



Cleveland City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 20, 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. Retired Pastor Tim Morgan, Faith Lutheran 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. Proclamation recognizing and celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Truett McConnell University
Mayor Turner read the Proclamation.

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to approve the Proclamation recognizing and celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Truett McConnell University.

The Mayor and Council Members presented the Proclamation to Truett McConnell University's President Dr. Larry Lyon, and Associate VP for Development & Church Relations Danny Hendrix.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

3. Economic Development and Planning Director Tom O'Bryant – June 2026 Report
Mr. O'Bryant addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He reported the following June items:
 - Occupational License - 2
 - Building Permits - 2
 - Building Inspections - 19

- Sign Permits - 2
- Plan Review - 2
- Current Commercial Activity - 9
- Development Inquiry - 4

Grant Applications and Administration:

- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Well Project preliminary engineering report is under review by Georgia DNR and US Army Corps
- Grant acceptance for the RWHI Campbell Street Sewer Relief Line submitted and completed, checking account established
- Georgia DOT LMIG LRA Grant application approved and funded in the amount of \$68,546.56 (bid out next month)

Infrastructure and Planning:

- Completed the monthly US Census Bureau report on construction status of the WWTP expansion, including expenditures
- Presented City of Cleveland data and economic development opportunities to Georgia Department of Economic Development and Georgia Power Economic Development representatives

4. Finance Director John Solmon – May 2026 Report

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

- General Fund: Revenues and expenditures are up
- LOST Collections: up 1.5% for the month and 2.7% for the year
- SPLOST Collections: up 1.6% for the month and 2.6% for the year
- Public Safety (Police and Fire) is 60% of the general fund expenditure
- Water and Sewer Fund Revenue is approximately the same as last year and expenses are up from last month

5. Fire Chief Jason Bryant – June 2026 Report

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

- Total of 125 calls (68 incidents inside the city limits and 46.8% of emergency responses occurred outside the city through the Automatic Aid Agreement)
- Completed 1,070 documented training hours
- Hosted the Georgia NPQ Fire Inspector I Certification Course with 15 firefighters attending
- Hosted a regional Reefer Container Awareness course with 40 firefighters attending
- Completed the annual citywide hydrant inspection and maintenance program
- Completed scheduled preventive maintenance on all city emergency response vehicles
- Completed all warranty repairs on Truck 21, placing the apparatus into full operational service
- The success of the NPQ Fire Inspector I course was the result of an outstanding instruction team consisting of Captain Stephen Sears, Lieutenant Jared Joiner, Brad Alexander, and Jody Holland. Because of their efforts, Cleveland Fire Department has 10 nationally certified Fire Inspectors

6. Police Chief Jeff Shoemaker – June 2026 Report

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

- Public assist - 317
- Premise checks –1,299
- Field interviews – 2
- Incident reports – 38
- Accident reports – 16
- Investigative/Supplemental – 11
- Use of force – 0
- Citations – 84
- Warnings – 141
- Warrants – 5
- Juveniles – 1
- Admin: Alcohol Badges, CHRI, Peddler – 30
- Arrests - 11

7. Public Works Director Ricky Hunt – June 2026 Report

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

- Dumpster repair/replace – 1
- Water quality – 1
- Payment agreement – 1
- Inspection - 3
- Inside New Water Cut-In & Sewer-In - 1
- Meter change out – 2
- Damaged meter - 1
- Cut off and lock meter (nonpayment) – 13
- Culvert Clean Out - 3
- Check for Leak - 13
- Final Reading - Do Not Lock - 14
- Garbage Request - 19
- Meeting With Customer - 1
- Final read and lock meter – disconnect – 16
- Garbage Request Change - 2
- Meter Inspection - 22
- Residential Just Unlock - Do Not Turn On - 3
- Residential Turn On - 24
- Commercial Turn On - 3
- Street R-O-W Maintenance - 5
- Meter Readings Monthly - 2,315

-Meter Re-Reads - Monthly - 51

-Utility Locates - 107

-Sewer Inspection - 1

-Snowbird - 1

TOTAL SERVICE ORDERS: 2,623

-Inmates worked 13 of their scheduled workdays (18)

-Routine sewer lift stations daily inspections – 9 lift stations, 7 days a week, 270 inspections

-Sanitation (Residential & Commercial) – 57 loads collected, 190.76 tons of waste transported to the transfer station

8. Water Resources Wastewater/Water Laboratory Technician Bradley Filaski – June 2026 Report

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

Water Treatment

-City wells produced 17.2 MG

-Purchased 5.2 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

-Collected new line microbiological samples at the Talon Village development

-Water loss for the month was 29.3%

-Responded to 1 water quality work order

WATER RECLAMATION:

-Discharged 10.9 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

-Filled potholes with gravel on the road around the pond

-Greased blowers and changed oil

-Sprayed weeds around the pond dike

-Cleaned weeds off the air lines and curtains in the pond

INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT:

-Reviewed Cobb-Vantress and NOK Self-Monitoring Reports

NEW BUSINESS

9. Resolution 2026-11 - Amendments to 2026 Appointments (Parks & Recreation Board)

Mr. Harris discussed opportunities for growth within parks and recreation. He stated that nominees for the Parks and Recreation Board must reside within the City of Cleveland or White County and demonstrate a vested interest in parks and recreation. He further noted that the Mayor and each member of the City Council are authorized to nominate one person to serve on the Board.

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to approve Resolution 2026-11 amending the 2026 appointments to add Meredith Palmer, Hannah Dockery, Malcolm Anderson, Michele Broadwell, and Council Member Jeremy McClure to the Parks and Recreation Board.

10. Selection of contract to award for RFP- 2026 Camera Project - Police Department, In-Car Camera/ Body Worn Camera / Cloud Storage/ Video Redaction

Chief Shoemaker discussed the bidding requirements, the police department needs, and reported that eight bids were received. He recommended Coreforce as the selected vendor.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to approve Chief Shoemaker's recommendation of Coreforce.

CALLED MEETING/MEETING MINUTES

11. Approval of the June 15, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes
12. Approval of the June 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to approve the June 15, 2026 Called Meeting Minutes, and the June 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

13. Approval of the June 15, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, unanimously, to approve the June 15, 2026 Executive Session Minutes.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have any items to report.

CITY MANAGER KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris provided an update regarding the recent boil water advisories, noting that infrastructure needs and sewer system improvements were key topics of discussion during the recent Council Retreat with City Engineer Rindt. He stated that the City has developed a deliberate and methodical plan to address these concerns, and that funding has been allocated in the current budget to support necessary infrastructure and sewer improvements.

Mr. Harris also reported the following items:

- New City Hall and Police Department remains on schedule
- Current job opportunities with the City include Police Officers, Assistant Chief of Training/Fire Marshal, Operations and Communications Coordinator, Public Works Maintenance Technician II, and Public Works Maintenance Worker
- Ongoing America250 initiatives and preliminary plans for next year's events
- America250 5K race results: Obadiah Kipruto, 1st Place; Konnor Sosebee, 2nd Place

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

14. The next Cleveland City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center
15. The White County Water Authority Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the White County Water Authority

16. The Planning and Zoning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center

Ms. Ritchie stated that the Planning and Zoning Meeting scheduled for July 23rd has been cancelled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to enter an Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.

17. Real Estate and Personnel

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the regular Meeting at 7:26 p.m.

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

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member Bowen and voted, to authorize the Mayor to execute the Lease Agreement with Option to Purchase between Brooks, Kytile and Jarrard, LLC and the City of Cleveland for the property located at 65 East Kytile Street, Cleveland, Georgia, substantially in the form presented to the Council, upon such non-material revisions as may be approved by the City Attorney and the Mayor.

VOTE:

Council Member Bowen - yay

Council Member Sutton - yay

Council Member McClure - yay

Council Member McDonald - recused

APPROVED

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to re-enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate and personnel at 7:49 p.m.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the regular Meeting at 10:01 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 Sutton, and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Meeting of July 20, 2026, at 10:02 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