

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKSTON

May 6, 2026
7:00 P.M.

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

Attendance:

Mayor: Ryan L. Thompson

Councilmembers: Jeff Noble, Brayden Goodey, Danny Godfrey and Jared Petersen

Town Clerk: Holly Jones

Public: Leon Paskett, Paul Buntin, Suzanne Thompson, Launi Petersen, Bev Godfrey, Jerry Godfrey, Russ Davis

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

Mayor Thompson addressed the minutes of the April 15, 2026 Town Council Meeting. Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2026. Councilmember Petersen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2. **BUSINESS:** No new business at this time.

3. **DEPARTMENTS:**

Mayor Thompson:

Pony Express Discussion – Texas Roadhouse will be providing the dinner on Saturday night. Mayor Thompson expressed his gratitude for how they have worked with him. The price still needs to be decided. Councilmember Goodey asked if the other food vendors would still be there in the evening. Councilmember Godfrey stated that the Escarenos were the only other confirmed food vendor, and they would be selling out of the 76er during the day. Councilmember Petersen stated Michelle Clark confirmed today that the Clarks would be selling cans/bottles of pop and possibly cotton candy. The “Clarkston Pony Express” labeled water bottles will be sold at both the 76er with the Escarenos and with the Clarks.

Mayor Thompson asked if the Youth Council were going to take part in the opening ceremony. Councilmember Goodey had not spoken with their advisor yet.

He asked Councilmember Noble if he had found someone to help him with the parade; he stated he had not been able to. Letters inviting other towns and businesses to participate in the parade had been mailed out by the office.

Councilmember Goodey reminded the Mayor they needed to purchase guns for the raffle.

Councilmember Goodey asked how many teams were signed up for the horse race. Councilmember Petersen said there were currently 15 to 20 people, but most of them will sign up within the upcoming month.

Public Comment:

Jerry Godfrey – Mr. Godfrey asked who would be overseeing the skeet shoot. He was told Duston Godfrey was the contact. Mr. Godfrey stated he had some boxes of skeet he would be willing to donate. He was thanked by the Councilmembers.

Councilmember Noble:

Fire Department – Nothing to report. The Mayor asked Councilmember Noble to find out if the Fire Department planned on doing a breakfast and the Fireman Soak for Pony Express, as they have done in the past. Councilmember Noble will talk to the Fire Chief.

Parks and Recreation – He had not been able to touch base with Russ Davis, who takes care of the park.

He asked if the Town had received an invoice from Mr. Perez for the dumpsters because he had not heard anything. The office had not received or heard anything from Mr. Perez either. The dumpsters provided for citizens usage were dumped three times, and the dumpster for metal was filled as well.

He signed paperwork so the replacement slide could be ordered and was waiting for the confirmation email for when they will be able to install it. It sounded like it might take four or five weeks, but should be done before Pony Express.

Councilmember Goodey:

Youth Council – They would be holding a mock Town Council meeting on Friday, May 15, 2026. All Councilmembers were invited.

Planning Commission – Mayor Thompson brought up the fact that current setbacks are thirty feet from the property line, which seemed excessive. If you live on a corner lot, it is thirty feet on two sides of your property, which cuts down on actual space the property owner can use. He suggested a reduction of the thirty-foot setback would give property owners more access to their own land. The rest of the Councilmembers felt the same. It was decided they would give it more thought and try to get more feedback from citizens before moving forward. Councilmember Goodey will discuss it with the Planning Commission.

Public Comment:

Jerry Godfrey – Mr. Godfrey wanted to know if the Council intended to talk to the Town's lawyer and change the code. Councilmember Goodey said if there was enough citizen interest to warrant it.

Leon Paskett – Mr. Paskett stated the current Town code is confusing. It says the "front yard setback is 30 feet," but he wondered what front yard means. Councilmember Goodey clarified that front yard is your yard that is adjacent to the street. Mr. Paskett asked what the street is, because some are 60-feet wide and some are not. Councilmember Goodey stated that the street is not the same as a road. People hear the word street and think of the asphalt, but street means the road (asphalt), right-of-way, and everything that abuts the property line. Mr. Paskett stated the only thing legal is the property line. If the code were written stating the setbacks were measured from the property line, it would be less confusing. He thought that a corner lot should only have one side that was considered the front of the lot, whichever side faced the street. Both sides should not be held to the thirty-foot setback. He felt clarifying the setback code would give people better usage of their property.

Councilmember Godfrey:

Cemetery – The cemetery was starting to look good. The rain helped since they couldn't turn the water on because of a leak. That leak has been fixed, but there is another one.

The cemetery needs some help with the mowing. The yellow mower that is out there, the Walker, does not have enough power to make it up the hill and neither of the push mowers will start. He wondered if the John Deere used at the park would work on hill. Councilmember Godfrey thought using it at both the park and the cemetery would work. Mayor Thompson said it would be fine to use it in both places, but they would need to work it out with Mr. Davis from the Parks Department. If they needed a trailer to haul it, one would be found. The edger that goes around the headstones is missing. If anyone finds it, please let him or Mr. Buntin know. He invited Mr. Jerry Godfrey to the microphone for comments.

There are some headstones that need repair. Brown Monument has done that for Clarkston in the past; Councilmember Godfrey wanted to know if Clarkston should continue going that route. The Mayor confirmed that we should continue with Brown Monument. Councilmember Godfrey invited Mr. Paul Buntin to the microphone for comments.

Casey Andersen has agreed to help at the cemetery. He will need a key to the green shed.

Councilmember Godfrey and Mr. Buntin were looking for the schematics of the sprinkler system out at the cemetery so it can be marked. The Town Clerk called Canyon Landscaping, the company that put the system in, and is waiting to hear back from them.

The rain helped the sod on the new section, but it could probably use some fertilizer. Fixing the leaks and getting water on it will also help it. New sod is needed on three or four graves.

Councilmember Godfrey stated there was a lot going on to get the cemetery ready for Memorial Day and he thanked everyone who has been working hard on it.

Water Department – Mayor Thompson informed everyone the SCADA reporting was being worked on and is almost complete.

Public Comment:

Jerry Godfrey – Mr. Godfrey stated that he worked at the cemetery for seven and a half years. He said the John Deere does have the power to mow the hill, but it works best going up the hill. The problem is you have to go full throttle to make it up, so you have to make sure no one is in the cemetery at the time. He felt if they drove the John Deere back and forth between the park and cemetery it would wear it out. It would have to be hauled back and forth. He mentioned the hill was supposed to be cremation burials only. He cautioned about letting the grass on the hill get too long because it's even harder to mow and looks terrible. Councilmember Godfrey replied that was the situation they were in right now. He asked Mr. Godfrey if he knew what happened to the edger. Mr. Godfrey said it was there when he worked there, but he was unsure if it worked. He found it worked best to go around the headstones with the mower at a low height setting. He did not know where the edger was now. He said he went out to help Mr. Buntin with the Walker mower recently and felt it may need a tune up. IPACO may have maintenance records on the machines.

Paul Buntin – Mr. Buntin is the current sexton at the cemetery. He stated there are about ten headstones that are cracked to the point that a piece has fallen off, some of them are from the 1800s. He wanted to restore the headstones as much as possible. Councilmember Goodey asked if this was something the town was liable for or something the families should take care of. Obviously, if the town hit one with the mower, or caused damage, the town would be liable. Councilmember Godfrey said there were four or five in the shed and there was no way of knowing what happened. Mr. Buntin stated it would normally be the family's responsibility but, in these cases, they are so old there was no one to contact. Brown Monument had some headstones they would be willing to give Clarkston at a discount to replace the broken headstones, if any funds could be allocated to the cemetery for that purpose.

Councilmember Petersen:

Roads Department – The radar signs are up. The office has a Zoom appointment scheduled with the manufacturer on the 18th to get them programmed.

April Warrant List – Councilmember Petersen read the April warrant list. Councilmember Goodey made a motion to approve the April warrant list. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Thompson	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Noble	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Goodey	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Godfrey	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Petersen	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent

Emergency Preparedness – Nothing to report.

3. **CLOSED SESSION:** Mayor Thompson called for a motion to go into a closed session for the purpose of discussing the Citizen of the Year for Pony Express. Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adjourn to a closed session. Councilmember Noble seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Thompson	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Noble	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Goodey	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Godfrey	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent
Councilmember Petersen	<u>X</u>	Aye	___	No	___	Abstain	___	Absent

The closed session was held in the Council Chambers.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Public Comment: There was no other public comment.

Next Meeting – The next Town Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 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 Goodey seconded the motion. All members present were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Holly Jones

Clarkston Town Clerk