

Minutes of November 6, 2025 Council

Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio City Council
Clayton Government Center
November 6, 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.

CLERK'S REPORT

Mayor Stevens presented the minutes of the October 16, 2025 Council meeting. Motion by Henning, second by Gorman to approve the minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Earl Harlmert of the Clayton Parks Commission advised we had a nice turnout for our Costumes and Carvings on October 26th. Our next event will be Breakfast with Santa, which will be held December 13th at 9 am. There are only 200 tickets, they go on sale November 18th, and will sell out in a few hours.

Paulette Farmer congratulated her Husband, Ryan Farmer, for winning the election for Clayton's next Mayor.

Ken Braswell was following up on letter he sent Council recently regarding signage for cycling and ride share markings on Haber Road. Mayor Stevens advised our Public Service Department is currently working on this.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance No. O – 10 – 25 – 27 An Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Accept the Dedication of the Specified Rights-of-Way at Hunters Path Phase 1. Second reading, no further discussion. Motion by Gorman to approve the Ordinance, motion was second by Merkle. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-no, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-yes. Motion passed 6-1.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance No. O – 11 – 25 – 28 An Ordinance Increasing the Competitive Bid Allowance by Twenty Percent (20%), Amending the City of Clayton Codified Ordinances Accordingly, and Declaring an Emergency. Kevin Schweitzer, Finance Director, advised he did not know why this was an emergency as it is not required, it can have two readings and wait 30 days for enactment. Clayton's Charter allows us to amend our Competitive Bid Allowance by 20% each year. Motion by Farmer to amend this Ordinance to remove the emergency clause, motion was second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried. Motion by Gorman to approve the amended Ordinance, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Ordinance No. O – 11 – 25 – 29 An Ordinance to Approve Current Replacement Pages to the Clayton Codified Ordinances. Motion by Gorman to approve the Ordinance, second by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

Ordinance No. O – 11 – 25 – 30 An Ordinance Declaring the Necessity for and Approving the Appropriation of Certain Interests in Real Property for the Hoke Road Widening Phase I Project; Authorizing the Law Director to File Petitions for Appropriation and to Deposit the Value of the Takings and Damages; and Providing for Procedural Requirements. Motion by Gorman to approve the Ordinance, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 11 – 25 – 76 A Resolution Authorizing the Submittal of Applications for Federal IJA Funds through the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, second by Gorman. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 11 – 25 – 77 A Resolution Appointing Randy Sanders to the Board of Directors of the Clay Township / City of Clayton Joint Economic Development District. Motion by Kelly to approve the Resolution, second by Farmer. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 11 – 25 – 78 A Resolution Appointing Elaine Wittman as an Alternate to the Clay Township / City of Clayton Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) Board. Motion by Merkle to approve the Resolution, motion was seconded by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Elaine Wittman, Interim City Manager, advised City offices will be closed on Tuesday November 11th in recognition of Veteran's Day. I would like to request a Work Session on November 20th at 6:30 p.m. for the proposed 2026 budget. The first meeting in January falls on the 1st which is New Year's day. After discussion Council agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, January 5th at 7:30 p.m. for swearing in of new officials and housekeeping items. Councilman Henning asked Ms. Wittman to advertise for applicants for the vacant Ward 1 seat beginning in January. Wittman stated in August Council requested the Planning Commission create a report on the possibly of the reestablishment of zoning districts. At the October 27th Planning Commission meeting they received a presentation from McBride Dale Clarion on three options. The Commission is seeking additional guidance and a collective opinion from Council on how to proceed. After discussion Council decided to hold a joint work session with the Planning Commission after the first of the year. Wittman also updated Council on issues with Frontier's subcontractor cutting electrical and cable lines in the Summersweet subdivision. We are working with Frontier to have them obtain a new subcontractor before they move to other areas of the City.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Farmer stated I appreciate everyone coming out on election day to vote that is our right, I think we had a great turnout, and the pole workers did a great job. Candidates were out trying to make their case to the voters, and thank you for coming out. I'm excited to see Breakfast with Santa coming back, we weren't able to have it last year, hopefully I will be around to experience that and support that. Henning stated I would encourage any Clayton resident in Ward 1C, if you are in that area stop by Bella Sorella, they would greatly appreciate that. They have a petition going on right now to sell wine and liquor at their establishment. I want to thank Earl and staff for the carvings event. Thank you, Ken Braswell for coming tonight to present for the road share signage. I agree it would make sense, especially with us having that multi-use path on National. I want to congratulate Ms. Kelly, Misty McDowell, and Dana York for their elections to City

Council and congratulations Ryan on your election to become Mayor. Finally, I hope Washington DC politicians are able to get the government open soon because I know people are hungry, Northmont Fish is doing a tremendous job helping more people than normal. Also with flights being delayed, it's going to be a huge interruption to the economy. Hopefully, this will end in the very near future. Gorman stated I would like to thank Earl for the Costumes and Carvings, the children had a great time; and also thank you to Randy (Sanders), Matt (Hamlin) and Brian (Garver) for the open house. Everyone enjoyed the fire engines and equipment, and the children had a good time and as did many of the parents. I would like to thank everyone that ran for election on Tuesday and congratulate those that won. Merkle stated thank you for those who took the time to go out and vote on Tuesday, it's your constitutional right to vote. Getting out and expressing your opinions and your position regardless of who you voted for is always important. One thing of interest and maybe disquieting is what you hear at polling locations and how people make their decisions. We're supposed to be a community and a nation of coming together and working together. I heard a number of times people say, "I'm not voting for that person because they're a Democrat or I'm not voting for that person because of". The most disturbing thing I heard was, "They're not voting for that person because they're Jewish", it basically was against Dennis Lieberman, it caught me by surprise, and I didn't know how to respond to the person's comment. In this day and age it's disquieting when people in our own community still express that type of feeling towards people. It takes you back a little bit, that's not how I was raised, I don't find that type of commentary acceptable and I hope I never have to listen to it again. On the positive side, thank you for the support you gave to the City in terms of voting. While I didn't win my re-election, that's fine, I'm okay. I can walk away from this position with my head up knowing that I did the best I could for the community. Kelly thanked the Parks Commission and my Father for running a great Costumes and Carvings. I felt like that was one of the biggest Costumes and Carvings we've had, and it went smoothly. Thank you to Diane and Kevin Schweitzer, I don't think they've ever missed the Costumes and Carvings or any of the Parks Commission events. I want to mention that we do have some vacancies on the Parks Commission, and we need more volunteers. Thank you for everyone that came out to vote and thank you for pretty much a clean campaign and an honest campaign with the exception of someone that likes to smear social media campaigns in that respect. Thank you and congratulations to Dana, Misty, and Ryan, and I hope in the future that we can unite and not divide. Bachman stated next Tuesday is Veterans Day, so it is only proper for the City offices to be closed to recognize the Veterans all over the nation but especially in our community. Chief Hamlin was in the Army before coming here to make this one of the safest communities in the State, so thank you for that. We've had a couple of events recently, the open house that is always well attended especially with great weather; sorry I couldn't make the Costumes and Carvings, it looked like on social media it was extremely well attended and went really well. Stevens stated I want to thank Earl for all your work, you go above and beyond and everyone that helps definitely appreciates that, and our community appreciates that also. I want to keep in front of Council we still have two interim positions, It may be pushed until next year if we can do that as long as these individuals are okay with that, they've both have done a fantastic job. We have used search companies in the past, and I thought the last one we used was great. We definitely want to firm that up and so I appreciate both of you for what you're doing. As far as the election I want to say Todd, you came up short, but I commend you for sticking your neck out. It's easy to watch, and talk to your neighbors and things like that, but it's different when you put your name on the sign and all of a sudden everyone is focused on you. Not everyone can do that and not many people

will do that. It didn't come out the way you wanted, but I do hope that doesn't discourage you from the future, you did a good job. Dennis and Greg, you both came up short this time around, but you both have been very valuable members and participants in our community for a long time. You've done more for our community than I or many of us will ever do, we appreciate that. Tina, congratulations, you're back, I'm glad to see you back and I know you'll continue doing the great job that you've done. Misty and Dana, congratulations, it's going to be interesting to see what these folks bring to the table and hopefully it will make things better, that is what we're all looking for. Congratulations to Ryan Farmer who will be your Mayor in January. This world is made up of a lot of different ideas and your ideas and my ideas are probably never going to be close, but we have a lot of common ground. If you have different ideas, maybe it's better, and that is what I'm looking for because I'm still a resident and I need all of you to succeed because I'm a resident here, I'm not moving. I wish you the best and that goes for everyone. As usual, I want to say thanks to our staff, we have the best staff of any City, let alone a city this size and you wear a lot of hats and it's a lot of work, you do a fantastic job. Thanks to all of our Council and thanks to all the residents for watching and voting and coming to our meetings.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.