

TOWN OF CLERMONT
9049 Crawfordsville Road
Clermont, IN 46234

November 13, 2025

Monthly Town Council Meeting

I. Call to Order at 6:00

The following council members, who constituted at least 50% of the members of the council, were present in person: Councilor Beam, Councilor Lambard, Councilor Lemaire, Councilor Sauro and Councilor Topf.

Absent Council Member(s): None

Others present: Attorney, Bob Lutz; Clerk, Grace Brenzek; Clerk-Treasurer, Larry Beiter Police Chief, Steve Dulworth

Public in Attendance: Gordon Wiser

II. Fire Contract Discussion

Attorney Lutz provided background on the proposed fire contract, presented for review at the October Council meeting, including an overview of the last discussions with the Wayne Township Trustee. The Council and Attorney Lutz discussed the history of the fire protection contract, our difficulties and possible actions. The Council does not see any short-term actions that can be taken for Q1 2026.

Councilor Lemaire motioned to accept and approve the current proposed fire contract with Wayne Township with and annual cost of \$450,000. Councilor Beam seconded the motion

The Council discussed some of the changes that had been made related to metrics. A Freedom of Information Act request was sent to the Fire Chief and Township Trustee in an effort to obtain fire run data from the last three years.

Councilor Beam votes, Aye, Councilor Lambard, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Council discussed how best to proceed. Various options have been raised during discussions over the last several years. The Council made it clear that there are no concerns with or criticisms of the service and response received from Wayne Township Fire and Emergency Response staff. The Council's primary concern is the financial impacts of the Fire Contract upon Residents of Clermont. The cost of the current contract hampers our ability to provide other key services such as Police staff.

Councilor Beam summarized a list of options for how to proceed:

1. Continue with Wayne Township using the previously developed formulas based on Assessed Property Values.
2. Continue with Wayne but develop a new cost structure/formula, for example setting a base fee with an additional cost per fire/emergency run.
3. Join the Brownsburg Fire Territory or contract them for Fire Protection
4. Join the Pike Township Fire Territory or contract them for Fire Protection
5. Purse Changes to the State Legislature such as; Removing requirement for a Fire Protection Contract, Dividing Town along Township lines, Require Wayne Fire to merge with IFD (Indianapolis Fire District), Eliminate Townships, other
6. Create a Clermont Volunteer Fire Department
7. Contract with the County/IFD - County to alter fire district territory to include Clermont

Councilor Topf reiterated the importance of taking action and making progress on this issue sooner than later to ensure we have time to take appropriate actions during the 2026 legislative calendar.

Chief Dulworth noted that a recent EMS call for a resident's medical issue had a 30 min response time. Luckily the issue did not become life threatening. The Council discussed options for how a contract could be run or service based. It was noted that Wayne township residents would want to know why Clermont should pay less for the same service. Mutual response practices were discussed.

The Councilor discussed an alternate cost structure that would have a base contract cost with reductions for less fire/emergency runs. It was alternately suggested that the current property value approach could include an adjustment based on the relative risk of the Clermont properties vs. Wayne Township. Clermont is primarily residential with limited business/commercial. This should have a lower risk of fire/explosion/injury as compared to other parts of Wayne Township that support heavy industrial, commercial operations, chemical storage and handling, etc. Possibly the Insurance company has data to support this assessment.

It was suggested that the Town reach out to our City-County Councilor Carlino. Councilor Topf recommended that we set up a Special Meeting in December. Councilor Beam will map out a plan for moving ahead.

III. Break 6:55

IV. Pledge of Allegiance at 7:10 P.M.

V. Special Guests: JD Ford, Family of Officer David Sutton

Special Guest Comment Period: Indiana State Senator JD Ford Presented to the Family of Officer David Sutton Senate Resolution 12. The Resolution, which was adopted earlier this year, memorializes Officer Sutton for his honorable service to the town for 20 years, until his passing in 2024. The Resolution was accepted by Officer Sutton's daughter Katie who expressed her and her family's appreciation for this recognition.

VI. Public Comment Period:

Public in Attendance: Gordon Wiser, David Sutton, Linda Sutton, Deborah Dulworth, Alan Margason, Robert Margason, Dana Sutton, Liam Margason, Kory Thompson, Mariah Castro, Nancy Cravens, Kayte Sutton, Ryan Cravens, _____ Margson

Public Attending Remotely: No remote attendees

No Residents requested to speak during the Public Comment Period

VII. Town Attorney's Report - Attorney Lutz

- A. Fire Contract – This matter was discussed previously. Attorney Lutz noted some additional related concerns about how SB1 is impacting this issue. No motions were made or acted on.
- B. Real Estate Matters – 9046 Crawfordsville Road – No updates. No motions were made or acted on.
- C. Golf Cart Ordinance – Attorney Lutz presented for review a draft Golf Cart ordinance at the Council's request. It was modeled after the Town of Westfield. He noted that he is not advocating for this ordinance and is not aware of any existing problems or issues that it would address. It does not apply to ATVs or motorized bikes and does not allow for use on Crawfordsville Road. Chief Dulworth suggested that allowing the use of golf carts on the road could lead to accidents and serious injuries and he is not necessarily in favor. Attorney Lutz and the Council discussed the potential impact from a cost, labor and liability standpoint. Additional resources would be needed to manage the permitting process and police response. Creating this ordinance is not expected to increase or decrease Town liability in the event of an accident but would increase golf cart traffic which could lead to more accidents.

Councilor Lemaire motioned to introduce a Golf Cart ordinance for Council review. Councilor Lambard seconded the motion. Councilor Beam votes, Nay, Councilor Lambard, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 1.

VIII. Police Department Report – Steve Dulworth

- A. Ordinances – Violations – Chief Dulworth and the Council discussed the on-going issue with overgrown vegetation at a house on 30th Street. The Chief will follow-up with Attorney Lutz on our ordinances to confirm how we can address. No motions were made or acted on.
- B. Miscellaneous – The gifts were received for the Toys-for-Tots Holiday Give-Away. These gifts are funded through a Grant with CSX Railroad. This is the 8th year that the Clermont Police have participated. Chief will forward pictures of the event and gift giving to Councilor Beam for inclusion in the Town Newsletter and Website. Gifts will be delivered during the December Holiday Party at the Lions Club.

No major Police or Safety related incidents were noted within Clermont during October. There have been a number of runs to the Waterfront area east of Clermont. Councilor Beam noted that it would be helpful if we could collect police run data for the New Dollar Tree on Country Club Road. Councilor Sauro noted several properties in Clermont that need some attention and clean-up. No motions were made or acted on.

IX. Clerk-Treasurer's Report - Lary Beiter

- A. Financial Report - Clerk-Treasurer Beiter presented for review the previous month and year-to-date financial reports, including a full record of all receipts and disbursements. Bank Account reconciliation was completed successfully. No other issues were noted with the Financial Review.

Councilor Beam made a motion to accept the October financial report. Councilor Lambard seconded the motion. Councilor Beam votes, Aye, Councilor Lambard, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

- B. Meeting Minutes - Prior to this meeting, Council members reviewed the draft minutes for the October 9th Regular Council Meeting. Minor comments were addressed previously.

Councilor Lambard made a motion to accept the October 9th Regular Council Meeting minutes. Councilor Lemaire seconded the motion. Councilor Beam votes, Aye, Councilor Lambard, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

- C. Miscellaneous – Our insurance company requested that we replace the existing fuse box in the Police Station with a code compliant breaker box before our next renewal. We will check with the potential buyer of our property to confirm that they will not be demolishing the building as part of their expansion. Information on the PNC Bank's Fraud Protection Program and ACH payment process was provided for Council Review. The services offered and costs were discussed and the Council provided their opinions on the relative risks related to the use of checks vs. ACH transactions. No motions were made or acted on.

X. Facilities and Maintenance – Councilor Sauro

- A. Volunteer Event – Chief Dulworth suggested that we present a plaque to IU Health to thank them for supporting our community service day on October 17th. The Council agreed and Chief will take the lead. The event went very well overall. The volunteers were very appreciative of our welcome and hospitality, they had not previously been offered lunch during this type of event. Overall, the event went very well and we would like to do another similar project next year. No motions were made or acted on.
- B. Miscellaneous – Dave, the handyman used last winter, is again available to support Town projects and repairs. The Council discussed how to find volunteers to support putting out the Holiday lights. Councilor Beam will include a call-out in the next electronic newsletter. Lights are targeted to be hung on the power poles during the week of November 17. Options for controlling rodents in the barn was discussed. No motions were made or acted on.

XI. Streets Report – Tim Lambard

- A. CCMG Grants – The 2024 CCMG Project close-out documents were sent to INDOT. Requests for the 2026 grant have been submitted. No motions were made or acted on.
- B. INIP Grant – This project has been cancelled due to significant cost increases in the Department of Public Works (DPW) project estimate. Councilor Lambard will provide a copy of the DPW communications to the Clerk's office to substantiate the contract cancellation. No motions were made or acted on.
- C. ADA Transition Plan Status – Councilor Lambard is currently updating a draft revision of the Town's ADA Transition Plan. No motions were made or acted on.
- D. Miscellaneous – Councilor Lambard is requesting quotes for various curbing and sidewalk projects around Town including the ramp at Pine Street. The no parking sign for Ben Hur has been received and installation is being scheduled. No motions were made or acted on.

XII. Communications / Technology – Councilor Beam

- A. Tree Board Report – The Tree Allies met on November 12th and agreed upon a calendar of events and projects for 2026. The 2026 Tree Allies Budget and the purchase approval process was discussed. Meetings in 2026 will be scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM. Key sub-teams and project leaders were identified. The Allies first tree sale netted \$241 to fund future endeavors. No motions were made or acted on.

- B. Town Signage – Councilor Beam presented a Signworks quote for \$460 to replace the wayfinding sign that was recently run over on Crawfordsville Road. An unknown vehicle ran over the curb, on to the grass and ran down a newly installed sign and one of the Town’s roadside planters. The Councilors discussed various aspects of the new sign and ability to affect repairs on the damaged sign. Councilor Lemaire was not supportive of purchasing a new sign and questioned its location and materials of construction. The Council questioned whether the driver could be identified and held responsible. The current Signage project budget has sufficient funds to support replacement of the damaged sign. Councilor Beam will go ahead and initiate purchase and installation of the replacement sign.
- Quotes for street signs were requested from two additional sign fabrication companies to provide comparison against the current CSAMA quote. One failed to provide a quote and the designs provided by the second did not meet our requirements. We currently have a quote for \$12,716 for 143 street sign blades from CSAMA. Councilor Beam will work with Councilor Lambard and the Clerk-Treasurer to confirm funding for purchase of these materials as well as the posts and hardware.
- C. Miscellaneous – The Electronic Newsletter will be distributed this week. The Councilors noted several events and concerns ideas including a call-out for volunteers to help with holiday lights. The idea of including a local business spotlight section was suggested. The Council discussed briefly how this could be handled. The monthly Town email Newsletter will be sent out in the next week. Please forward any topics and information to Councilor Beam by this weekend. No motions were made or acted on.
- Content is needed from each elected official and the Chief for the Winter paper newsletter. The Garage Sale will be scheduled for May 16, 17th 2026.
- Councilor Lemaire asked about the flower pots and other materials remaining from the Volunteer Day, currently stored outside the Town Barn. Councilor Sauro asked about the possibility of a dumpster for materials.
- Councilor Beam notified the Council that he was going to move ahead with the computer security software and training program from Upfort.
- No motions were made or acted on.

XIII. New Business

- A. Salary Ordinance – The Council discussed the proposed 2026 Salary Ordinance, introduced in October. Salaries of the Elected officials and other part and full-time employees had been determined during the budgeting process. The salary for the part time clerk position was increased to \$20. Conversations focused on the target salary increase for the Police Officers. During the budgeting meeting, the Council discussed dividing the salary increase into two parts, one to represent a cost-of-living adjustment and the other to represent a merit-based increase. It was agreed that the approach for evaluating performance/merit would need to be developed with Chief Dulworth, however, it is now too late in the year to begin this process. Councilor Lemaire will follow-up with Chief Dulworth concerning how to pursue this approach for next year. Councilor Topf asked the Council to consider if 3% was a reasonable increase. The Council discussed the officer’s salary and recent history of increases. Clerk-Treasurer Beiter noted that the Consumer Price Index rose 3% over the last 4 quarters ending September 2025. The Council continued their discussion of how to apply a merit increase and how to evaluate individual performance.

Councilor Lambard motioned to approve a 3% salary increase for the officers to take effect on January 1, 2026.

Councilor Sauro seconded the motion.

Clerk-Treasurer Beiter questioned, and the Council confirmed, that salary ordinance will not be amended to include language concerning a cost or living or merit increase.

Councilor Beam votes, Aye, Councilor Lambard votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye, Councilor Lemaire Abstains. Motion approved by a vote of four to zero.

The Ordinance will be updated with this increase. The Council does have time to provide other corrections or minor updates prior to next meeting. No other motions were made or acted on.

- B. Town Nepotism Policy – Councilor Topf was presented signed Nepotism Policy Certifications from each elected Town Official. No motions were made or acted on.

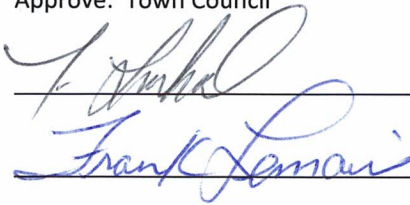
- C. Town Calendar – The proposed Town Council Meeting Calendar was presented for review. Regular Council Meetings are targeted for 7:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month. The next Internal Controls Oversight Committee meeting has been shifted to February since the last meeting was held in August. No motions were made or acted on.
- D. Cemetery – The Town was contacted by the owner of two plots in the Clermont Cemetery. They would like to sell their plots and wanted guidance from the Town. The Clerk's office will review the Cemetery Policy and reach out to Attorney Lutz if more information is needed. The Council discussed some aspects of the Cemetery Policy. No motions were made or acted on.
- E. Open Town Action Requests – No motions were made or acted on.

XIV. Adjournment

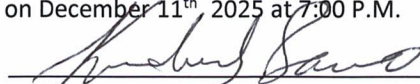
Councilor Sauro moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M., Councilor Lambard seconded the motion. Councilor Beam votes, Aye, Councilor Lambard votes, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

The next Regular Council meeting will be held on December 11th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

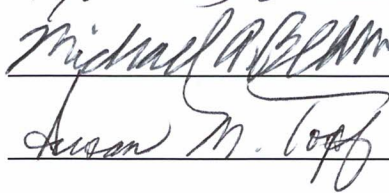
Approve: Town Council



Frank Lemaire



Michael A. Beam



Susan M. Topf

Attest: Clerk-Treasurer