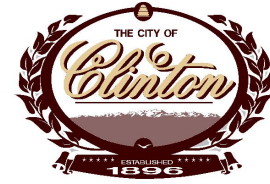


# CLINTON CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**Date:** April 28, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Location:** 2267 N 1500 W, Clinton, UT 84015



## **Staff present:**

City Manager Trevor Cahoon, Finance Director Cory Christensen, Public Works Director David Williams, Parks & Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell, Community Development Director Peter Matson, Fire Chief Jason Poulsen, Police Chief Shawn Stoker, Communications Katie Strobehn, Deputy Recorder Amy Durrans, Recorder Lisa Titensor

## **Elected Officials:**

**Mayor:** Marie Dougherty

**Councilmembers:** Spencer Arave, Jennifer Christensen, Chris Danson, Adam Larsen, and Dane Searle

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dougherty called the work session to order at 6:00 PM.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Overview of Budget Shortfall**

The Council discussed the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget, noting an approximate \$1.6 million gap between departmental requests and projected revenues.

Council referenced prior budget work sessions where department heads presented operational needs and funding requests.

### **Revenue Analysis**

The Mayor provided a summary of revenue comparisons and findings:

- According to the Utah Taxpayers Association, Clinton ranks among the lowest in overall revenue per capita among similarly sized cities.
- When isolating property tax and utility fees, Clinton is approximately mid-range within Davis County.
- Sales tax revenue remains comparatively lower than peer cities, creating structural limitations on funding.

## **Budget Strategy Discussion**

### **Options Considered**

The Council discussed several approaches to address the shortfall:

- Increasing property taxes
- Implementing or increasing fees
- Reducing expenditures or services
- Utilizing fund balance for one-time expenses
- Long-term economic development to increase sales tax revenue

### **Property Tax Discussion**

Council discussed property tax as a primary funding lever:

- Recognition that property tax increases are difficult for residents
- Consideration of structuring property tax to reflect:
  - Public safety (police/fire)
  - General fund services

Concerns were raised regarding:

- Public perception of percentage increases
- Complexity of multiple tax line items on resident bills

### **Fee-Based Funding Options**

#### **Transportation Utility Fee**

Staff recommended consideration of a transportation utility fee to address road maintenance funding:

- Would require a formal rate study
- Could be implemented within a few months
- Provides a data-driven and service-based funding model
- Allows fees to be based on system impact (e.g., residential vs. commercial use)

Council expressed support for this option as a more transparent and targeted funding mechanism.

### **Public Safety Funding Pressures**

Significant discussion focused on rising costs in public safety:

- Police salaries have increased significantly over recent years (approx. 80% over seven years)

- Fire and EMS costs continue to rise statewide
- Council expressed strong sentiment to avoid cuts to police services

## **Expenditure Reduction Discussion**

Council discussed potential budget reductions:

- General consensus that minor cuts would not meaningfully address the \$1.6M gap
- Larger reductions would require:
  - Service level reductions
  - Program eliminations (e.g., recreation programs discussed hypothetically)
- Council acknowledged the difficulty of making significant cuts without impacting community services

## **Fund Balance Discussion**

Staff reported:

- Approximately \$6 million in unrestricted fund balance
- Appropriate use includes:
  - One-time expenditures
  - Capital projects

Council agreed:

- Fund balance **should not be used for ongoing operational costs**
- It may be appropriate to offset certain one-time expenses to reduce the shortfall

## **Road Maintenance Funding**

Council discussed ongoing road maintenance needs:

- Current funding levels are insufficient by over \$1 million annually
- Deferred maintenance increases long-term costs
- Strong support for:
  - Maintaining or increasing road funding
  - Utilizing a transportation utility fee to address this gap

## **Sales Tax Limitations**

Discussion confirmed:

- Cities have **limited authority to increase sales tax locally**
- Any additional sales tax mechanisms would require **state legislative action**

## **Council Direction / Themes**

Key themes emerging from Council discussion:

- Desire to avoid property tax increases if possible
- Preference for fee-based solutions tied to services
- Recognition that:
  - Some combination of fees, fund balance, and limited adjustments may be necessary
- Need for clear communication to residents regarding funding decisions

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

*Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026  
/s/Lisa Titensor, Clinton City Recorder*