



## **Cleveland City Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, April 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM**

**Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department – 342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He then turned the meeting over to Mayor Pro Tem, Nan Bowen.

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Josh Turner (virtually), Council Members Nan Bowen (Mayor Pro Tem), Annie Sutton, Jeremy McClure, and C.J. McDonald

Also, present were City Manager Kevin Harris, City Attorney Keith Whitaker, and City Clerk Lisa Ritchie

### **INVOCATION**

1. Campus Pastor Jeff Groves, The Bridge Church, and White County Ministerial Alliance

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the agenda.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

2. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Mayor Pro Tem Bowen read the Proclamation.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members presented the Proclamation to Enotah CASA Inc. Outreach Coordinator Fran Parks, and South Enotah Child Advocacy Center Executive Director Rebekah Perethian.

3. Proclamation proclaiming April 20-25, 2026 as Georgia Cities Week

Mayor Pro Tem Bowen read the Proclamation.

Motion by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Proclamation proclaiming April 20-25, 2026 as Georgia Cities Week.

The Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members presented the Proclamation to Ms. Ritchie.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

## PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Turner recused himself due to a conflict of interest.

4. Consider a request from Coleby Nelson, requesting to rezone 4.57 acres, Tax Map and Parcel 047A 011, located at 499 Old Blairsville Road, Cleveland, Georgia 30528. The current zoning classification for the tract is R-1, Single Family Residential District. The requested zoning classification of said tract is B-2, Highway Commercial District. The proposed use of this property is for low impact office space.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowen provided the public hearing procedures and opened the hearing.

She confirmed with Mr. Nelson that he had submitted a Disclosure of Campaign Contribution Certification and verified that he had not made any contributions exceeding \$250 to any government official involved in reviewing his application within the past two years. Mr. Nelson confirmed compliance.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowen also verified that all property taxes associated with the property had been paid, which Mr. Nelson confirmed.

Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council, stating that the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval with staff's recommended conditions.

Mr. Nelson then addressed the Mayor and Council. He stated that he would not have any problems complying with the conditions set by the Planning Commission.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowen called for a show of hands from those in favor of the item; one person responded. She then asked for those opposed; there were none.

No additional public comments were made.

Mayor Pro Tem Bowen then closed the public hearing.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve Mr. Nelson's request to rezone 4.57 acres, Tax Map and Parcel 047A 011, located at 499 Old Blairsville Road, from R-1, Single Family Residential District to B-2, Highway Commercial District with the following conditions:

- 1) Access onto Old Blairsville Road shall be improved to a commercial apron and drive standard approved by Planning and the Chief Building Official.
- 2) Any site improvements shall include stormwater retention measures to prevent all downstream storm impacts.
- 3) Fire and Life Safety commercial requirements and commercial building codes.
- 4) Commercial signage will be subject to the city sign ordinance.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

5. Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant – March 2026 Report

Mr. O'Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following March items:

- Occupational License - 9
- Building Permits - 4
- Building Inspections – 16
- Plan Review - 3
- Current Commercial Activity - 7
- Development Inquiry - 3

Grant Applications and Administration:

- Selection of Rindt, Inc. to provide services for the well project

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant notice to proceed date is May 11
- Georgia Rural Water Workforce Initiative for funding for Campbell Street sewer relieve line servicing Talon Village was awarded funding in the amount of \$2.5 million. DCA site visit has been scheduled. Staff met with the city engineer to begin implementation

Infrastructure and Planning:

- Staff submitted the US Census Bureau report on construction status of the new fire station and expenditures.

6. Finance Director John Solmon – February 2026 Report

Mr. Solmon addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following February items:

- General Fund: Revenues are up, expenses are up
- LOST and SPLOST Collections: up 5.9% for the month
- Public Safety (Police and Fire is 56% of the general fund expenditure
- Water and Sewer Fund Revenue and expenses are up

7. Fire Captain Steven Sears – March 2026 Report

Fire Captain Steven Sears addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following March items:

- Responded to 123 incidents (65 inside the city limits, 44 auto-aid outside the city limits, and 14 surrounding district responses)
- The call volume has increased 6.25%
- 219 documented training hours
- Every shift now has a Lieutenant staffed

8. Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker – March 2026 Report

Chief Shoemaker shared that Brandon Landress had been promoted to Lieutenant.

Chief Shoemaker addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following March items:

Total occurrences – 2,438

- Public assist - 318
- Premise checks – 1,682
- Field interviews – 8
- Incident reports – 56
- Accident reports – 27
- Investigative/Supplemental – 50
- Use of force – 0
- Citations – 105
- Warnings – 143
- Warrants – 8
- Juveniles – 0
- Admin: Alcohol Badges, CHRI, Peddler – 45
- Arrests - 3

9. Public Works Director Ricky Hunt – March 2026 Report

Mr. Hunt addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following March items:

- Dumpster repair/replace – 2
- Culvert Clean Out – 1
- Sewer Inspection - 2

- Snowbird - 1
- Water Quality - 1
- Meter Change Out - 4
- City Hall Office Maintenance - 1
- Cut Off and Lock Meter - Non-Payment - 25
- Inspection - 2
- Check for Leak - 5
- Final Reading - Do Not Lock - 24
- Garbage Request - 13
- Sewer Backup - 2
- Meeting with Customer - 2
- Final Read and Lock Meter - Disconnect - 17
- Garbage Request Change - 4
- Meter Inspection - 29
- Residential Turn On - 35
- Commercial Turn On - Just Unlock - 1
- Street R-O-W Maintenance - 1
- Meter Readings - Monthly - 2,318
- Meter Re-Reads - Monthly - 19
- Utility Locates - 113
- Street Repair - 1
- After Hours Work - 2
- City Property Maintenance - 2

Total Number of Work Orders - 2,626

- Inmates worked 17 of their scheduled (17) workdays
- Routine Sewer Lift Station Inspections: 9 Lift Stations Inspected daily (252 inspections conducted)
- Residential and Commercial Sanitation - 57 loads collected, 189.09 tons of waste transported to the transfer station

#### 10. Water Resources Bradley Filaski – March 2026 Report

Mr. Filaski addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following March items:

##### Water Treatment

- City wells produced 16.9 MG
- Purchased 6.1 MG from the County
- Flushed 5 hydrants for water quality
- Performed 195 laboratory tests on drinking water
- Collected and shipped all required monthly samples to EPD's lab
- Submitted all monthly operating reports to EPD
- Issued 1 boil water advisory to EPD
- Water loss for the month was 34.9%

##### Water Reclamation

- Discharged 10.6 MG of treated effluent into the Tesnatee Creek
- Performed 108 laboratory tests on influent and effluent wastewater
- Cleaned all UV lamps
- Submitted the discharge monitoring report to EPD
- Reviewed and filed monthly grease trap manifests
- Installed new chemical feed pump for magnesium hydroxide

## Industrial Pre-treatment

- Reviewed Cobb-Vantress and NOK self-monitoring reports

## NEW BUSINESS

11. Capital Budget Reallocation for turnout gear and radios for the Fire Department - Funding Source: SPLOST V

Captain Sears addressed the Mayor and Council Members to discuss the item.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Capital Budget Reallocation for turnout gear and radios for the Fire Department.

12. Request for sanitation services and road closures of South Brooks Street from East Kytile to East Underwood Street, and Quillian Street from East Kytile to East Underwood Street, for the Business Block Party scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

White County Chamber of Commerce President Beth Truelove addressed the Mayor and Council Members to discuss the request.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to approve the request for sanitation services and road closures of South Brooks Street from East Kytile to East Underwood Street, and Quillian Street from East Kytile to East Underwood Street, for the Business Block Party

13. Ratification of Service Agreement with Ghost Coast Entertainment, LLC for a fireworks display show for the July 4, 2026 event - Funding Source: Cleveland/White 250

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the ratification of the Service Agreement with Ghost Coast Entertainment, LLC for a fireworks display show for the July 4, 2026 event.

14. Georgia Department of Corrections Fire Services Mutual Aid Agreement

Captain Sears stated that the agreement is for extra personnel to be provided by Lee Arrendale Prison should there be a need.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections for Fire Services.

## CALLED MEETING/MEETING MINUTES

15. April 2, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the April 2, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes.

16. March 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the March 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

17. April 2, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the April 2, 2026 Executive Session Minutes.

## CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker had no items to report.

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris discussed the following topics:

- Appreciation to everyone who was involved with the wastewater treatment plant groundbreaking
- Project status of the new City Hall/Police Department
- Georgia Cities Week
- Appreciation to Chiefs Shoemaker and Bryant for their leadership in their departments
- FY 2026-2027 budget planning

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

18. The next Cleveland City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department
19. The Planning and Zoning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 7:48 p.m.

20. Pending Litigation

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Council Member McDonald opened the door to allow citizens to return to the regular meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Meeting of April 20, 2026, at 9:04 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Turner                      Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy McClure              Council Member  
District 3

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nan Bowen                      Council Member  
District 1  
Mayor Pro Tem

\_\_\_\_\_  
C.J. McDonald              Council Member  
District 4

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Sutton                  Council Member  
District 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa A. Ritchie              City Clerk