

CLYDE CITY COUNCIL
Regular Session – July 21, 2026

Clyde City Council met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio. Mayor Doug McCauley called the meeting to order.

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Doug McCauley
Vice Mayor Chris Shay
Council Member Cody Browning
Council Member Greg McMaster
Council Member Terri Meek
City Manager Justin LaBenne (Not voting)
Deputy Clerk Jackie Hoppe (Not voting)
Solicitor Zachary Selvey (Not voting)

Absent/

Excused: Clerk of Council Janet Dickman (Not voting)

Visitors signing in can be referenced in the Record Book Supplement.

The meeting opened with The Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 7, 2026, regular session of council were distributed for review prior to this meeting. There were no corrections.

Motion: to approve the minutes of July 7, 2026, regular session of council as written.

Action: Approve,

Moved by Council Member Terri Meek, **Seconded by** Council Member Greg McMaster.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Council Member Terri Meek, Council Member Greg McMaster, Council Member Cody Browning, Vice Mayor Chris Shay, Mayor Doug McCauley.

DISCUSSION OF PENDING OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

Visitors:

Resident, Melodie Johnston at 1565 S. Main Street, corner of Fox and Main Streets. She stated there are about fifteen children residing in the Fox Avenue area. There used to be a "Children at Play" sign on Fox Avenue but it was removed several years ago when new lights were installed and she would like it to be reinstated. She stated there have been vehicle incidents in that area (vehicle going up over the curb when coming around the corner) and she is afraid someone is going to get hurt.

Ms. Johnston also referenced e-bikes in the area, and a concern with the e-bikes not being regulated and controlled. She has witnessed a close call of a pick-up truck nearly miss hitting someone on an e-bike. Mayor McCauley noted this has previously been discussed by Council on several occasions. Mr. Selvey noted some of the bikes residents are seeing are more dirt bikes than e-bikes, which is against the ORC. Clyde Police (PD) have recently sent a letter to advise residents of the e-bikes rules, and to give notice that the PD will begin more strictly enforcing these rules. Some riders have been stopped by the PD to remind them of the rules, before tickets start being issued. Generally, there has been a response of cooperation. Ms. Johnston was told by the Sheriff's office that regulations are adopted by each City. She noted seeing e-bikes on C.R. 175, which is also a dangerous intersection. Mr. Selvey agreed, and noted on 175 would be out of City limits (Sheriff's territory) and when the riders return from 175, it would be within City limits.

Additionally, Ms. Johnston expressed concern regarding a property at the corner of Forest and Main Streets where the grass and yard are overgrown, causing visibility concerns when drivers are turning from Forest Street onto Main Street. She would be willing to address the overgrown areas herself, if she has permission. Mr. Selvey, Solicitor, stated Clyde has been aggressive in recent years in addressing nuisance properties. This issue being brought up tonight can now begin the process for addressing this issue. This can now be referred to Jared Young, Code Enforcement Officer, to go through the steps, possibly resulting in the City taking care of the problem and assessing a fee to the property owner's taxes. Mr. Selvey does not advise Ms. Johnston to try to take care of this herself. The process includes a letter to the property owner, then a second letter before the City can try to remediate the situation. Mayor McCauley shared that the process has actually already begun with this property owner.

Ms. Johnston questioned the speed limit on Fox Avenue (25 mph), as she feels many motorists are speeding in that area; she questioned if a digital sign could be posted to remind motorists of the speed limit in that area. She also referenced motorists speeding when coming into Clyde on Main Street; Mr. Selvey stated the City controls the speed limits within the City limits but ODOT can dictate speed limits on State Routes. Mayor McCauley stated he lives on Main Street and a digital speed limit sign was posted there and did not have any impact on speeders. Ms. Johnston questioned if there are cameras that can monitor speeding motorists (the county has flock cameras, but they do not photograph speeding and cameras are not used for enforcement purposes). Mr. Selvey noted those cameras are not favorably looked upon or enforceable.

George Nelson, Ames Street, has been a resident since 1994. He questioned how City Ordinances are passed. Mr. Selvey explained City Council Members are voted into their position, and then those City Council Members vote on Ordinances; some issues can be raised to the level of being

added to a voting ballot; some laws are passed down to the City by the State.

Mr. Nelson brought up an issue with property lines (he spoke to Mr. Young and was told the fence he wants to put up would need to be one foot off the neighbor's property line) and an issue with an unimproved alley behind his property (he would like to use this alley to park a vehicle that he is working on but was told he cannot do this). Mr. Selvey reviewed multiple property regulations, including original City plat maps, properties annexed into the City, regulations for country properties and City properties, etc. The City zoning code related to fences was updated approximately three years ago to try to more clearly define property areas. In regards to the issue with the alley, Mr. Selvey suggested Mr. Nelson contact the Sandusky County Recorder or the Sandusky County GIS (tax map) who approves all legal descriptions. If there are issues with his neighbors restricting his access to the alley because they feel they own that alley property, he could file a police report or he could contact Mr. Young to try to resolve this civil matter.

Mr. Nelson received a letter from Mr. Young related to a problem with cats, informing him to cease/desist feeding feral cats. He questions if he traps them, where would he then take them. Mr. Nelson prefers to care for the animals. Mr. Selvey stated the City has no provisions for wildlife, those provisions all come from the State. The City at one time had a mouse problem, then came a cat problem, followed by a coyote problem. When a resident feeds multiple stray cats, they begin having an "attracting problem" – by attracting more stray cats to a specific area and creating a problem. Due to resident complaints of large groups of stray cats being fed at a specific property, the City adopted the guideline of not allowing residents to feed stray cats. This is an issue many communities face. Mr. Nelson repeated the issue of where to release the cats after they are trapped and spayed/neutered. Mr. Nelson felt the letter he received from Mr. Young stated he was being mandated to trap the stray cats on his property; Mr. LaBenne will speak to Mr. Young and reword the letter, if needed, because property owners are not mandated to trap. In regards to wildlife issues (raccoons, possums, etc.) there is no City Ordinance; property owners should follow DNR guidelines.

Mr. Nelson has been told if he parks his vehicle on his property grass, it can only be parked a couple hours, not overnight. Mr. Selvey stated an Ordinance was passed to deal with lawn parking. Mr. Nelson questioned if he could place gravel over the grass, would parking there then be permitted (if the gravel area is connected to a driveway it may be permitted, but it is suggested to contact a City representative prior to making any changes to confirm it will comply with guidelines). Mr. Nelson stated he gets tired of being told what he can and cannot do on his own property.

Mr. Nelson made a suggestion to communicate Ordinance changes on utility bills. It was noted information discussed, including Ordinances that are passed, at regular City Council meetings are public knowledge and are posted on the City website. Considering the number of Council meetings per year and the number of City residents, it would be very difficult to distribute notifications to all residents; residents are encouraged to seek out the information that is made publicly available. City representatives are also always available to respond to specific questions they receive from residents. Mr. Nelson commended Mr. Young for being very professional.

Justin Smith, newly appointed Sandusky County Commissioner, introduced himself.

FIRST READING ORDINANCES

There were none.

SECOND READING ORDINANCES

There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. LaBenne reported the following updates:

- Submitted application for the opportunity zone, as part of the possible Evergreen getting purchased. Opportunity zone was in our census track this year, so we submitted for the possible large investment that might end up there. Meetings ongoing with potential buyers, including utility questions, questions regarding violations, etc.
- Grant issues

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Weasner reported on the following updates:

- Financial report and accompanying explanation was distributed to Council; unfortunately, power costs will continue to be a concern next year
- Carpets in Financial office have been cleaned; air conditioning will be repaired; ceiling repairs will be needed for the men's restroom
- 2024 Audit is on the supervisor's desk for final approval; we are hoping to receive the audit by the end of this week
- Things are going well in the Finance office

Mr. McMaster questioned if the increase in water and sewer over last year is related to the last rate increase (yes, and the catching up of receipts that has been discussed before).

Mayor McCauley requested an example for the \$400,000 a month increase in our utility bill, what specifically is that – is it the City expense for utilities (it is part of our power cost; the auctions work under a rolling year, we just had the most recent auction that went up again; this is nothing we control and every year it is going up; two years ago it was a 400% increase in power costs, it then takes a year before that kicks in; the City has not raised rates since 1998, with rates actually decreasing a penny in 2006; transmission capacity costs comes over wires that we don't own to generators that we don't control; it did hit the price cap this year, at 8% lower than last year; there may be some end in sight; our bill used to run about \$1.2 mil/month; currently we are at \$1.6/mil

month; rates are set at our highest peak usage per year; with Evergreen not currently running, this will impact our peak to be lower; everyone is having similar experiences, but Clyde is very fortunate to have Clyde Light & Power; we are looking at ways to offset these costs).

COUNCIL REMARKS

By poll of Council and Administration, the work session scheduled for July 28, 2026, is cancelled.

Ms. Meek offered thanks to citizens coming to Council to discuss issues at a meeting, as opposed to discussing on Facebook. She noted all Council member email addresses are listed on the City website.

Mr. Shay noted the arch and two signs at McPherson Cemetery were refurbished; he commended Superintendent Joel Roberts and to BSE for their welding/fabrication work.

Mayor McCauley echoed Ms. Meeks comments as citizens are always welcome to come to Council meetings to express thoughts and concerns. All will be treated respectfully, concerns will be treated as valid, acknowledging there are things that Council can and cannot do.

Mr. Selvey feels all issues brought before Council are discussed and addressed as they are able, with a response given to the citizens.

MOTIONS

There were none.

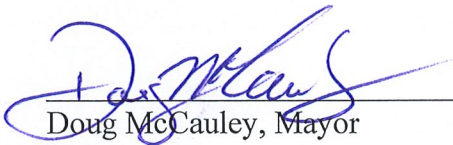
ADJOURNMENT

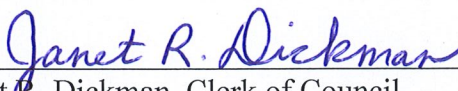
Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. **Action:** Adjourn,

Moved by Mayor Doug McCauley, **Seconded by** Vice Mayor Chris Shay.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5).

Yes: Mayor Doug McCauley, Vice Mayor Chris Shay, Council Member Greg McMaster, Council Member Terri Meek, Council Member Cody Browning.


Doug McCauley, Mayor


Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council

CITY OF CLYDE

COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Regular Session

Visitors – PLEASE SIGN IN:

1. GEORGE L NELSON JR
2. Ben Brown
3. Justin C Smith Secretary County Council
4. Mene Paul
5. A T Ruff
6. Melodie J. Johnston
7. George A. Johnston
8. Gary Smith
9. Greene Wilczak
10. Elizabeth Musick
11. Trevor Dix
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____