

CLAY CENTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

The Clay Center City Council met in regular session on November 18, 2025 in the Council Chambers. Mayor Thatcher called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. City Council members in attendance were Phil Kasper, Karla Sweet, Glenn Hoover, Mike Schultze, Daton Hess, Keith Blake, Theresa Charbonneau and Elton Hess. Also present were City Attorney Dusty Mullin and City Clerk Amelia Blackwood.

Mayor Thatcher recognized the following employees for their years of service: Rodney Althiser-15 years, Sandra McCurry-25 years, Bill Robinson-30 years, Karen Buckner-35 years, John Ihnen-35 years, Elton Hess-8 years.

Clerk Blackwood reported that the annual Audit Proposal will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

The minutes from the Public Utilities Commission meeting on November 3, 2025 and Public Utilities Commission Appropriations Nos. 2814 and 2815 were presented for review. The October Financial Reports were also included for review.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the meeting minutes of November 4, 2025 and Appropriation Ordinances Nos. 4104 and 4105. A motion was made by Councilor D.Hess seconded by Councilor Kasper to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Roll call vote: Yeas: D.Hess, Hoover, Charbonneau, Blake, E.Hess, Kasper, Schultze and Sweet. Nays: None.

Don Wright, Executive Director of the Clay County Task Force, presented an annual update on public transportation services. He reported an increase in the number of rides and miles traveled, with work-related rides up by 19%. Wright highlighted cost-saving measures, including moving to a free building, downsizing the fleet, and partnering with Glavan Ford for reduced maintenance rates. Despite these efforts, the task force is facing a \$19,000 budget shortfall and is seeking the same donation amount as last year to maintain operations. A motion was made by Councilor Kasper seconded by Councilor D.Hess to approve the General Public Transportation Donation Request in the amount of \$7,500.00. Mayor Thatcher verified with Don Wright that this donation is to the Clay County Task Force who is a parent organization of General Public Transportation. Clerk Blackwood clarified that the 2025 donation has already been made and this is a 2026 donation request that was budgeted for out of the Special Parks and Recreation Fund. An amended motion was made by Councilor Kasper seconded by Councilor D.Hess to approve the Clay County Task Force Donation Request in the amount of \$7,500.00. Motion carried 8-0

Committee Reports as follows:

Administrative: Councilor Sweet reported on the following: 1. No report.

Public Safety: Councilor Schultze reported on the following: 1. A building permit extension was issued to Jay Linder for a metal storage building at 1040 10th Street.

Public Services: Councilor D. Hess report on the following: 1. The committee met today to discuss a Street Department dump truck purchase. The truck is a 2015 Peterbilt with a blade and salt spreader, it has 38,000 miles and is \$77,000. The Street Department will look at the truck and bring the purchase for consideration at the next Council Meeting. There are funds in the Street Department reserve to pay for this purchase. The dealer gave the Street Department first right of refusal. The Street Department would also

be selling the '91 and '93 dump trucks. 2. 2026 Street Project planning has begun and bidding will likely be in January 2026.

Property and Recreation: Councilor Kasper reported on the following: 1. The airport inspection repairs have been made including tree removal by the Parks Department and Fuel System decals applied by the Wastewater Department. 2. Santa Fly-In at the Airport will be November 28th. 3. Pool repairs have started. 4. D.Hess requested that a consideration be given to naming rights at the Multi-Generational Life Center to recognize former Grow Clay County Director, Natalie Muruato in her efforts with the project.

A motion was made by Councilor Kasper seconded by Councilor Schultze to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 8-0.


JAMES R. THATCHER, Mayor

ATTEST:


AMELIA BLACKWOOD, City Clerk

