



CLINTON CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

2267 N 1500 W Clinton, UT 84015

August 25, 2026

This meeting may be attended electronically by one or more members.

6:00 PM WORK SESSION

1. Discussion on Heritage Days

ADJOURN

Dated the 18th day of August, 2026
s/Lisa Titensor, Clinton City Recorder

- *Supporting documentation for this agenda is posted on the Clinton City website at www.clintoncity.com and on the Utah Public Notice Website www.utah.gov/pmn*
- *In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodation (including auxiliary communicative aids and service) during the meeting should notify Lisa Titensor, City Recorder, at (801) 614-0700 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.*
- *This meeting may involve electronic communications for some members of this public body. The anchor location for the meeting shall be the Clinton City Council Chambers at 2267 N 1500 W Clinton UT 84015. Elected Officials at remote locations may be connected to the meeting electronically to participate.*
- *Notice is hereby given that by motion of the Clinton City Council, pursuant to Utah State Code Title 52, Chapter 4 sections 204 & 205, the City Council may vote to hold a closed session for any of the purposes identified in that Chapter.*
- *The order of agenda items may change to accommodate the needs of the city council, staff and/or public*

CLINTON CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

2267 N 1500 W, Clinton, UT 84015

MEETING DATE:	Tuesday, August 25, 2026
WORK SESSION	X
PETITIONER(S):	Mayor Dougherty and Brooke Mitchell
SUBJECT:	Heritage Days

SUMMARY: This agenda item is intended to give the City Council the opportunity to recommend a high-level vision for Heritage Days that will help inform the Heritage Days Committee as it moves forward with the planning process.

RECOMMENDATION: The council read the History and Evolution of Clinton City Heritage Days and be prepared to answer the questions that follow at the work session.

History and Evolution of Clinton City Heritage Days

Introduction

For decades, Clinton City Heritage Days has served as the community's signature annual celebration, bringing residents together to celebrate the City's heritage through recreation, entertainment, service, and community involvement. As Clinton has grown from a small community into a much larger city, Heritage Days has continually evolved to meet the changing needs and expectations of its residents. Throughout its history, the event has adapted in response to community growth, changing recreation trends, financial considerations, and public safety concerns.

Evolution of the Heritage Days Name

The name of Clinton's annual community celebration has also evolved over the years, reflecting changes in the event itself and the community's identity. What is now known as Heritage Days has been referred to by several names, including Clinton Days, Fun Days, and ultimately Heritage Days.

In its earlier years, the celebration was known as Clinton Days. The name emphasized the community itself and represented a time when the event was primarily organized around local

participation, volunteerism, and activities provided by Clinton residents, civic organizations, churches, and community groups.

As the celebration grew and incorporated more carnival attractions, entertainment, games, and family activities, the event became known as Fun Days. The name reflected the increasingly recreational nature of the celebration and the emphasis on providing entertainment and activities for families. During this period, Fun Days became closely associated with the carnival rides and attractions that were an important part of the annual celebration.

Over time, the City transitioned from the name Fun Days to Heritage Days. The change reflected a broader desire to emphasize the history, traditions, community identity, and civic pride associated with the celebration rather than focusing primarily on entertainment and carnival activities.

The evolution from Clinton Days to Fun Days and ultimately to Heritage Days mirrors the broader evolution of the event itself. The celebration moved from a primarily community-organized gathering, to a larger entertainment-focused festival, and eventually toward an event intended to recognize and celebrate Clinton's history and community heritage.

Although the name has changed, the underlying purpose of the celebration has remained consistent: bringing the Clinton community together. Each name represents a different period in the history of the event, while Heritage Days serves as the name under which the City's current celebration continues that longstanding tradition.

The Early Years

When Heritage Days was first established, it was truly a community-driven event. Local volunteers, civic organizations, church groups, and community members provided booths, games, and activities for families to enjoy. The City's Public Works Department assembled the booths, while volunteers staffed them and operated games and activities throughout the celebration.

In addition to the community-operated booths, Fun Days, a carnival ride and game provider, supplied rides and attractions that complemented the volunteer-run activities. This partnership created an event centered on community participation and volunteerism.

Prior to 1998, Heritage Days was traditionally held during the month of August.

Growth of the Celebration

As Clinton experienced significant residential growth, the celebration also expanded. The increasing size of the event required greater involvement from City staff and elected officials. City employees and members of the City Council gradually assumed responsibility for

organizing and operating many of the activities that had previously been managed entirely by volunteers.

At the same time, the booth structure evolved. Rather than City-provided booths staffed primarily by volunteers, vendors and organizations began bringing in and setting up their own booths to sell products, promote organizations, and provide services during the celebration.

The Carnival Era

As Heritage Days continued to grow, the event transitioned to a larger festival format featuring:

- Commercial vendor booths
- Food vendors and food trucks
- A full carnival with rides and games
- Live entertainment
- Community activities and competitions

During this period, carnival operators charged participants for rides and games. Under the City's agreements, Clinton received a percentage of the carnival's gross receipts, typically generating between \$7,000 and \$10,000 annually.

The carnival contracts required the City to provide activities throughout the carnival's operation, which was generally a minimum of four days. As a result, Heritage Days expanded into a week-long celebration featuring activities throughout the community.

Entertainment

Live entertainment has remained a consistent feature of Heritage Days throughout its history. Early celebrations primarily showcased local musicians and performers. As the event grew, Clinton expanded its entertainment offerings to include regional performers while continuing to provide family-oriented stage entertainment.

Community Activities Through the Years

Over the years, Heritage Days has included a wide variety of events designed to engage residents of all ages. Activities have included:

- Fish Derby
- Movie in the Park
- Dutch Oven Dinner
- Car Show
- Golf Tournament
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- 3-on-3 Soccer Tournament
- 5K Run/Walk/Kids Dash

- Breakfast in the Park
- Parade
- Quilt Show
- Art Exhibit
- Baby Contest
- Miss Clinton Pageant
- Chalk Art Festival
- All-Star Softball Games
- Clinton's Got Talent
- Clinton Idol
- Pickleball Tournament
- Disc Golf Tournament
- Rodeo
- Warbot Battles
- Miss Clinton Rodeo Queen Contest
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction

These events have reflected changing community interests while maintaining the celebration's family-oriented atmosphere.

Changes in Scheduling

From 1998 through 2022, Heritage Days was held during July.

Beginning in 2023, the celebration was moved to June. This change was made following recommendations from the Clinton Police Department. At the time, Heritage Days was one of the final community celebrations of the summer season. Police observations suggested that groups of teenagers were attending celebrations throughout Davis County and that conflicts between individuals were escalating from event to event during the summer months.

The goal of moving Heritage Days to June was to position it near the beginning of the community celebration season in hopes of reducing the buildup of conflicts among teenage attendees.

The first year showed some improvement in public safety concerns; however, by the following year, the number of teenage disturbances had returned to previous levels.

An important observation made by the Clinton Police Department over several years is that many, if not all, of the individuals arrested during Heritage Days were not Clinton residents.

Evolution Following the Carnival

After the carnival era concluded in 2022, the City shifted its focus toward providing carnival-style rides, inflatables, and family activities that were directly funded by the City rather than operated through a carnival contractor.

At the same time, Heritage Days gradually became a shorter large scale community event, evolving from approximately five days of community activities to a two- or three-day community celebration, with smaller activities throughout the week, while continuing to provide community events, entertainment, and the traditional fireworks display.

Throughout every version of Heritage Days, the celebration has concluded with a fireworks display on Saturday evening.

Public Safety Challenges

While Heritage Days has remained a valued community tradition, the City has experienced ongoing public safety challenges during the fireworks portion of the celebration.

For approximately the past twenty-five years, the largest number of fights, disturbances, and police incidents have consistently occurred on Saturday evening during the fireworks. These issues persisted regardless of whether a commercial carnival was present.

Following significant challenges during the 2025 celebration, the Clinton Police Chief and Recreation Director met to evaluate the event and discuss possible changes to improve public safety.

The Police Chief explained that managing large groups of teenagers became increasingly difficult because numerous activities occurring simultaneously throughout the park required officers to divide their attention between multiple locations.

Researching Other Communities

As part of evaluating possible solutions, the Recreation Director met with Roy City's Parks and Recreation Department to discuss changes Roy had implemented during its community celebration.

Roy City had concluded its daytime festivities at approximately 7:00 p.m., requiring vendors and activities to leave the park before fireworks. Their fireworks were then launched from the golf course, which was closed to the public. Residents viewed the fireworks from various locations throughout the community.

While this reduced activity at the primary event site, Roy officials indicated it created a different challenge. Large groups of teenagers gathered at multiple parks and moved through surrounding

neighborhoods, requiring the police department to divide its resources between several locations instead of one centralized event.

The 2026 Heritage Days Format

Using information gathered from law enforcement and neighboring communities, staff proposed a revised format for the 2026 Heritage Days celebration.

The City Council approved a schedule that moved nearly all Heritage Days activities—including vendor booths, entertainment, and family programming to Thursday and Friday. Only the Parade, 5K, and fireworks remained on Saturday, leaving the fireworks as a standalone evening event.

The intent was to reduce the number of simultaneous activities occurring in the park and allow law enforcement to focus more directly on managing the fireworks crowd.

Results of the 2026 Format

During the 2026 fireworks event, large groups of teenagers began arriving at approximately 4:30 p.m. Attendance continued to increase until shortly before the fireworks began.

Youth arrived by a variety of means, including being dropped off by parents, siblings, friends, ride-share services such as Uber and Lyft, bicycles, scooters, and on foot.

While waiting for the fireworks, many gathered throughout the park and the surrounding business district. Many of the same incidents were taking place as in previous years including:

- Smoking inside public restrooms
- Theft of traffic cones and water containers
- Climbing on the entertainment stage
- Jumping on picnic tables
- Reckless driving and vehicle burnouts in parking lots

Beginning around 7:00 p.m., multiple fights occurred, requiring police intervention. Consistent with previous years, those arrested were not Clinton residents.

Continuing Evaluation

Following the 2026 celebration, the Police Chief consulted with outside public safety experts to evaluate possible future options.

Suggestions discussed included:

- Holding Heritage Days in a smaller venue.
- Scheduling the celebration on the same weekend as another community event to naturally disperse large groups of teenagers.

The city staff has discussed the options of:

- Coordinating dates with neighboring celebrations, such as Syracuse City's community celebration. Which is held on June 19th and 20th.
- Moving Heritage Days to coincide with the Fourth of July.
- Moving the celebration later in the year, such as September.

Each option presents both opportunities and challenges.

For example, discussions with vendors indicate that moving Heritage Days to the Fourth of July would likely result in significantly reduced vendor participation because many vendors have long-standing commitments with other cities on that holiday. Additionally, emergency resources from neighboring jurisdictions would be less available because police and fire agencies would be committed to staffing their own Independence Day celebrations.

Conclusion

Heritage Days has continually evolved throughout its history in response to Clinton City's growth and the changing needs of the community. The celebration has progressed from a volunteer-driven event with community booths and church-sponsored games to a large city-wide festival featuring commercial vendors, entertainment, rides, athletic competitions, and numerous family activities.

Throughout every stage of its evolution, the primary goal has remained the same: providing an opportunity for residents to celebrate Clinton City's heritage while fostering community pride.

As the City continues to evaluate Heritage Days, future decisions will likely balance preserving long-standing traditions with adapting the event to address public safety, operational efficiency, financial sustainability, and the overall experience of residents and visitors.

Questions

- What is the overall look, feel, style you envision for Heritage Days?
- In your experience, what are the types of activities that promote your preferred look, feel, and style?
- Do you see Heritage Days as a local community event or a regional attraction? What elements make the difference?
- Who should "own" Heritage Days? Is it mostly a rec event that other departments support as needed? Is it a City Council event? Is it an all-city event with each department/entity taking ownership and playing a part?
- Should the date change? For example, there is some indication that hosting an event on the same day as a neighboring city's event can reduce the incidence of teen takeovers.
- How long should Heritage Days last? A day? Two days? A week?