

Minutes of January 15, 2026 Council

Meeting of the Clayton, Ohio City Council
Clayton Government Center
January 15, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Swearing-In Ceremony for Chief of Police Paul Nabel, Police Lieutenant Shawn Schutte, Police Sergeant Ashlee Shewman and Police Officers Erick Santos and Brandon Morgan.

Fire Chief Brian Garver introduced new Fire Department Personnel, Andrew Goss, Amanda Michel, and Bryant Williams.

CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Seim presented the minutes of the January 5, 2026 Special Council meeting. Motion by Gorman, second by Kelly to approve the minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Law Director Deitering advised an Executive Session is needed this evening for matters pertaining to the appointment of city personnel. Motion by Henning to go into Executive Session, motion was seconded by York. Council broke at 7:58 PM. Council returned at 8:55 PM and Henning moved to go back into regular session; motion was seconded by Kelly. All yeas, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 01 A Resolution Appointing ____ to the Clayton Planning Commission. Motion by Henning to un-table this Resolution from our January 5, 2026 Council meeting, motion was seconded by York. All yeas, motion carried. Motion by Henning to appoint Patrick Ernst as a member of the Clayton Planning Commission, motion was seconded by York. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 02 A Resolution Appointing ____ to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion by Henning to un-table this Resolution from our January 5, 2026 Council meeting, motion was seconded by York. All yeas, motion carried. Motion by Kelly to appoint Michael Podrosky as a member of the Clayton's Board of Zoning Appeals, motion was seconded by Henning. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 08 A Resolution Appointing ____ as a Member of the Parks Advisory Commission. Motion by Henning to un-table this Resolution from our January 5, 2026 Council meeting, motion was seconded by York. All yeas, motion carried. Motion by Kelly to appoint Destiny Thomas as a member of Clayton's Park Commission, motion was seconded by York. All yeas, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 10 A Resolution to Elect a Vice Mayor and President Pro Tempore. Motion by York to appoint Kenny Henning as Vice Mayor and President Pro Tempore, Farmer seconded the motion. Voting: Henning-yes, Gorman-no, McDowell-no, Kelly-no, York-yes, Farmer-yes. Motion failed 3-3. Motion by Henning to Table this Resolution until our next meeting, motion was seconded by York. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 11 A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Personal Protective Gear from Phoenix Fire Equipment for use by the Fire Department at a Total Cost Not to Exceed \$60,000.00. Chief Garver advised this is part of the fire department's PPE (personal protective equipment) replacement program where PPE is replaced every 7-10 years depending on the condition and cost of repairs. Motion by Gorman to approve the Resolution, Kelly seconded the motion. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 12 A Resolution Approving the Plan of Operation and Governance for the Miami Valley Communications Council Natural Gas Aggregation Program, for the Purpose of Jointly Establishing and Implementing a Natural Gas Program. Motion by Henning to approve the Resolution, Kelly seconded the motion. All yeas, motion carried.

Resolution No. R – 01 – 26 – 13 A Resolution Authorizing the Lease of Two (2) 2026 Ford Interceptor Utility SUVs for use by the Police Department from Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. at a total cost of \$107,361.24. Chief Nabel advise these vehicles will replace two 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 Gorman to approve the Resolution, Henning seconded the motion. All yeas, motion carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Elaine Wittman, Interim City Manager, advised a reminded that city offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day on Monday, January 19th. Trash service will remain consistent. If you have regularly scheduled Monday trash, it will be serviced that day. Also to remind Council that we have a joint workshop with the Planning Commission on February 5th at 6:30 pm to discuss residential districts. An update on questions we've received regarding the dirt that's being moved on Haber and National with the Northwood Estates development. We had a pre-construction meeting Tuesday, and everything was put in order. We are satisfied, our engineers were satisfied related to questions and issues we had regarding the drawings with the drainage report, which has been figured out. We are very comfortable with that now and went ahead and signed the plans. We are still exploring potential grant funding opportunities for the traffic signal. That is something that although some money will come from the developer, it is a million-dollar endeavor. I do have some leads on grants, and will be working on those. We have been getting calls regarding the electric aggregation. Electric rates did go up. Unfortunately, we had a very good rate locked in since 2023. A lot of people saw increases in their electricity bills this year in 2026. It wasn't because of anything that the city did. We are part of the aggregation, which was voted on by the residents, but because of factors outside of our control the rates have increased. Right now the aggregation has a contract with Constellation at a fixed rate of 9.049. AES does have a rate of 9.045. However, this rate for AES does end May 31st of 2026. Residents always have the option to opt out at any time with no penalties, and they can go on to the state website called Apples to Apples to compare rates. However, we do encourage you to look at the

fine print because sometimes that rate may be just for two months, or it may be locked in for three years and then a \$200 cancellation fee. So buyer beware when looking at that.

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Earl Harlamert of the Parks Commission announced they have been working on their 2026 calendar items. The first item of this year is our Dance Party scheduled for February 20th, the doors open at 6:30 pm, and dancing starts at 7 to 9. Last year we did country line dancing, this year we're doing a wedding dance line party. We're getting people ready for the wedding season. In March we will have a park cleanup day to pick up limbs to help the Service Department mowing crews.

Bill Seiter stated, I just want to reiterate what I said last time about a person that lives in Ward One whose council seat is going to be filled by members of this council. I'd just like whoever it is to have a stance that is consistent with the way we voted for the original seat.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

York congratulated all the new staff members, firefighters, policemen, even the committee members we appointed today. Stay safe out there, it's going to get cold. Kelly stated good evening and congratulations to all the firefighters, police officers, and board members. We did interviews and I think it's a great thing to interview people because it gives us an opportunity to know their background, potential and interest. It's nice to have that process to find out at the end of the day who wants the position and who is qualified. I think that is definitely a process that we need to continue. McDowell stated good evening, and thank you for your attendance and patience tonight. Congratulations to everyone that was sworn in tonight, we appreciate you and I know that each and every one of you will do well for our City. Please know your voice matters, please contact council members or the Mayor if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great January, be safe, and stay healthy. Gorman stated I would like to welcome and congratulate all the new firemen and police officers and those that got promoted this evening, and look forward to working with you in the future. Henning congratulated everyone sworn in this evening in the police and fire departments. Chief Garver said that the fire department is now fully staffed, we hope that continues. You do a tremendous job, and we can't thank you enough. The committee members that were appointed tonight, thank you for your service, we really appreciate that as they are volunteer positions. Finally, Bella Sorella received enough signatures from their precinct and ward one to make it on the May ballot. Early voting for that will start in April, and I would hope that we as a City would help Bella Sorella get the information out as to what is on the ballot for that precinct. It doesn't allow liquor and wine right now, even though they are able to sell beer. I know that it's going to be very much appreciated once that passes. Farmer congratulated our police officers who were sworn in this evening. Police Chief, I want you to know it's a tremendous honor to swear you in, I know it's an important moment for you and I'm happy to be a part of that. I want to congratulate Mr. Ernest and Mr. Podrosky. We had several candidates for these positions and I'm excited because I know there have been times in the City's history where no one stepped up and you're having to reach out and make calls. I am encouraged by the amount of participation that we're starting to see, that is what will make our City good, having people that are interested, that have a passion to see our City be better. Thanks to Earl for talking about parks, I can't say picking up sticks is one of my favorite things, but it's important particularly for those lawnmower blades. If you can come out, it's good to get outside and support the city, and you might meet a few neighbors you haven't met before. Finally, I want

to thank our staff who do an outstanding job. I'm learning each day that they're more and more multi-headed and it just says that they are determined to be good stewards of city funding to take care of all of us, whether it be safety, security, paving our roads, taking care of our trees, our parks. I just want to say thank you and please continue to do the great work.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.