



CLINTON CITY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

www.clintoncity.com

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Swearing is taboo language: particular words that certain people deem unacceptable in specific settings within a given culture. "Brandon, we don't use those words in this house!" Bless my mom for teaching me to not use select four letter words at a young age. I still find it ironic that I learned them from my dad. This month, I want to talk about two bad words. One is five letters and the other is six.

Taxes, the five-letter bad word! Everyone hates taxes, and most think they should be reduced. A reduction in taxes, however, results in a reduction of services. Clinton operates on two types of taxes. Approximately sixty percent of tax revenue comes from sales tax and forty percent from property taxes. In the past decades, Clinton was able to benefit from commercial and new home growth to offset inflation. Sadly, those days are over.

My house value went up, so my property taxes went up! This is a huge myth. Unless specifically changed, property taxes stay the same year after year. If your house value goes up, the tax rate goes down. If your house value goes down, the tax rate goes up. In reality, the city gets the same dollar amount year after year unless there is a truth in taxation vote by the city council. The reason your property taxes always seem to go up is because there are sixteen entities with their hand in the cookie jar, and usually, one or more of those entities approved an increase that year.

As a city, our property taxes haven't been adjusted to keep up with inflation. If the property tax rate had been adjusted annually by the federal social security cost of living adjustment for the past twenty years, several things would have happened. First, citizens today would be paying the same as those twenty years ago in today's dollars. Second, the city would have collected over 28 million dollars during that time. That would have paid for a recreation center, splash pad, dog park, pump track, skate park, and the completion of multiple city parks in cash. Third, instead of receiving close to 4 million this year, the city would be on track to receive 6.5 million. That difference solves a lot of problems and allows for increased services. Before you start swearing, please remember inflation happens annually, and if the city doesn't adjust for inflation, then it receives less and less each year regardless of your house price.

I am a firm believer in a gradual property tax strategy. Single digit, modest yearly adjustments allow for better financial planning and budgeting. This predictability is crucial for fixed income citizens. Small annual increases also reflect real-world economics more accurately. Property values, wages, and municipal costs don't remain static for years, then suddenly spike. They evolve gradually. I believe tax policy should mirror this reality, creating a more sustainable and equitable system for everyone involved.

Sales tax is the other part of the equation. Please shop local! It makes a difference. Unfortunately, Clinton's sales tax revenue has decreased for the first time in recent history, even with our robust business development. This is attributed to changes in the economy, higher interest rates, local job losses, and a decrease in patrons due to road construction. Most goods besides groceries purchased in Clinton include a 7.25% sales tax. Of that amount, Clinton the point-of-sale city keeps half a percent. Another half percent goes into a large pool run by the state. Those funds are then divided by population and disbursed back to the cities. The problem we face is that other cities are growing more than we are. Therefore, we receive less of the shared pie than before.

Budget, the six-letter bad word. Wouldn't it be nice to have a crystal ball when budgeting? Good news, we have the next best thing! We hired an amazing finance director last year who has lots of experience. He has been working hard, making the budget more transparent, meeting with citizens to answer questions, and establishing a five-year outlook. A quick lesson on balanced budgets. The state allows a city to dip into reserves to force balance the budget. By definition, this works, but in practicality, this isn't a sustainable or wise practice. We end up worse off because of the decrease in the balance sheet. Clinton is run as a lean mean machine! There isn't excess waste and fluff to cut. The majority of the budget pays our amazing employees. A ten percent budget cut would likely result in three less firefighters/paramedics, two and a half less police officers, one less city staff member, ten less individuals in public works (the unsung heroes who keep the water flowing, sewage flushing, roads patched, snow removed, parks maintained, and prevent the city from flooding, etc.) and a sizable reduction to the part time recreation staff that make their programs run.

Good news! We are being more deliberate in planning for the future. That is one of the reasons for the proposed property tax increase this year. It would add \$38.46 a year to the average priced home in Clinton. I hope this article makes it easier to understand why \$3.20 per month is so important to the citizens and city. This is the first time the budget includes a planned contribution for capital improvements and capital replacements. \$500,000 in this year's budget will be used to start setting money aside for the following items: fire ladder truck replacement, police building security fencing, HVAC and roof replacements since our civic center buildings are nearly two decades old plus a list of other items. Let's take our fire ladder truck as a case study. This vehicle has been in service for almost twenty years. The parts to fix it are becoming very expensive and obsolete. A new ladder truck costs over one million dollars to replace. Had we done small increases over the years, then citizens who lived in Clinton for the past two decades would have been charged a little every year for the replacement cost. In my mind, it is the fairest option because you pay your share along the way. Since that didn't happen, my vision is \$200k should be set aside each year for five years. In my opinion, the worst option is to do nothing, kicking the can down the road, and be forced to do a large tax increase all at once or bond.

Please keep in mind that a crystal ball doesn't exist. Every year, there are budget amendments to cover unforeseen costs and emergencies. Understanding that these items can't be identified ahead of time but always occur, helps the city know there needs to be fluidity in the budget. One advantage of setting aside money for capital improvement and replacement projects is that we can easily adjust that amount in case money is needed to pay for budget amendments.

I love numbers, forecasting, and budgets. I am happy to geek out with you. Please reach out to me anytime if you have questions or concerns. As a reminder, I don't vote unless the council is tied. With five council members that almost never happens. Please take time to contact the council members because they have the final say.

Please join us for the Truth In Taxation public meeting on Aug 5th, 6pm at City Hall.

Mayor Brandon Stanger
(801)784-8867 or mayorstanger@clintoncity.com
Facebook or Instagram- BrandonStangerClintonMayor

CLINTON CITY RECREATION NEWS

1651 W 2300 N
801-614-0780

~~ Follow Clinton Rec on Facebook & Instagram
Register for programs on-line at
www.clintoncity.com, or call 801-614-0780

CLUB 55

August's Club #55 Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, August 20th, 2025, at NOON! Please join us at the Clinton City Recreation Building, 1651 W 2300 N. There is a \$5 donation for the lunch.

WORKING WHEELS

Friday, August 22nd, from 5 - 7 PM the Civic Center Softball Complex parking lot will be filled with working vehicles of Clinton City and surrounding areas. We invite our community to come explore and engage with the working wheels of Clinton City. This is a free, family fun event! Adult Supervision is required.

Does your company or organization have a fun vehicle/machine you would like to display at our event? Vehicle Registration is free and open now! Please contact the Recreation Office for more information.

HALLOWEEN WALK VENDORS

Booth space reservations will be available Aug 4 - Oct 3 for our Halloween Walk event on Oct 6th. Businesses/organizations may reserve a booth space (\$20 reservation rate) to pass out free candy and promotional items during the event. For more information or to register, please visit www.clintoncity.net

SENIOR ACTIVITY - CARD CRAFTING

The free Card Crafting Activity will be held on Wed Aug 27 from 11:00 am - 12:15 pm. at Recreation. All supplies are included.

GIRLS JR JAZZ REGISTRATION

Registration is open for Girl's Jr. Jazz until Sept 19. The season begins in Oct for girl's 1st – 9th grade. Please contact the recreation office with any questions. We can't wait to see you on the court!

CLINTON ARTS UPCOMING EVENTS:

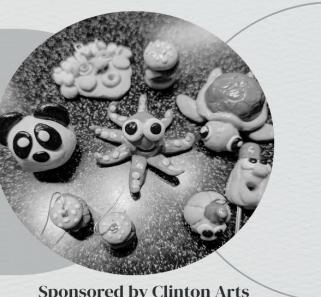
Every Thursday (Except holidays) 9:30 am-2 pm. Open Art Studio. Come and work on your own art or craft project with our group. Held at Clinton Recreation 1651 W 2300 N.

www.clintoncity.net/2213/Recreation-Department.

Follow us on Facebook: Clinton Arts Board

Introduction to Polymer Clay Workshop
Friday, September 19
7-9 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per person
Space is limited

Register at: [https://clintoncity.net/2213/Recreation-Department](http://www.clintoncity.net/2213/Recreation-Department)



Sponsored by Clinton Arts

The Clinton City Police Department is hiring Substitute Crossing Guards. This position is available for individuals aged 18 and older who will work at various city crosswalks during the school year. To Apply, visit clintoncity.bamboohr.com/careers.



CLINTON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT TOY DRIVE

Help Us Comfort Children During Crisis

What We're Collecting:

- New stuffed animal toys (we cannot accept anything used due to allergy concerns)
- Soft, cuddly, and comfort-focused
- Sensory-friendly options (weighted plush, textured, fidget-friendly)



Why It Matters:
These toys provide a moment of solace for kids during emergencies--your donation can make a meaningful impact.

**For the safety and hygiene of those served,
new and unused donations are gratefully requested.**



**Donations accepted from
August 4th-22nd, 2025**

Donations accepted at:
Clinton City Fire Department
2153 N 1500 W
Clinton, Utah 84015
801-614-0840

2025 Holiday Children's Choir

AGES 5 - 12
COST: \$30

Children's Choir will learn Holiday songs to perform at the Dec. Club 55 Luncheon and during the Blitzen Bash event. Other performances TBA. Practices will be held on Mondays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., located at the Clinton City Recreation Building, starting Sept. 8. There will be no practice on Oct. 6 & Oct. 13.

Registration: Aug. 4 - Sept. 8



