

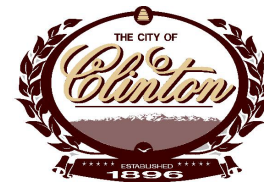
CLINTON CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 2267 N 1500 W, Clinton, UT 84015

Mayor: Brandon Stanger



City Council: Spencer Arave, Marie Dougherty and Gary Tyler, Dane Searle was excused

Staff: Police Chief Shawn Stoker, Assistant Public Works Director Kasey Jensen, Engineer Bryce Wilcox, Fire Chief Jason Poulsen, Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell

Attendees: Hannah Klebe, Mary Frederickson, Terry Tremea, Chandra Weisbecker, Jennifer Christensen, Deanna Larsen

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stanger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Stanger, Councilmembers Arave, Dougherty and Tyler were present and Councilmember Searle was excused.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. CITY COUNCIL VACANCY AND ELECTION DISCUSSION

Mayor Stanger opened the meeting and outlined the two agenda items: (1) the process to fill the council vacancy following Councilmember Gray's resignation, and (2) discussion on the tax rate denial and budget implications.

He explained the Utah Code §20A-1-510 requirement to fill the vacancy within 30 days but noted the timing overlaps the upcoming election. He recommended postponing the appointment until after the election to avoid perceived unfairness to candidates currently running.

Councilmember Dougherty agreed, noting that appointing either a current candidate or a non-candidate could create public perception issues.

City Manager Cahoon clarified that the only consequence for missing the 30-day deadline is a reminder letter from the Lt. Governor's Office, which provides another 30 days to

complete the appointment.

The Council agreed to notice the vacancy for at least 14 days as required by statute, open applications prior to the election, close them on November 10, 2025, and hold interviews and the appointment on November 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in a special meeting. All applicants will be interviewed publicly and consistently.

2. TAX RATE DENIAL AND BUDGET STRATEGY

Mayor Stanger reported that the Utah State Tax Commission denied the City's certified tax rate adjustment. He explained the City could pursue legal action, but doing so would be costly and impractical.

Councilmembers Dougherty and Arave agreed not to appeal the decision. City Manager Cahoon outlined the financial position and explained that using fund balance would temporarily drop reserves from about 25% to 21–22%, still within the State-allowed range (5%–35%), but cautioned that those funds should be replenished quickly.

3. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS

Jennifer Christensen Steele opposed cuts to personnel and supported delaying certain capital projects and using a mix of general fund balance and project postponements.

Councilmember Arave supported using fund balance for the current year, emphasizing replenishment next year.

Councilmember Dougherty stressed caution in cutting capital projects tied to grants, such as the roundabout project, to avoid losing federal funding.

Councilmember Tyler delivered a passionate statement emphasizing that repeated warnings about underfunding have been ignored. He urged the Council to plan multi-year tax increases rather than temporary fixes and advocated for reducing some public services to help residents understand the consequences of underfunding.

Councilmember Searle supported delaying capital projects where feasible and using a portion of fund balance but noted concerns about long-term impacts and inflation.

Police Chief Stoker reported the loss of three officers within weeks, largely tied to wages. Clinton PD now has one-third of its force with under three years' experience and lacks competitive salary structure and lateral recruitment ability.

City Manager Cahoon described the regional 'arms race' in police pay and emphasized preparing for future adjustments. He noted staffing challenges across all departments.

Fire Chief Polson confirmed \$60,000 was already cut from operations from the fire department budget and noted the need for parity between fire and police pay.

Public Works Director Kasey Jensen stated streets are already behind schedule and further

cuts would worsen the backlog. He explained enterprise funds cannot offset general fund shortfalls.

City Engineer Bryce Wilcox confirmed the 1500 West roundabout has a \$400,000 City match with \$200,000 budgeted this year and \$60,000 immediately needed to maintain grant eligibility.

Community Development Director Peter Matson noted efficiency gains through online permitting and licensing systems.

Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell reported most recreation costs are offset by program fees; community events have minimal budget impact.

4. SUMMARY OF COUNCIL CONSENSUS

- Vacancy: Notice immediately; interviews and appointment on November 18, 2025.
- Budget: No further staff cuts; delay or re-prioritize capital projects; use general fund balance (approx. 22%) with a plan to replenish; begin planning for a property tax adjustment in early 2026.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Reviewed and Approved by the Clinton City Council this 28th of October 2025

***/s/ Lisa Titensor
Clinton City Recorder***