the opportunity a few times over the past few weeks, it's very insightful to get a resident perspective on things that maybe I wasn't seeing, so I just want to encourage our residents out there to reach out to us if you have concerns.

Stevens advised I am supporting the levy, me and mine are all voting yes and it's really important. It sounds like we're in a pretty well consensus on that up here, so I want to thank everybody for that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Law Director Dillon advised that an Executive Session is needed this evening pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(4) to discuss negotiations with bargaining unit members regarding terms and conditions of employment as well as compensation. Motion by Henning to go into Executive Session, motion was seconded by Merkle. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-yes, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-yes. Motion passed 7-0. Council broke at 9:13 PM. Council returned at 9:28 PM. Motion by Gorman to go back to regular session, motion was seconded by Merkle. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-yes, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-yes. Motion passed 7-0.

Resolution No. R – 03 – 25 – 27 A Resolution Approving a Contract with the Clayton Professional Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 4379, for the Period April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027. Motion by Gorman to approve this Resolution, motion was seconded by Merkle. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Gorman, second by Henning to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.