

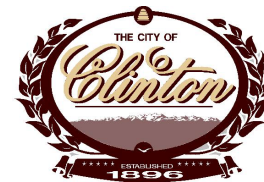
CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 12, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 2267 N 1500 W, Clinton, UT 84015

Mayor: Marie Dougherty



City Council: Spencer Arave, Jennifer Christensen, Chris Danson, Adam Larsen, and Dane Searle

Staff: City Manager Trevor Cahoon, Police Chief Shawn Stoker, Fire Chief Jason Poulsen, Public Works Director David Williams, Parks and Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell, Treasurer Steve Hubbard, Assistant Public Works Director Kasey Jensen, Communications Katie Strobehn, Deputy Recorder Amy Durrans, and Recorder Lisa Titensor

Attendees: Brandon Stanger, Dereck Bauer, Greg Allen, Kirby Crowley, Walter Ruiz, Terry Tremea, Keith Broadhead, Kendalyn Harris

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed by all those in attendance.

Councilmember Jennifer Christensen provided the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Dougherty, Councilmembers Arave, Christensen, Danson, Larsen, and Searle were all present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Brandon Stanger encouraged the Council to continue funding decorative lighting and planter boxes along 1500 West and 1800 North. He stated beautification efforts help distinguish Clinton City and improve the appearance of the business district. He suggested an "Adopt-a-Planter" concept could assist with maintenance and volunteered to participate.

Mr. Stanger also spoke regarding the City's long-term financial position and encouraged the Council to consider a property tax increase rather than continue deferring capital projects and operational funding. He expressed concern regarding inflationary pressures, deferred capital improvements, equipment replacement needs, and the long-term impacts of relying on fund balance and postponing expenditures.

Kendalyn Harris

Kendalyn Harris of Bountiful introduced herself as a candidate for Davis County Commission. Ms. Harris thanked the Council for their public service and acknowledged the difficulty of balancing municipal budget decisions and operational needs.

Mayor Dougherty thanked those who provided comments.

BUSINESS ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING TENTATIVE BUDGET FY 2026-27

Mayor Dougherty explained that Utah State law requires municipalities to adopt a tentative budget in May before final adoption in June. She stated the tentative budget serves as a starting point for continued review, amendments, and public discussion before final approval.

Budget Presentation

City Manager Trevor Cahoon presented the proposed FY 2026-2027 Tentative Budget and discussed the City's current financial outlook, revenue trends, operational pressures, and long-term sustainability concerns.

Mr. Cahoon explained that the budget was prepared without a proposed property tax increase and instead relied on \$440,151 from fund balance to balance ongoing operations. He stated this approach was manageable in the short term but was not a sustainable long-term strategy. He emphasized that recurring revenues were no longer keeping pace with inflationary operational costs and personnel expenditures.

He reviewed several significant financial trends, including slowing sales tax growth, increasing operational costs, deferred capital expenditures, and growing personnel expenses. He explained the City had reduced or deferred approximately \$1 million in capital projects, operational expenditures, and other requests to preserve current service levels and avoid additional taxes during the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Cahoon further explained that staffing costs represent approximately 60% of the City's operational expenditures and stated that reductions in staffing would directly reduce service levels throughout the organization. He noted that departments were already operating near capacity and discussed the difficulty of continuing to add amenities, infrastructure, or expanded services without corresponding increases in staffing and operational support.

Mayor Dougherty provided additional clarification throughout the discussion and emphasized that the budget process is ongoing and requires continual review throughout the year. She stated the Council would continue evaluating future needs, including streets funding, infrastructure maintenance, public safety operations, and other operational priorities as part of future budget discussions and amendments.

Mayor Dougherty also emphasized the importance of balancing employee retention, service expectations, and long-term fiscal responsibility. She acknowledged that personnel costs remain one of the City's largest financial obligations and expressed concern regarding the long-term sustainability of using fund balance to support recurring operational expenses.

Council Questions

Councilmember Adam Larsen questioned whether the fire truck replacement funding had been removed from the proposed budget and sought clarification regarding the overall reductions included in the tentative budget. Staff clarified that the proposed fire truck payment had been removed from the budget and discussed options for future financing or lease payments related to the apparatus purchase.

Mayor Dougherty explained that the Council would need to continue discussing how to proceed with the fire truck replacement and whether to utilize fund balance for a down payment or delay payments until additional reserves could be accumulated. She noted that using fund balance for capital expenditures is more appropriate than using it for ongoing operational costs.

The Council and staff also discussed motor pool funding allocations and concerns that some departments may have historically subsidized fleet replacement costs for other departments. Staff indicated additional review and allocation adjustments would be needed moving forward.

Mayor Dougherty emphasized the importance of transparency and long-term planning as the Council evaluates future funding strategies, operational expectations, and infrastructure needs. She reiterated that the City remains financially stable but acknowledged the need for proactive planning to avoid larger long-term financial challenges.

Public Hearing

Mayor Dougherty opened the public hearing for comments regarding the FY 2026-2027 Tentative Budget.

Greg Allen, Clinton resident, addressed the Council regarding the FY 2026-2027 Tentative Budget. Mr. Allen expressed support for the Council and staff proactively addressing long-term infrastructure and operational funding needs rather than continuing to defer projects and maintenance.

Mr. Allen stated that delaying capital improvements and operational expenditures would create greater financial challenges in future years due to inflation and increasing costs. He compared the City's financial obligations to maintaining a household budget and stated that

additional revenue sources may eventually be necessary to maintain service levels and infrastructure needs.

He also expressed disappointment regarding the limited public attendance at the hearing and encouraged greater public participation and education regarding municipal budgeting, taxation, and City operations. He stated that attending work sessions and City Council meetings had provided him with a better understanding of the City's financial challenges and operational responsibilities.

Mr. Allen further commented that many residents may not fully understand the actual financial impact of municipal property taxes and stated that additional public education regarding property taxes, fees, and City services would be beneficial.

With no further public comment, Mayor Dougherty closed the public hearing.

Additional Council and Mayor Discussion

The Council expressed support for continuing budget discussions and reviewing long-term funding strategies related to infrastructure, public safety, streets, capital replacement, and operational sustainability prior to final budget adoption in June.

Mayor Dougherty discussed the importance of improving public education and engagement regarding City finances, infrastructure needs, and property taxes. She acknowledged concerns regarding public misunderstanding of Truth in Taxation notices and property tax percentages and stated the City should continue working to better explain funding needs and municipal budgeting to residents.

Mayor Dougherty stated she hoped future discussions regarding streets, infrastructure, public safety, and other major budget issues would involve greater public participation. She indicated the City would continue exploring ways to provide more focused public information and issue-specific discussions to help residents better understand long-term financial challenges and service expectations.

Discussion also included the importance of evaluating the long-term character of the community and balancing financial sustainability with maintaining recreational opportunities, public safety services, infrastructure improvements, and quality of life for residents.

Staff and Council also discussed ongoing road maintenance funding deficiencies and the potential need for future transportation utility fee discussions or other dedicated funding mechanisms to address deferred street maintenance and infrastructure needs.

Council and staff discussed long-term public safety funding pressures, including police and fire operational costs, recruitment and retention challenges, and potential future

discussions regarding dedicated public safety funding or improved public transparency regarding public safety expenditures.

MOTION

Councilmember Jennifer Christensen moved to adopt the FY 2026-2027 Tentative Budget, set the public hearing for final budget adoption on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, and direct staff to provide the required public notice.

Mayor Dougherty clarified that Council direction should also include:

- **additional scenarios related to fire truck funding, and**
- **beginning review/discussion of a transportation utility fee**

Councilmember Christensen then amended the pending motion to approve the FY 2026-2027 Tentative Budget in its current form, direct staff to provide additional scenarios related to fire truck funding and transportation utility fee discussions, set the public hearing for final budget adoption on June 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, and direct staff to provide the required public notice. Councilmember Chris Danson seconded the amended motion.

During discussion, Councilmember Dane Searle expressed concern that the City was not moving aggressively enough to address long-term revenue needs and stated he believed the negative impact to the City could outweigh the impact of additional revenue measures on residents. Discussion also clarified that future transportation utility fee and property tax discussions could still occur following tentative budget adoption.

Voting by roll call was as follows:

- **Councilmember Christensen – Aye**
- **Councilmember Larsen – Aye**
- **Councilmember Arave – Aye**
- **Councilmember Searle – No**
- **Councilmember Danson – Aye**

The motion carried 4-1.

CONSENT ITEMS

The Council reviewed the consent agenda, which included the following items:

1. Declaration of Surplus Vehicles
2. Approval of Minutes – April 28, 2026 City Council Work Session and City Council Meeting
3. Approval of Accounts Payable – April 2026 expenditures.

Councilmember Larsen moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Danson seconded the motion. Voting by roll call is as follows: Councilmember Christensen, aye; Councilmember Larsen, aye; Councilmember Arave, aye; Councilmember Searle, aye; Councilmember Danson, aye.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Spencer Arave

Councilmember Arave will participate in efforts related to the Police Department K-9 program and upcoming fundraising coordination.

Councilmember Jennifer Christensen

- Reported attending the recent Planning Commission meeting.
 - She appreciated the Planning Commission's efforts to update governing ordinances.

Councilmember Adam Larson

- Reported on a meeting with Fat Cats regarding the K-9 fundraiser.
 - Explained the City would be selling small stuffed dogs as part of the fundraiser.
 - Mentioned plans to partner with local retail businesses to sell them.
 - Said the fundraiser would utilize Venmo for donations.
 - Mentioned possible demonstrations or events at Heritage Days or Fat Cats to support fundraising efforts.

Councilmember Dane Searle

- Provided an update regarding the sewer district manager position.
 - Reported that the sewer district still did not have a manager hired.
 - Said higher-level positions had been added but the manager vacancy remained.
 - Mentioned that inquiries from the public about the vacancy had slowed down.

Councilmember Chris Danson

- Reported that Communities That Care was beginning planning efforts with Fat Cats.
 - Explained the program is intended to educate and support awareness regarding youth drug use and mental health issues.

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- Said advertising and outreach efforts would begin at the Clinton Fat Cats location.
- It was reported that a tentative date had been scheduled for meeting with Youth Council adult leaders.
- Stated that he and Councilmember Christensen planned to meet with the youth leaders to discuss plans and ideas for youth programs.

Mayor Marie Dougherty

- Thanked councilmembers for their efforts and reports.
- Mentioned planning for the City parade.
 - Discussed the humorous idea of using the sewer truck in the parade.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Jennifer Christensen moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Dane Searle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:22 p.m.

Dated this 26th day of May 2026
/s/Lisa Titensor, Clinton City Recorder