

**CLINTON CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
2267 N 1500 W Clinton UT 84015**



Date: August 25, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 2267 N 1500 W, Clinton, UT 84015

Elected Officials:

Mayor: Marie Dougherty

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

Staff Present:

City Manager Trevor Cahoon, Police Chief Shawn Stoker, Fire Chief Jason Poulsen, Assistant Public Works Director Cory Waters, Parks and Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell, Finance Director Cory Christensen, Sr Planner Keaton Jones, Deputy Recorder Amy Durrans, and Recorder Lisa Titensor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dougherty called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Larsen arrived shortly after the meeting began, after which the full City Council was present.

DISCUSSION - HERITAGE DAYS

Councilmember Larsen

Councilmember Larsen said he would like Heritage Days to remain family friendly and include greater citizen participation. He noted that earlier versions of the celebration relied more heavily on volunteers, community booths, games, and activities in which residents helped create the event rather than simply attending activities planned by the City. He supported rebuilding that sense of participation in a sustainable way and suggested starting with a smaller core of activities that could grow over time as community involvement increases.

Councilmember Christensen

Councilmember Christensen supported moving away from a carnival-style regional event and toward a more hometown, community-centered celebration. She expressed interest in activities that encourage direct participation by Clinton residents, families, youth, local businesses, and community organizations, including interactive booths, parade traditions, youth activities, and other recurring events that residents can look forward to each year. She also favored concentrating the celebration into approximately two days rather than spreading major activities throughout the week.

Councilmember Arave

Councilmember Arave discussed the importance of defining what makes Heritage Days uniquely Clinton. He said the City should focus less on attendance numbers or competing with other cities and more on whether Clinton residents participate, support the event, and develop traditions

around it. He supported establishing a manageable core event, retaining a few important traditions, and allowing additional activities to develop as residents and organizations bring ideas forward.

Mayor Dougherty

Mayor Dougherty said the discussion was intended to establish high-level direction for the Heritage Days Committee rather than determine operational details. She agreed that greater community ownership could restore some of the character that has been lost as the event became more City-produced. She noted that residents have expressed willingness to volunteer and participate and said the City may need to be deliberate about recruiting and supporting those opportunities. She also emphasized the importance of creating enough continuity from year to year that families can establish traditions.

Recreation Director Brooke Mitchell

Recreation Director Mitchell reviewed how Heritage Days has evolved during the years she has been involved with the event, from a community-driven celebration to a larger-scale event featuring a carnival and regional entertainment and, more recently, back toward a smaller community-focused format. She explained that Clinton has changed from a small town into a city and that the broad volunteer participation that existed historically may be more difficult to recreate today; however, she agreed there may still be opportunities to involve residents, businesses, churches, and other community groups in specific activities. She noted that she has intentionally worked to scale the event back since the carnival ended and cited the community dinner and similar activities as efforts to restore a local, community-oriented feel. Mitchell also clarified that although smaller activities may occur during the week, the majority of Heritage Days programming is already concentrated into approximately two days.

Consensus – Local Community Event

The Council generally agreed that Heritage Days should be planned primarily as a local community event rather than a regional attraction. The preferred direction was a family-friendly celebration that reflects Clinton residents and traditions, encourages community participation and ownership, and maintains a manageable scale. The Council discussed retaining recognizable annual traditions while giving residents, businesses, faith organizations, and other community groups meaningful opportunities to provide activities, booths, parade entries, entertainment, or other ideas.

Date of Event

The Council discussed changing Heritage Days to the third week of June so it would occur on the same weekend as Syracuse City's celebration. The purpose would be to help disperse regional attendance, particularly large groups of teenagers, without making a significant seasonal change. Councilmembers were generally receptive to further consideration of the date change. The Heritage Days Committee will continue evaluating the final schedule and specific activities.

Traditional Activities

The Council discussed which activities should remain consistent from year to year. The parade and fireworks were repeatedly identified as important traditions, and the car show was discussed as a long-standing event approaching its twenty-fifth year. Members also expressed

interest in simple, interactive activities such as races, contests, community meals, youth activities, and booths that provide an activity rather than functioning only as commercial advertising. The goal would be to create recurring traditions while allowing new community-generated ideas to develop over time.

Police Chief Shawn Stoker

Police Chief Stoker said public safety planning would be more effective once the Council establishes a clear vision for the size, location, schedule, and character of Heritage Days. He discussed strategies used by other communities, including limiting or directing the event area, security screening, and scheduling competing events within the same region. He stated that a defined Council direction would allow the Police Department to build a safety plan around the event the City wants to provide.

Public Safety and Fireworks

The Council and staff discussed continuing public safety concerns associated with Saturday evening fireworks. Director Mitchell described her firsthand observations of Roy City's celebration, where activities were shut down and fireworks viewing was dispersed; she observed groups of teenagers remaining at the primary park, moving through neighborhoods, and gathering at another park, which required police resources to be spread throughout the community. She stated that Clinton's Thursday and Friday Heritage Days activities have generally not experienced the same level of problems and that the recurring concerns have primarily occurred on fireworks night. Mitchell expressed concern that fireworks continue to attract large groups of teenagers, many from outside the community, and that disturbances and violence associated with those gatherings have become increasingly difficult to manage. The Council recognized that fireworks remain a valued tradition while agreeing that public safety, operational efficiency, financial sustainability, preservation of community traditions, and the overall resident experience should continue to be balanced as the Heritage Days Committee develops recommendations consistent with the Council's high-level direction.

No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

**Dated the 8th day of September, 2026.
/s/Lisa Titensor, Clinton City Recorder**