



Cleveland City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 03, 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 Sutton, seconded by Council Member McClure, and voted, unanimously, to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Resolution 2026-12 to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget

Deputy City Manager/Finance Director John Solmon addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He stated the need for an amendment to the FY 2025/2026 budget.

Motion by Council Member McClure, seconded by Council Member McDonald and voted, unanimously, to approve Resolution 2026-12 to amend the FY 2025/2026 budget.

3. Resolution 2026-13 Affirming the Relocation of City Council, Boards, Commissions and Authority Meetings to the new Cleveland Municipal Complex

Mr. Harris addressed the Mayor and Council Members. He stated that the Resolution formally establishes the Cleveland Municipal Complex, located at 55 Cantrell Road, as the official location for all Council, Board, Commission, and Authority meetings, effective September 21, 2026.

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McDonald and voted, unanimously, to approve Resolution 2026-13 affirming the relocation of city Council, boards, commissions and authority meetings to the new Cleveland Municipal Complex.

CALLED MEETING/MEETING MINUTES

4. Approval of the July 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council Member McDonald, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to approve the July 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

5. Approval of the July 20, 2026 Executive Session Minutes

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member McClure and voted, unanimously, to approve the July 20, 2026 Executive Session Minutes.

CITY ATTORNEY KEITH WHITAKER

Mr. Whitaker did not have any items to report.

CITY MANAGER KEVIN HARRIS

Mr. Harris discussed the following items:

- Move to the Cleveland Municipal Complex
- New Water Resource Director Scott Brown
- Pending retirement of Water Resource Director Andrea Smith
- Operations and Communications Coordinator interviews

Mr. Harris presented information regarding the proposed millage rate. He stated that a Notice of Property Tax Increase would be published later in the week. He explained that the previous millage rate was 5.056 mills and that the proposed rate is 1.938 mills. Although the proposed rate is lower than the previous year's rate, it exceeds the calculated rollback rate by 0.012 mills; therefore, Georgia law requires the City to advertise a tax increase and hold public hearings.

Mr. Harris further stated that FLOST revenue in the amount of \$454,060, representing only a portion of the year's collections, contributed to a reduction in the City's 2026 property taxes. He noted that 60.35% of the City's property tax revenue will be replaced by voter-approved local sales tax revenue.

He announced that public hearings on the proposed millage rate are scheduled for August 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., and August 20, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. He further stated that adoption of the millage rate is scheduled for August 20, 2026, at 6:15 p.m.

Council Member McDonald summarized Mr. Harris's presentation, stating that citizens would receive a significant property tax reduction in 2026 and that property taxes are projected to decrease further in 2027, potentially to zero.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Ritchie gave the announcements.

6. The White County Water Authority Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the White County Water Authority
7. The Turner Creek Water Treatment Plan Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the White County Water Authority
8. The next Cleveland City Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center
9. The Planning and Zoning Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oak Springs Community Center

ADJOURN

Motion by Council Member Bowen, seconded by Council Member Sutton and voted, unanimously, to adjourn the Meeting of August 3, 2026, at 6:47 p.m.