CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 28, 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. Councilmember Dane Searle was excused.

Staff: City Manager Trevor Cahoon, Police Chief Shawn Stoker, Assistant Fire Chief Nick Jarvis, Public Works Director David Williams, Parks and Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell, Finance Director Cory Christensen, Keaton Jones, Deputy Recorder Amy Durrans, and Recorder Lisa Titensor

Attendees: Dereck Bauer, Preston Anderson, Terry Tremea, Lori Miller, Ryan Vincent, Rev. Lonnie Campbell, Rachelle Pierce, Jehicob Torres, Russell Arave, Kylin Long, Braedyn Holly, Walker Ray, Laurie Vincent.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Councilmember Jennifer Christensen gave a quote by Margaret Mead.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC INPUT

Lori Miller, Clinton resident, spoke in support of maintaining the City's term limits ordinance. She stated that term limits provide opportunities for more residents to serve in elected office and encourage new ideas and perspectives while recognizing the service of those who have previously served.

Kylin Long, Clinton resident, expressed appreciation to the Clinton Fire Department for its quick response to the railroad fire earlier that day. She described the stress experienced by nearby residents and encouraged the City to continue working with Union Pacific Railroad to address excessive vegetation along the railroad corridor. She suggested exploring a community volunteer effort, with railroad permission, to help remove weeds and reduce future fire hazards.

Jehicob Torres, Clinton resident, also thanked the City's police officers and firefighters for their rapid response to the railroad fire. He supported exploring cooperative efforts with Union Pacific to improve vegetation management and reduce wildfire risks for surrounding neighborhoods.

The City Manager read two written public comments submitted for the record:

- Dona Gallegos submitted a statement opposing the term limits ordinance, stating that voters should retain the ability to decide who represents them through the election process.
- Former Mayor Brandon Stanger submitted comments encouraging the Council to retain the City's term limits ordinance. He stated that the ordinance still allows individuals to continue serving in other elected positions or return to office after a break in service and urged the Council to continue supporting term limits.

Preston Anderson, Clinton resident, stated that while he generally supports term limits in some circumstances, he does not believe they are necessary for Clinton City government. He commented that local elected officials have earned the public's trust, referenced legal questions surrounding the authority of local governments to impose term limits, and encouraged the Council to make its decision based upon its understanding of the law and what is in the City's best interest rather than solely on public opinion.

Russell Arave, Clinton resident, stated he has lived in Clinton for more than forty years and does not support local term limits. He said the City's election process has effectively allowed voters to retain or replace elected officials as they choose and believes additional restrictions are unnecessary.

Braedyn Holly, Clinton resident, spoke in favor of repealing the City's term limits ordinance. He stated that local government benefits from experienced elected officials and that incumbents remain accountable to voters through the election process.

Laurie Vincent, Clinton resident, expressed concerns regarding the increasing use of electric bicycles by youth. She encouraged the City to consider additional public education efforts to improve bicycle safety, traffic awareness, and parental instruction to reduce the risk of accidents involving children.

Following public comment, Mayor Dougherty thanked each of the residents who addressed the Council and acknowledged the stress experienced by those affected by the fire near the railroad tracks earlier that day. In response to the concerns raised, she invited Assistant Fire Chief Nick Jarvis to provide an update before proceeding with the business agenda.

Assistant Fire Chief Jarvis reported that Clinton firefighters responded rapidly to the railroad fire with assistance from several mutual aid agencies. He thanked the responding crews for their professionalism and noted that the coordinated response successfully protected lives and property.

City Manager Trevor Cahoon explained that the City has continued working with Union Pacific Railroad regarding vegetation management along the railroad corridor but noted that the City cannot perform maintenance on railroad property without the railroad's authorization. He stated that staff would continue coordinating with Union Pacific and other appropriate agencies to pursue long-term solutions that reduce wildfire risks while respecting property ownership and jurisdictional responsibilities.

Mayor Dougherty thanked the Fire Department, Police Department, mutual aid agencies, and City staff for their professionalism and rapid response to the incident and assured residents that the city would continue working with its partners to improve vegetation management and public safety along the railroad corridor.

BUSINESS ITEMS

ORDINANCE 26-06, CLINTON CITY CODE UPDATES - CONTINUED REVIEW OF TITLE 2, CHAPTER 17 (TERM LIMITS)

Mayor Dougherty opened discussion on Ordinance No. 26-06, explaining that the proposed repeal of Chapter 2-17 (Municipal Term Limits) had been included on the agenda to allow the Council to consider whether the City's recently adopted term limits ordinance is consistent with Utah law. She emphasized that her recommendation was not to take final action that evening, but instead to allow additional time for legal and policy review before determining whether the ordinance should remain in effect. The Mayor reviewed the procedural options available to the Council, including postponing action, referring the matter to a future work session, or scheduling additional public discussion. She encouraged the Council to determine the appropriate priority of the issue while maintaining a transparent process that allowed adequate opportunity for public participation and informed decision-making.

City Manager Trevor Cahoon presented a PowerPoint overview of the legal framework surrounding municipal term limits. He explained that Utah law neither expressly authorizes nor expressly prohibits municipal term limits and that no Utah appellate court has directly addressed the issue. His presentation reviewed provisions of the Utah Constitution, Utah Code governing candidate qualifications for municipal office, the concepts of express and implied preemption, the Hutchinson Rule, the Implied Exclusion Rule, and the legal doctrine of field preemption. He said the question is whether the Legislature’s list of specific qualifications surrounding elections is intended to preempt a city from creating additional qualifications. Mr. Cahoon also reviewed historical election data demonstrating that eight Clinton elected officials have served more than two terms during the City's history, and two of those individuals served nonconsecutive terms. He stated that the City's legal counsel has consistently advised caution because the issue remains legally unresolved and, in his opinion, municipal term limits are not advisable. He also said the council could take its time to consider the issue, because there is no immediate need requiring the Council to take final legislative action.

MOTION: Councilmember Spencer Arave moved to refer consideration of Ordinance No. 26-06 to a future City Council work session. Councilmember Adam Larsen seconded the motion.

During discussion of the motion, Councilmember Larsen stated that he did not believe there was an urgent need to repeal or retain the ordinance without additional review. He questioned whether a legitimate local governmental problem existed that required term limits and commented that Clinton voters have historically demonstrated their ability to elect new leadership when they believe change is appropriate. He expressed his general preference for limiting government regulation unless a compelling public purpose exists and stated that voters should retain the ability to choose their elected representatives whenever possible.

Councilmember Arave explained that his purpose in asking the mayor to bring the matter forward was to address the legal question of whether the City's ordinance is consistent with state law rather than to advocate for immediate repeal. He stated that he did not believe the matter required immediate action and supported allowing additional time to review the legal issues and public input before making a final decision.

Councilmember Christensen stated she supported referring the matter to a future work session but preferred establishing a reasonable timeframe, so the discussion would continue moving forward. She suggested that the work session occur within three months to allow additional legal research, public education, and thoughtful discussion while avoiding unnecessary delay. She commented that the discussion had evolved beyond the issue of term limits alone and emphasized the importance of determining what is in the best interest of Clinton City rather than reacting to the current political climate or social media commentary. She expressed a desire to continue gathering public input and educating residents regarding the legal and policy considerations before reaching a final decision.

Councilmember Danson agreed that establishing a three-month timeframe would help ensure the issue remained an active priority while providing sufficient opportunity for additional review. He stated that he would like to further examine the legal basis for municipal term limits, including whether formal legal opinions or historical examples exist to provide additional guidance. He also discussed the value of institutional knowledge within local government and referenced Utah's previous experience with legislative term limits as an example worthy of additional consideration.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: Councilmember Jennifer Christensen moved to amend the motion by requiring that the work session be held within three months. Councilmember Spencer Arave seconded the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Dougherty concluded the discussion by reiterating that the work session would provide an opportunity for additional legal analysis, historical review, and public discussion before the Council determined whether further legislative action was appropriate.

The Mayor then called for a roll call vote on the motion, as amended. Councilmembers Arave, Christensen, Danson, and Larsen voted in favor. The motion, as amended, carried unanimously. Councilmember Dane Searle was excused.

ANALYSIS OF REVENUES

City Manager Trevor Cahoon presented an analysis of the City's revenue structure to provide the Council with a better understanding of how the City's various revenue sources support municipal services. He explained that the presentation was intended as a policy discussion and educational exercise rather than a recommendation to modify the current budget or establish new accounting practices. The objective was to provide the Council with additional information to assist in future budget planning and long-term financial decision-making.

Mr. Cahoon reviewed the City's principal revenue sources, including property tax, sales tax, franchise tax, utility revenues, impact fees, grants, and user fees, and discussed how those revenues are currently allocated among General Fund operations, enterprise funds, public safety, transportation, parks and recreation, and administrative services. He explained that some revenue sources are legally restricted while others provide the Council with greater flexibility in determining how municipal services are funded. He noted that many City services benefit the community as a whole and therefore cannot always be directly matched to a single revenue source.

The presentation examined several examples of assigning revenue sources to the departments they most directly support. Discussion included whether franchise tax revenues could provide greater support for street maintenance and transportation infrastructure, the extent to which Parks and Recreation programs are intentionally subsidized by General Fund revenues because of their community benefit, and whether enterprise funds should bear a larger share of administrative and overhead costs associated with utility operations. Mr. Cahoon emphasized that no single allocation model is universally correct, and that funding decisions ultimately reflect Council policy priorities as well as statutory requirements.

Councilmember Adam Larsen asked several questions regarding the methodology used in the analysis, including how revenues were assigned to individual departments and whether alternative allocation methods would provide a more accurate representation of the cost of municipal services. Mr. Cahoon explained that the analysis was intended to illustrate funding relationships and encourage policy discussion rather than prescribe a fixed budgeting formula. He noted that future Councils retain the flexibility to modify funding priorities as community needs evolve.

Councilmembers discussed the importance of understanding where City revenues originate and how those revenues support essential services. Councilmember Jennifer Christensen expressed appreciation for the presentation, noting that a clearer understanding of revenue sources and expenditures would assist the Council in making informed financial decisions during future budget discussions. The Council agreed that periodically reviewing the City's revenue structure would provide valuable context when evaluating long-term capital needs, operational priorities, and the financial sustainability of City services.

Mayor Dougherty thanked Mr. Cahoon for the presentation and stated that the analysis provided a useful framework for evaluating future policy decisions and budget priorities. The discussion was held for informational and future planning purposes.

AUTHORIZATION TO ORDER FIRE APPARATUS

Finance Director Cory Christensen presented a request for authorization to proceed with ordering a replacement fire apparatus. He explained that the City's existing fire truck is 19 years old and approaching the end of its useful life. Because the anticipated delivery time for a new apparatus is approximately three to four years, staff recommended placing the order now to secure a position in the manufacturer's production schedule. He reviewed the funding available in the Motor Pool Fund, including the planned $220,000 contribution in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget, and discussed applying those funds as an additional down payment if financing were initiated upon ordering the apparatus.

Mr. Christensen explained that initiating the lease when the apparatus is ordered would qualify the city for a manufacturer discount of slightly more than nine percent. Based on the current quoted purchase price of $1,902,956, the discount would reduce the amount financed after applying the City's planned down payment. He compared five-, eight-, and ten-year lease options and reviewed the financial implications of initiating financing immediately versus waiting until delivery. He noted that while future interest rates are unknown, beginning the financing process upon ordering represented the more conservative financial approach because it secured the manufacturer's discount while allowing the City to evaluate refinancing opportunities should interest rates decline. He also explained that any future refinancing would be subject to a three percent prepayment penalty.

Councilmember Christensen asked whether the purchase price would remain the same regardless of the lease term. Mr. Christensen confirmed that the purchase price would remain unchanged and that only the financing term would vary.

The Council discussed approving the purchase while allowing staff flexibility to finalize the financing once updated lease terms were received. It was noted that the City Attorney had suggested using an approach similar to a bond parameters resolution, allowing staff to complete the financing within parameters established by the Council.

MOTION: Councilmember Larsen moved to approve the purchase of the fire apparatus, provided the final purchase price and financing did not exceed the current quoted numbers by more than one percent, to authorize staff to initiate financing upon ordering the apparatus, and to utilize a ten-year lease. Councilmember Arave seconded the motion.

The Mayor called for a roll call vote. Councilmembers Arave, Christensen, Danson, and Larsen voted in favor. The motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Dane Searle was excused.

DISCUSSION ON POND PARK

Parks and Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell presented an update regarding ongoing planning efforts for Pond Park. She explained that the updated concept reflects the Council's prior direction to develop the property as a more natural, family-oriented park rather than incorporating the previously considered pump-track and jump-track features.

The Council discussed the possibility of completing the project in phases as future RAP Tax revenues become available. Potential improvements included a playground, restrooms, benches, smaller pavilions, parking, and other supporting amenities. Staff noted that essential features could be constructed first, with additional improvements added in future phases as funding becomes available.

The Council provided general direction to staff to continue evaluating phased development options and return with future recommendations as planning progresses.

No formal action was taken.

POWERLINE PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT REQUEST

Parks and Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell presented a proposal to replace the aging playground equipment at Powerline Park. She reviewed several playground options, discussed anticipated project costs, and explained that replacement would improve safety, accessibility, and recreational opportunities while bringing the playground closer to current ADA accessibility standards.

The Council discussed the proposed playground concepts and agreed that the replacement should emphasize durability, high use, and a variety of traditional play opportunities rather than focusing primarily on specialized or unique features. Councilmembers discussed the importance of including swings, slides, climbing elements, benches, and other amenities that would provide lasting value for families while remaining within the available budget.

The Council also discussed providing the RAP Tax Committee with a budget range rather than selecting a specific playground design. Staff explained that establishing a funding range would allow the committee to evaluate additional bids, combine desirable features from various proposals, and maximize the overall value of the project. Finance Director Cory Christensen provided updated RAP Tax fund balances and advised that additional revenues had been received since the previous estimates were prepared.

MOTION: Councilmember Spencer Arave moved to authorize staff to work with the RAP Tax Committee in evaluating and developing the Powerline Park playground replacement project utilizing approximately $200,000 in RAP Tax funding. Councilmember Chris Danson seconded the motion.

During discussion of the motion, Councilmember Larsen suggested providing additional flexibility if a larger playground or additional features could be obtained within a reasonable budget. Following further discussion, Councilmember Arave amended his

motion to establish a funding range of $200,000 to $250,000. Councilmember Danson agreed to the amendment and continued his second of the motion as amended.

The Mayor called for a vote. The amended motion, authorizing staff to work with the RAP Tax Committee to evaluate and develop the Powerline Park playground replacement project within a funding range of $200,000 to $250,000, passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

1. Resolution No. 21-26, Contract Addendum Robinson Waste Management
2. Rental/Lease Agreement for a Tractor to Maintain Open Space Areas
3. Award Contract for Well #2 Conduit Project
4. Approval of Minutes: July 14, 2026 City Council Work Session and City Council Meeting

The Council briefly reviewed the consent agenda items. Staff explained that Resolution No. 21-26 would add recycling services to the City's existing solid waste collection agreement following Robinson Waste Management's acquisition by Republic Services and extend the agreement for an additional five-year term. The remaining consent items included a tractor lease agreement for open space maintenance, award of the Well No. 2 Conduit Project, and approval of the July 14, 2026 Work Session and Regular Meeting minutes.

MOTION: Councilmember Danson moved to approve the consent items. Councilmember Larsen seconded the motion. Voting by roll call is as follows: Councilmember Arave, yes; Councilmember Christensen, yes, Councilmember Danson, yes; Councilmember Larsen, yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

CITY MANAGER/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Trevor Cahoon had nothing more to report.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Christensen – The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, July 30, 2026. They will hold two public hearings. Youth Council applications are currently being accepted.

Councilmember Larsen had nothing to report.

Councilmember Arave reported the K-9 Fundraiser will begin soon.

Councilmember Searle was excused.

Councilmember Danson encouraged interested youth ages 14 and older to apply for the Youth Council and reported that Communities That Care would be hosting an event recognizing military members and their families in Clearfield at Barlow Park.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Dougherty had nothing more to report.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilmember Arave moved to enter a closed session pursuant to Utah Code §§ 52-4-204 and 52-4-205(1)(e) for a strategy session regarding the potential sale or purchase of real property following the adjournment of this meeting. Councilmember Larsen seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular City Council meeting adjourned at approximately 10:05 pm.

Following a brief recess, the City Council convened in closed session at approximately 10:20 p.m.

Dated this _ day of August 2026
/s/Lisa Titensor, Clinton City Recorder