

TOWN OF CLERMONT
9049 Crawfordsville Road
Clermont, IN 46234

June 30, 2025

Special Town Council Meeting

I. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance at 6:03 P.M.

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

Others present: Attorney, Bob Lutz; Part-Time Clerk, Grace Brenzek; Clerk-Treasurer, Larry Beiter

II. Special Guests: None

Special Guest Comment Period: NA

III. Public Comment

Public in Attendance: Brad Brunat

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment period.

IV. Town Street Signage Concerns

Councilor Lambard gave his perspective on how the board would be best to approach issues and problems in general. He would like the Council to bring all their opinions openly and work together to solve issues but act as a single Council. Not necessarily to agree on all solutions but to acknowledge difference perspectives and act as a group.

Councilor Lemaire provided a little background on the issue. He has spoken individually with Councilors Lambard, Beam and Sauro concerning the sign placement, previously referenced safety concerns and possible solutions. He believes that lowering the sign would not resolve the problem acceptability based on his review. He has spoken with the homeowner at 2945 Tansel, Dillon Beaman. He would not agree to having the sign installed on his property when approached previously, this was the preferred location. He would agree to installation of the sign on his property for \$1,000. The Council discussed their opinion of this. Councilor Lambard asked if we could potentially locate the sign in that location since it seemed to be in a utility easement. The Council and Attorney Lutz discussed our rights to place signage in a right of way as compared to an easement. Attorney Lutz previously provided to the Councilors his concerns about the potential for a law suit in the event of an accident.

Councilor Sauro joined the meeting during this discussion.

Attorney Lutz believes that we do not have the right to install the sign in the utility easement.

Councilor Topf confirmed that the Council agreed to relocate the sign. Councilor Beam stated that he feels the sign location does not present any additional risk at the intersection since it is a 4-way stop, but he is willing to relocate the move sign and go along with rest of council. Councilor Topf and Lambard gave their perspectives on the issue, including what we need to do better in the future to avoid these types of issues. They do not want to put the sign in barn pending relocation.

Councilor Sauro suggested that we could relocate the sign to the west side of town and put a smaller one here that would fit in the easement. She is not interested in paying homeowner to install and does not want to put the sign in the barn. The Council discussed at length this suggestion for relocation of the sign. Councilor Beam did not think that was the best long-term solution and felt we should try to keep the signs more consistent across the main west-east and north-south roads in Town.

Councilor Beam estimated the cost of a new sign to be approximately \$3,000 plus installation. Councilor Lemaire offered to donate \$1000 for the resident, the Town would still be responsible for the costs to change ownership of the property. The Council discussed the concerns with this approach. The Council again discussed several different options, including how to pay, fabrication of new signs, lowering existing, etc.

Councilor Topf asked for a motion to relocate the sign. Councilor Lambard requested that any motion to move the sign include an installation location and plan. The Council consulted with Attorney Lutz about protocol.

Councilor Sauro motioned to relocate the sign. Councilor Lemaire seconded.

Councilor Lemaire again stressed the safety concerns associated with the current location. The Council discussed the legalities of purchasing the rights to the desired sign location. Attorney Lutz explained the differences between purchasing the land outright as opposed to having the right to encroach on the land.

Councilor Lambard votes, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro Votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Councilor Beam abstains. Motion approved, four votes in favor, none against.

The Councilors discussed the best new sign location to move it to.

Councilor Beam moved that we enter an encroachment agreement with the owner of 2945 Tansel Road and compensate them in return for the right to relocate the sign to their land. Councilor Lambard seconded the motion.

The Council discussed final details of the agreement and motion.

Councilor Beam motioned to amend the previous motion with a stipulation that no more than \$1000 be paid for the encroachment rights. Councilor Lambard seconded the motion.

Attorney Lutz requested confirmation of the details of the location, 2945 Tansel Road and distances. We estimate the effort to ideally cost less than \$500, and no more than \$2000 if additional engineering and/or surveying services is required. The property owner will be responsible for grass mowing and maintenance

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.

V. Other Business


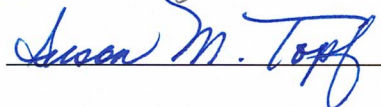
- A. Councilor Sauro asked about the possible relocation of the sign at Miller Park closer to Tansel Road to give it better visibility. The Council discussed this at length and considered it a good idea pending cost and feasibility. Councilor Lambard asked Councilor Lemaire to solicit quotes for this work in his absence as he is leaving town tomorrow. Councilor Lambard asked Clerk Brenzek to obtain quotes for this work. This will be added to the July meeting to confirm placement of the Park Sign and approval of the work. The Council discussed the potential timing for the sign relocations. No other motions were made or voted on.
- B. Councilor Lambard provided an update on the CCMG 2024-2 road construction project. We have issues with how water flows from Pine and Maple Streets after completion of the project, so curbing will be added in July to those streets to help improve drainage. The contractor will also be paving Birch Street. We are allowed to include this in the existing grant based on USI review and understanding of the INDOT requirement. This work will be added to contract. All future work will include written confirmation of all changes. No other motions were made or voted on.
- C. Councilor Sauro noted the date for the start of school at Robey Elementary, July 31st. Councilor Topf noted that the Council needs to talk to someone at the school to see how we can help avoid traffic issues in the neighborhood during start and end of sessions. Sue will contact the Robey principal to discuss before the next council meeting. Councilor Lemaire stated that he and Chief Dulworth had not found a good solution, possibly police can help direct traffic. The Councilors discussed different options including an increased police presence. Councilor Topf will work to set-up an executive session to discuss the bank purchase after next regular meeting, possibly Monday 14th or Tuesday the 15th.

VI. Adjournment

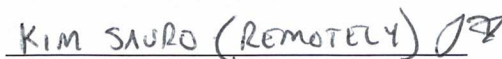
Councilor Lemaire moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 P.M., Councilor Lambard seconded the motion. Councilor Beam votes, Aye, Councilor Lambard votes, Aye, Councilor Lemaire votes, Aye, Councilor Sauro Votes, Aye, and Councilor Topf votes, Aye. Motion was unanimously approved.

The next monthly council meeting will be held on July 10th, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Oversight Committee at 6:00 P.M.

Approve: Town Council







Attest: Clerk-Treasurer

