



Cleveland City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Oak Springs Community Center – 342 Campbell Street, Cleveland, GA

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT:

Mayor Josh Turner, 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. Associate Pastor Dennis Turner, Cleveland First Baptist Church, and White County Ministerial Alliance

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA

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

PRESENTATIONS

2. Matthew 25 Alliance (M25A)

Pastor Burnetta Armour of First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland and the White County Ministerial Alliance, and Pastor John Harrison of Nacoochee Presbyterian Church and the White County Ministerial Alliance, addressed the Mayor and Council Members. They discussed the Matthew 25 Alliance, a collaborative effort among local churches to work together and serve as a resource for neighbors in need.

3. Proclamation proclaiming Tuesday, August 11, 2026, as City Hall Selfie Day

Mayor Turner read the Proclamation.

Motion by Council Member Sutton, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Proclamation proclaiming Tuesday, August 11, 2026, as City Hall Selfie Day.

Following the approval of the Proclamation, the Mayor and Council Members participated in a City Hall Selfie.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

4. Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant – July 2026 Report

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

- Occupational License - 1
- Building Permits - 3
- Building Inspections - 18
- Sign Permits - 2
- Plan Review - 2
- Current Commercial Activity - 8
- Development Inquiry - 2

Grant Applications and Administration:

- Appalachian Regional Commission well project: Preliminary engineering report is under review by Georgia DNR and the US Army Corps.
- RWHI Campbell Street sewer relief line survey preparation
- Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP): Mobilization has been completed, supplies established, and construction initiated.

Infrastructure and Planning

- Completed the monthly US Census Bureau report on the construction status of the WWTP expansion, including expenditures.
- Updated GDOT permit for the second phase of East Kytile waterline improvements.
- Initiated moving archived plans at the WWTP to the old tag office for temporary storage.
- Moved offices from 85 South Main Street to 55 Cantrell Road.

Site inspection for Clyde's, Cenita event location for the July 4th event.

July 4th event preparations and successful event implementation.

5. Finance Director John Solmon – June 2026 Report

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

- General Fund: Revenues are down, while expenses are up due to three payrolls occurring during the month.
- LOST and SPLOST Collections: Collections increased 5.3% for the month and 2.8% for the year.
- Public Safety: Police and Fire expenditures account for approximately 57% of General Fund expenditures.
- Water and Sewer Fund: Both revenues and expenses are down; however, revenues exceeded expenses for the period.

6. Fire Chief Jason Bryant – July 2026 Report

Fire Chief Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following July items:

- The Fire Department responded to 135 incidents during the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 922 responses, with 65.2% occurring within the City limits.
- Department personnel completed 399 documented training hours.

-Lieutenant Morris taught the NPQ Vehicle Extrication Technician course to personnel from Cleveland, White County, Forsyth County, and other areas. This was the first training of its kind hosted and taught through Cleveland Fire Services.

-Department personnel participated in several community engagement activities, including the Independence Day Celebration, Stuff the Bus, and a car wash fundraiser. The Department also welcomed the youth group from Friendship Baptist Church, who provided dinner for the firefighters.

-Department personnel dedicated several days to cleaning, organizing, and relocating usable equipment from the former fire station to the new headquarters.

7. Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker – July 2026 Report

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

Total occurrences – 1,915

-Public assist - 310

-Premise checks – 1,296

-Field interviews – 7

-Incident reports – 36

- Accident reports – 18

-Investigative/Supplemental – 21

-Citations – 64

-Warnings – 136

-Warrants – 12

-Admin: Alcohol Badges, CHRI, Peddler – 15

-Arrests - 8

8. Public Works Director Ricky Hunt – July 2026 Report

Mr. Hunt addressed the Mayor and Council Members. he reported the following July items:

-Dumpster repair/replace

- Water quality – 1

- Payment agreement – 1

- Inspection - 2

- City Hall Office Maintenance - 6

- Meter change out – 6

-Police Department - Sub Station - 1

- Cut off and lock meter (nonpayment) – 42

-City Wells - 1

- Check for leak – 16

- Final reading do not lock – 24

- Garbage request – 16

- Meeting with customer – 2

- Final read and lock meter – disconnect – 21

- Garbage Request Change - 4
- Meter inspection – 37
- Residential Just Unlock - Do Not Turn On - 3
- Residential turn on – 36
- Commercial turn on – 4
- Street R-O-W Maintenance - 7
- Meter readings (monthly) – 2,307
- Meter re-reads (monthly) – 29
- Utility locates – 112
- Sewer Inspection - 1
- Street Repair - 1
- Speed Bump - 1
- After Hours Work - 4

TOTAL SERVICE ORDERS: 2,686

- Inmates worked four of their 18 scheduled workdays, as there is currently no assigned officer.
- Routine sewer lift stations daily inspections – 9 lift stations, 7 days a week, 279 inspections conducted
- Sanitation (Residential & Commercial) – 59 loads collected, 201.86 tons of waste transported to the transfer station

9. Water Resources Wastewater/Water Laboratory Technician Bradley Filaski – July 2026 Report

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

Water Treatment

- City wells produced 16.9 MG
- Purchased 7.3 MG from the County
- 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, testing came back negative
- Water loss for the month was 26.3%
- Responded to 1 water quality work order
- Issued 2 Boil Water Advisories

WATER RECLAMATION:

- Discharged 8.5 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
- Greased blowers and changed oil

- Sprayed weeds around the pond dike

INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT:

- Reviewed Cobb-Vantress and NOK self-monitoring reports

NEW BUSINESS

10. Request for sanitation services and road closures of South Brooks, and Quillian, Streets for Agri-Fest Country Market scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Council Member McClure recused himself due to a conflict of interest, because he serves on the Farm Bureau Board.

Nathan Eason, County Extension Office Agent, addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He stated the desire to bring Agrifest back to the community.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Bowen, and voted, 3 to 0 (Council Member McClure recused himself), to approve the Request for sanitation services and road closures of South Brooks, and Quillian, Streets for Agri-Fest Country Market scheduled for Saturday, September 26, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

11. Approve the renewal of the 2027 Employee Benefits (Medical, Dental, Vision, and Employee Assistance Program) with Georgia Municipal Association (GMA)

Ms. Ritchie recommended renewing the City's 2027 employee benefits with the Georgia Municipal Association at the same rate, with no increase, and providing the new Employee Assistance Program to employees at no cost.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to approve Ms. Ritchie's recommendation as stated.

CALLED MEETING/MEETING MINUTES

12. Approval of the August 3, 2026 Meeting Agenda

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to approve the August 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

13. Approval of the August 13, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to approve the August 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have any items to report.

CITY MANAGER KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris discussed the following items:

- Official move from 85 South Main Street to 55 Cantrell Road
- Appreciation to the Mayor and Council for securing the new location
- Appreciation to staff for all of the hard work that was put in to accomplish the move
- BreAnna Bardenwerper's acceptance of the Operations and Communications Coordinator position
- Scott Brown's acceptance of the Water Resource Director position
- Bradley Filaski's successful completion and receipt of his Class 3 Wastewater License
- Millage Rate Hearings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

14. Called Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2026, at the Oak Springs Community Center, located at 342 Campbell Street, for the purpose of conducting the millage rate public hearings and considering adoption of the FY 2026/2027 millage rate, as follows:
 - Second Public Hearing: Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. *(The First Public Hearing was held on Thursday, August 13, 2026.)*
 - Third Public Hearing: Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
 - Adoption of the FY 2026/2027 Millage Rate: Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.
15. White County, Cleveland Development Authority, and Helen Development Authority Training is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Fairfield Suites, located at 8035 South Main Street, Helen
16. The Planning and Zoning Meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2026, has been cancelled
17. City of Cleveland offices will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2026 in observance of Labor Day
18. The City Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, September 7, 2026, has been cancelled
19. The White County Water Authority Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the White County Water Authority
20. A Dedication and Open House for the Cleveland Municipal Complex, located at 55 Cantrell Road, will be held on Friday, September 18, 2026, beginning at 11:00 a.m.
21. The next Cleveland City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Municipal Complex located at 55 Cantrell Road

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

22. Real Estate

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Meeting at 8:04 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 August 17, 2026, at 8:05 p.m.