

Town Council Meeting held at the Clarkston Town Hall, 24 South Main, Clarkston, UT

Attendance:

Mayor: Ryan L. Thompson

Councilmembers: Jeff Noble, Danny Godfrey, Jared Petersen

Absent: Councilmember Brayden Goodey

Town Clerk: Holly Jones

Public: Suzanne Thompson, Chad Jensen CCSD, Curtis Godfrey, Rod Orr, Matt Regen, Launi Petersen, Elaine Goodey, Grace Godfrey, Jane Young

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Thompson called the Clarkston Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Petersen offered Reverence and led the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the meeting.

2. **BUSINESS:**

Mayor Thompson addressed the minutes of the March 4, 2026 Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2026. Councilmember Noble seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Cache County Sheriff Chad Jensen – Law Enforcement and Animal Control Contracts – Mayor Thompson welcomed Sheriff Jensen to the meeting and invited him to discuss the new law enforcement contract. Sheriff Jensen explained that towns contract with the Cache County Sheriff's Department at their hourly rate for so many hours of service. This is above and beyond what Clarkston's tax dollars normally pay for. When they started doing three-year contracts, they compared the level of service they were providing to what each community was paying for and realized they needed to match a little closer. The department has worked the last three or four years on getting the number of hours up; however, they have not done much with the hourly rate. Cache County has lost many officers to other agencies because they cannot pay what other departments can. He did not have an official contract with him because they needed to fix some of the numbers. He explained that in the current 2025-2026 contract Clarkston had 194 hours. He wanted to keep the numbers of hours the same but increase the hourly rate over the next three years. Next year's contract would be \$11,640. The 2026-2027 contract would increase to \$12,416 and the 2027-2028 contract amount would be \$13,192.

He did not have much to report as far as incidents go. Last year there were 122 calls for service in Clarkston. If next year stays at the same pace, it should increase to about 140 calls. There are no major issues Clarkston needs to address at this time. The hours contracted were 194 and the actual will be around 360. Sheriff Jensen felt good about the hours; he thought they were right about where they needed to be.

Mayor Thompson said one concern he had was speeding drivers coming off Short Divide. Clarkston had stop signs on 300 South in an attempt to slow traffic down but felt like it diverted them through town. They took down the stop signs and ordered blinking speed signs. He hoped the signs would get drivers to realize how fast they are going and slow down. Shift changes were the most problematic times. Sheriff Jensen said they would watch it throughout the day but more heavily patrol the shift change hours.

Sheriff Jensen looks at the incident reports monthly and will let Clarkston know if anything becomes a problem that needs attention. He will have a new contract with the correct numbers drawn up and sent to the Mayor.

Matthew Regen, CPA – FY 2025 Financial Statement Review – Mayor Thompson recognized Mr. Regen, Clarkston’s accountant, to review the *Compiled Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2025*. (Exhibit A)

Mr. Regen began by referencing the *Balance Sheet*, on page ten in the booklet. He explained the balance sheet is for everything, except the water utility. This lists the assets of Clarkston Town. The three funds Clarkston has are: General Fund, Perpetual Care Fund (Cemetery), and the Capital Projects Fund. The top row is the cash in each of the funds at the end of the fiscal year. The receivables would be sales tax, property tax, and money from the State for roads.

The *Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances*, on page twelve, shows that most revenues and expenses are from the General Fund, taxes being the largest revenue – which includes property tax and sales tax. License and permits include building permits, dog licensing, and business licenses. Intergovernmental funds are mostly from UDOT to help maintain the roads. Charges for services would be sanitation. Miscellaneous revenues are a variety of things, such as grants, town celebrations, etc. In total, the general fund brought in just over \$500,000 during the last year.

Revenue for the Cemetery Fund includes \$25,000 from perpetual care, either for sale of the grave plots or the opening and closing fees associated with a burial. Miscellaneous revenue includes interest earnings on the surplus the Cemetery Fund had. The General Fund spent about \$360,000. As mentioned, Clarkston brought in about \$500,000, so a good chunk was added to the surplus.

The big number in the Capital Projects Fund is the new Town Hall. That number stands out but it was a one-time thing, and it was part of the budget. If there is a big project, a lot of times it will be reported in the Capital Projects Fund instead of in the General Fund. It helps to keep the cost of a normal year’s operation separate from the cost of special projects. Total expenses are shown in the reports. The Town Clerk can run more detailed reports if you want to look at those, some of the categories are things such as supplies, repairs, and wages. Those are the three “governmental” funds.

The *Statement of Net Position – Proprietary Fund*, on page fourteen, show the assets of the water utility account. Cash at the end of the year was \$460,000. Receivables are utility bills. The fixed assets are the infrastructure, which includes the water tank, water meters, pumps, etc. It says “net” because depreciation is computed on those items every year, just like for a small business. For government accounting, we want a picture of where the town’s resources are. Eventually, water meters, pumps, and water lines all use up their usefulness and will have to be replaced eventually. Items should not show at cost every year because they lose some usefulness. There were accounts payable and some noncurrent liabilities shown on the statement. Clarkston has a small amount left on water bonds. The water tank will be paid off in January 2028, which is the only debt for the water utility.

The *Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position* for the water utility is shown on page fifteen. There is \$131,000 in utility billing and some hook up revenue. The operating expenses are shown in the last column. There is some interest on the bonds. The change in net position is like profit; it is what was added to Clarkston’s surplus. It was a typical year for water utility.

Mr. Regen felt the numbers looked really good on all the statements. He asked if the Councilmembers had any questions. There were none. The loan on the building started off around \$900,000. Clarkston paid off around \$12,000 last year. There will be an annual payment of around \$67,000 or \$68,000. It will take a few years to pay it off because it is a brand-new loan.

Mr. Regen went on to discuss the *Independent Accountant's Report On Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures*. (Exhibit B) Every year the State Auditor has a list of items for accountants to check. Because of the size of Clarkston, the state wants someone who is not on the Council or an employee to do the compliance checks. There are around thirty items. Some examples of compliance checks are: they want to make sure you have a budget hearing; make sure the budget is adopted; the minutes to your council meetings are posted on the Utah Public Notice Website; that Clarkston is operating within its budget; and we periodically review actual expenses and the budget. If Clarkston wasn't doing any of those things, Mr. Regen would have to report to the State that he noted exceptions. As per this report period, no exceptions were noted in any of the compliance checks. Clarkston has done a great job. The State also likes to have the Councilmembers get some training, and someone to be trained on GRAMA. There are links to both of those items that Mr. Regen can send to us.

Clarkston does its own risk assessment. The State wants to make sure local governments safeguard what they have in cash, property, etc. The risk assessment looks at if there are enough people involved, if they are getting the proper training, and is the reporting being shared. Typically, Clarkston's fraud risk has been very low.

The State checks to see if Clarkston has adequate insurance and that we don't accumulate too much in surplus. It is actually against the law to have too much fund balance. If you do, the State tells you your taxes are too high. If a town has too much surplus in the General Fund, they move some of it to the capital projects fund so they can improve parks or take care of the roads. As long as there is a purpose for the extra savings, and you move it into your capital projects funds, there isn't a problem.

Mayor Thompson asked if there was a limit to the number of years the town could move savings into capital projects. Mr. Regen stated that you can accumulate a surplus in your capital projects funds indefinitely. He mentioned that was different than impact fees. Impact fees have strict rules. The Town has six years to use them and, if not used by that time, the Town needs to return the funds.

Once again, Mr. Regen felt the town was in good shape. There were no further questions from the Council. The Mayor thanked Mr. Regen for coming out and going over the financial statements.

Town Square Church Lease Agreement – Mayor Thompson sent the lease agreement back to the Church. They made some revisions and sent back this current version of the agreement. (Exhibit B) The Councilmembers felt good about signing the current version. There was no further discussion. Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the current lease agreement. Councilmember Petersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

3. **DEPARTMENTS:**

Mayor Thompson:

Pony Express Discussion – Councilmember Godfrey asked the Town Clerk if anyone had called to sign up as a food vendor; no one had. The Mayor said they wanted to try having a mud run but were not able to this year, hopefully it will work out next year. A skeet shoot was being considered. Councilmember

Petersen asked if they were able to move the 3-on-3 basketball event to Friday night with the softball games. The Mayor felt they should start by talking to the people who were in charge in the past to see if they were still willing to be in charge this year as well. Councilmember Petersen thought it would be a good idea not to have other things happening during main events. The Mayor mentioned people wanted to have a pickleball tournament; he said Councilmember Goodey talked about having it in the middle of the day when there was a lull. There was discussion about reviving the Plinko board stored in the Cemetery shed. The Mayor wanted to compile a list of what the town has and start making phone calls. Councilmember Noble needs to get some names of who to contact for the parade.

Green Waste – The Mayor wanted to try something new this year. Rather than having the dumpsters at the south main street location, he will open the gravel pit have people dump green waste in that location. They will improve the road up there for ease of use. He asked that people only put green waste up there. Councilmember Petersen commented there are so many restrictions on what can go in the green waste dumpsters that it makes it hard to use them. The Mayor added that it needs to be green waste that will burn. They were hoping to have it open the second week of April.

Public Comment:

Rod Orr – He wanted to know what the town was going to do with the big pile of green waste that accumulates at the gravel pit.

The Mayor responded they were going to set it on fire with the help of the Fire Department; however, he still needs to talk to them about it. He was thinking once or twice a year, depending on how much green waste there is.

Mr. Orr asked if it was a huge expense for the town to have the dumpster.

The Mayor didn't think it was a huge expense, but we have the space at the gravel pit and felt it could be utilized. Councilmember Petersen said Logan is very picky about what they will take. They also charge to take it in and then charge again if you get any wood products from them.

Mr. Orr stated he hated to see the dumpster go. He wondered about burn barrels and burning green waste on your own property. If it is going to get burned anyway, why not burn it on your own property. The Mayor was not aware if you needed a permit if it is in a barrel or contained on your own property, but he would check on that and get back to Mr. Orr. Councilmember Godfrey added that there are open burn days in the spring and fall.

Curtis Godfrey – There are people who have fire pits and burn things in there. He said Dan Dygert, who lives out of town in the county, got permission to burn garbage in a barrel. He didn't know how many people were interested in that but stated he would be. He informed the Council there was a set of stairs where the green waste dumpsters were last year. They were part of the old pageant scenery; Clarkston used them at the green waste dumpster site. If the Council would like him to take them back to the green shed at the Cemetery, he would be willing to do that. He thought the town should try to keep a good rapport with the landowner at the old green waste site in case it doesn't work out at the gravel pit. If that happens to be the case, he had some ideas about how to improve the site for a better experience. He felt cameras at the dumpster site would help reduce the abuse that caused problems in the past. He mentioned there was a green waste sign at the dumpster site that could be taken to the gravel pit to help designate the area.

Councilmember Petersen wondered who would take the time to watch the camera footage and identify who was on it. He felt there had been misuse of the dumpster as well. He had seen people from out-of-town use it. He thought it might be possible to rent a chipper and make wood chips for people depending on how things go with the gravel pit dump site.

Mr. Godfrey suggested having a compost pile for things that don't burn well. He thought there should be a pretty good eye kept on it with the number of people that go up to the gravel pit. The Mayor stated there were a few ideas for different possibilities.

Youth Council – Councilmember Goodey was not present, but the Mayor said Mrs. Calderwood, the advisor, would be ordering a popcorn machine soon.

He spoke to the Youth Council about coming to Town Council meetings once a month, or every other month, to let the Council know what they have going on.

Councilmember Noble:

Fire Department – Fire Chief Anderson would like to sit down with the Mayor and Councilmember Noble to talk about the direction things are going. They need to recruit more volunteers. There are just a small handful of them that take care of everything. He wanted to be more prepared for the future. He wondered if we could put a flyer in the utility bills to spread the word.

Parks and Recreation – Councilmember Noble was able to get a quote on the spiral slide in the park, which needs replacing. However, we probably won't be able to replace it with another spiral slide as they are too expensive; it would be over \$24,000. The quote for a straight slide was more reasonable at around \$7,000. It would be a month or two before a contractor could make it out to look at the slide. He had some ideas about how to make it usable for the time being, especially since the weather is getting nicer.

Mayor Thompson asked Councilmember Noble if he could get some price quotes on big dumpsters. He was hoping to have some available in April for Spring cleanup.

Councilmember Godfrey:

Cemetery – He spoke to Mr. Buntin, the sexton, and will meet with him in the next day or two to see how the Cemetery is doing. He did not know of any issues at this time.

Water Department – The Mayor and Councilmember Godfrey met with Mr. Goodsell, the water operator, and discussed future water needs of the town. One of the springs is not online; we need to figure out how to get it back online. It will take some of the capital expenditure that was talked about tonight to do it, but we need to start making plans for that.

Councilmember Petersen:

Roads Department – The radar signs for 300 South have been a little slower coming in. They should let us know in the next day or two when we can expect them.

The Mayor stated he had not gotten an estimate back from the person he talked to about the roads either.

Councilmember Petersen wanted to repair any streetlights that were out. He said Rocky Mountain Power was replacing them with good LEDs now, so they hopefully last longer. He encouraged citizens to let them know of any streetlight outages.

Emergency Preparedness – Nothing to report.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Public Comment

Jane Young – She wondered how people could give their input concerning Pony Express. The Mayor said she could contact him or Councilmember Goodey and let them know what she would like to see happen.

She stated there is an open burn time. She called on it last year and they told her she did not have to get a permit but should let the Fire Chief know, in case the county calls out saying there is a fire in Clarkston.

Next Meeting – The next Town Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

5. **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Councilmember Godfrey motioned that the Clarkston Town Council Meeting be adjourned. Councilmember Noble seconded the motion. All members present were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Holly Jones

Clarkston Town Clerk