

Minutes of December 18, 2025 Council

Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio City Council
Clayton Government Center
December 18, 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 PRESENTATIONS

Randy Sanders, Public Service Director, recognized Steve White for his retirement from the City after 15 years, in addition to 33 years of service to the City of Trotwood.

Police Chief Hamlin presented Certificates of Merit to Detective Brad Campbell and Detective Kasey Ballinger, an investigator with the Oakwood Public Safety Department and the Miami Valley Human Trafficking Task Force for their investigation of sexual abuse involving current and former students at several local high schools in the Miami Valley. The allegations of sexual abuse were said to be committed by a now former local high school bus driver, who has been indicted by the Montgomery County Grand Jury on 82 charges related to sexual abuse. He was arrested by members of the RANGE Task Force and the United States Marshals Service and is currently being held at the Montgomery County Jail on a \$1,000,000.00 bond.

Police Lieutenant Paul Nabel recognized Police Officer Cody Cecil and presented him with a Certificate of Merit. Officer Cecil was shot while in the line of duty, and due to his injuries is unable to return to the Police Department. Chief Hamlin presented him with a Plaque in recognition of his retirement and Sergeant Schutte on behalf of the Police Association presented him with an engraved retirement pistol.

Sergeant Schutte recognized the long career of Police Chief Matt Hamlin who is retiring at the end of the year. Chief Hamlin was presented with a plaque, an engraved retirement pistol, and a signed street sign from the employees of the City.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Earl Harlamert of Clayton's Parks Commission thanked Chief Hamlin for being Santa Clause at our annual Breakfast with Santa event, thanked the Council members who volunteered to serve at the event, and stated the Parks Commission is looking forward to all their events next year.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Seim presented the minutes of the December 4, 2025 Council meeting. Motion by Gorman, second by Kelly to approve the minutes as presented. Voting: Farmer-yes, Henning-abstain, Gorman-yes, Merkle-yes, Kelly-yes, Bachman-yes, and Stevens-yes. Vote passed 6-0 with one abstention.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance No. O – 12 – 25 – 34 An Ordinance Adopting the 2026 Job Categories and Wage Scale for the City of Clayton, Ohio; Establishing Classifications, Pay Grades, and Compensation Administration and Declaring an Emergency. Second reading, no further discussion. Motion by Gorman to approve the Ordinance as an emergency, second by Merkle. All yeas, motion carried. Motion by Merkle to approve the Ordinance, second by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. R – 12 – 25 – 81 A Resolution Approving Amendment of 2025 Appropriations and Estimated Resources. Kevin Schweitzer, Finance Director, advised these are additional appropriations and expenditures approvals needed to close out this year's budget. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, second by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 12 – 25 – 82 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Enter Into a Contract for Inspection of the Hoke Road Widening Project. Randy Sanders, Public Service Director, advised this is for phase 1 of the Hoke Road widening project. This first phase of the project will start at Smith Road and run north to Wenger Road, including a roundabout at that intersection. CTL Engineering, Inc. was selected for the project. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, second by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 12 – 25 – 83 A Resolution Authorizing the City of Clayton to enter into a Contract with American Structure Point Inc. for Design Engineering Services, and Authorizing the expenditure of funds not to exceed \$630,000 from the City's construction budget; and declaring an effective date. Sanders advised American Structure Point was selected to design Phase 2 of the Hoke Road widening project that is estimated to start in June of 2030. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, second by Farmer. All yeas, motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Elaine Wittman, Interim City Manager, advised the Government Center offices will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday. Offices will also be closed Wednesday and Thursday, December 31st and January 1st for the New Year's holiday. Council will hold a Special Council meeting on Monday, January 5th to swear in new Council members and make board appointments. Council has been provided with applications and resumes for the Ward 1 Council seat, BZA, Planning Commission and Parks Commission positions for your review. I was notified earlier today there was construction equipment at Haber and National Roads. This is only to create a construction entrance, and no work is to be done until all engineering plans have been approved nor have we had the pre-construction meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Bachman stated this is his last meeting and tonight showed what this community is about, the people, staff, the officers. He then proceeded to thank all current and previous members of Council and city staff. Kelly thanked Matt (Hamlin), Mike (Stevens), Greg (Merkle), and Brendan (Bachman) for their service to the city. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah and happy New Year, and is looking forward to working with Ryan (Farmer) as our new mayor and new Council members. Merkle thanked his parents, who have both passed away, for getting him to where he is now. He shared a picture of himself with his parents being sworn

into Council back in 2010. We all worked together, working towards a common goal for the betterment of the community. Gorman thanked Mr. Harlamert and the Parks Commission for all their work on the Breakfast with Santa. It was a wonderful event, and all the kids had a good time. Thank you to all the people who were honored this evening for their service, especially those that are retiring. I would like to thank Mike, Brendan and Greg for their service. I would lastly like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and happy New Year. Henning stated we would like to thank the Detectives for the work they did and the investigation. Seeing Officer Cecil here tonight all I can say is thank God he was able to overcome his injuries and be with us today. Thank you to Chief Hamlin for your decades of dedicated service to the community. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Earl (Harlamert) many kids in our community have memories because of your work and we can never thank you enough. To the three retiring from Council, thank you service and we wish you well in your next chapter. Farmer wished everyone happy holidays. I also want to thank Earl for heading up a fantastic event with Breakfast with Santa and are looking forward to next year, and thank you to Chief Hamlin for being Santa. Also, thank you for your service, I did not know you were in the military so thank you for that as well and good luck in your next chapter. After the last snow event I had a resident text me and thank me for the great work done on snow plowing. I can't take credit for that, it goes to Randy Sandes and his team. They did a great job and the community really relies on their work, and when you do a great job the residents are noticing and letting us know. To our parting Council members, thank you for your service. Stevens congratulated Chief Hamlin on his retirement and for everything you've done. You've ran a great department and I'm confident going forward. Congratulations and good job to Detectives Campbell and Ballinger, that was a high profile case and important to all of us, to keep people like that away from our kids. I've always considered myself progressive, if you're not moving forward you're going backwards, you can't stay the same, you need to grow. Stevens then read the list of accomplishments that occurred while he's been in office, and stated we've been able to attract and keep good people. He thanked the residents who volunteer on the Planning Commission, BZA, Parks Commission, Charter Commission, and PLAN Clayton and all the staff that led those groups. To the new administration, good luck going forward and we trust that you will keep our city moving forward.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.