



Cleveland City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Josh Turner

Councilmember Annie Sutton

Councilmember Jeremy McClure

Councilmember CJ McDonald

Councilmember Nan Bowen was not in attendance.

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

INVOCATION

1. Associate Pastor Dennis Turner, First Baptist Church, and White County Ministerial Alliance

Associate Pastor Dennis Turner was not in attendance. Pastor Phil Weaver gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

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

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Ritchie read the Proclamation.

2. Farm-City Week Proclamation

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Farm-City Week proclamation.

The Mayor and Council Members presented the Proclamation to Beth Truelove, White County Chamber of Commerce President.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant - October 2025 Report

Mr. O'Bryant was not in attendance. Mr. Harris reported the following October items:

- Occupational License - 3
- Building Permits - 6

- Building Inspections - 39
- Sign Permits - 2
- Plan Review - 5
- Current Commercial Activity - 6
- Development Inquiry - 8

Grant Applications and Administration:

- Appalachian Regional Commission grant application was awarded for \$765,300 for the development of two wells. Staff is currently working with a geologist and surveyor to develop specific well locations on site.
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant bid opening occurred on October 1st. Staff are working to certify the bid.
- Staff are working with GDOT to obtain a GDOT permit for a crosswalk at South Main Street.

Infrastructure and Planning:

- The Comprehensive Plan Committee met and reviewed the current plan.
- The Cleveland DDA held their quarterly meeting.
- Staff reviewed the final plat for Jackson Cottages and Laurel Heights (Angel Lane).
- Staff submitted the US Census Bureau report on construction status of the new fire station.
- Staff coordinated installation of fiber optic cable on East Jarrard, Cagle, and Carroll Streets.

Council Member McClure asked if the grant for the well was reimbursable. Finance Director John Solmon stated that it is reimbursable.

4. Finance Director John Solmon - September 2025 Report

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

- General Fund: Revenues are down, expenses are up
- LOST and SPLOST Collections: up 14.7% for the month and 8.5% for the year
- Public Safety (Police and Fire is 58% of the general fund expenditure
- Water and Sewer Fund Revenue and expenses are down

5. Interim Fire Chief Bo Medlock - October 2025 Report

Interim Fire Chief Medlock addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following October items:

- Total of 141 calls (61 inside the city limits and 80 in the county)
- Moved into the new fire station
- Participated in community outreach events
- Enhanced driver readiness, safety, and consistency across all operations, with a standardized credentialing process
- Working toward updating all department SOPs to ensure they are current, consistent, aligned with organizational policies, compliance standards, and best practices.

6. Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker - October 2025 Report

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

Total occurrences – 2,423

- Public assist – 395
- Premise checks – 1,618
- Field interviews – 22
- Incident reports – 24
- Accident reports – 27
- Investigative/Supplemental – 28
- Use of force – 0
- Citations – 90
- Warnings – 208
- Warrants – 2
- Juveniles – 1
- Admin: Alcohol Badges, CHRI, Peddler – 8
- Arrests - 6

Chief Shoemaker stated that the police department had a successful child safety seat event. He said 16 car seats were provided with the assistance of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

7. Public Works Director Ricky Hunt - October 2025 Report

Mr. Hunt was not in attendance due to a lift station outage. Mr. Harris reported the following October items:

- Inside New Water Cut-In & Sewer-In - 2
- Water quality – 1
- Meter change out – 11
- City Hall Office Maintenance - 1
- Sewer backup – 1
- Dumpster repair/replace – 1
- Miscellaneous – 3
- Check for leak – 12
- Final reading do not lock – 19
- Garbage request – 14
- Inspection - 1
- Cut off and lock meter (nonpayment) – 19
- Misc. to Probation Workers - 1
- Main Line Break – 1
- Meeting with customer – 4
- Final read and lock meter – disconnect – 23
- Payment agreement – 1
- Meter inspection – 35

- Residential turn on – 33
- Commercial turn on – 2
- After hours work – 5
- City property maintenance – 2
- Meter readings (monthly) – 2,313
- Meter re-reads (monthly) – 17
- Utility locates – 191
- Inmates worked 16 of their scheduled (17) workdays
- Oak Springs building maintenance - 1

TOTAL SERVICE ORDERS: 2714

- Inmates worked all 17 of their scheduled workdays
- Routine sewer lift stations daily inspections – 9 lift stations, 7 days a week, 279 inspections
- Sanitation (Residential & Commercial) – 58 loads collected, 187.63 tons of waste transported to the transfer station

Council Member Sutton requested an update on the software transition that has resulted in acceptance of only check and cash payments. Mr. Harris reported that efforts are ongoing to resolve the issue quickly and that he will continue to keep the public informed on the progress.

Mayor Turner asked that the voicemail system be updated so callers are greeted by a live person rather than an automated voice.

8. Water Resources Director Andrea Smith - October 2025 Report

Ms. Smith addressed the Mayor and Council Members. She reported the following October items:

Water Treatment

- City wells produced 16.9 MG
- Purchased 6.4 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
- Water loss for the month was 31.2%
- Issued 4 boil water advisories due to construction on 129 South

WATER RECLAMATION:

- Discharged 9.5 MG of treated effluent into the Tesnatee Creek
- Performed 108 laboratory tests on influent and effluent wastewater
- Cleaned and changed UV lamps
- Submitted the discharge monitoring report to EPD
- Reviewed and filed monthly grease trap manifests
- Harvested 3 dump truck loads of duckweed from the pond

- Collected the annual PPL 129 and duckweed samples

- Issued 2 spill reports to EPD

INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT:

- Reviewed Cobb-Vantress and NOK self-monitoring reports

- Annual walk-through inspection and surveillance testing at NOK and Cobb-Vantress

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Wellness Policy

Ms. Ritchie stated that the wellness grant requires the adoption of a Wellness Policy.

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

10. 2026 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Ritchie presented the proposed 2026 Council Meeting Schedule.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the 2026 Meeting Schedule.

11. 2026 Holiday Schedule

Ms. Ritchie presented the proposed 2026 Holiday Schedule.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule.

12. 2025 Annual Holiday Bonus

Mr. Harris addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He stated that the annual holiday bonus was budgeted and would not be a burden to the city.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the 2025 annual holiday bonus.

CALLED MEETING/MEETING MINUTES

13. November 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald, and voted, unanimously, to approve the November 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

14. November 3, 2025 Executive Session Minutes (Real Estate)

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the November 3, 2025 Executive Session (Real Estate) Minutes.

15. November 3, 2025 Executive Session Minutes (Real Estate and Personnel)

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the November 3, 2025 Executive Session (Real Estate and Personnel) Minutes.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have items to report.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris did not have any items to report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

16. Planning and Zoning Meeting – Thursday, November 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. has been cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday
17. City of Cleveland offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27 and November 28, 2025, in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday
18. The next Cleveland City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at the Oak Springs Community Center/Police Department

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, to enter an Executive Session at 7:04 p.m.

19. Discussion regarding Real Estate and Personnel

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Meeting at 8:48 p.m.

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Meeting of November 17, 2025, at 8:49 p.m.