



**SPECIAL CLINTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY HALL  
2267 North 1500 W Clinton UT 84015**

**MAYOR  
Brandon Stanger**

**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

*Anna Stanton  
Marie Dougherty  
Gary Tyler  
Dane Searle*

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>June 28, 2023</b>	<b>Call to Order: 7:00 PM</b>
<b>City Council &amp; Staff Present</b>	City Manager Dennis Cluff, Recorder Lisa Titensor, Police Chief Shawn Stoker, Treasurer Steve Hubbard	
<b>Attendees</b>	Jennifer S. Christensen, Austin Gray, Sara Gray, Alan D. Hansen, Theron Hinckley, J. Stark, Tony Thompson, Brandi McFarland, Ammon Christensen	
<b>Roll Call &amp; Attendance Of City Council</b>	Mayor Stanger, Councilmember Dougherty, Councilmember Searle, Councilmember Stanton and Councilmember Tyler	

**A. VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEAT CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS AND APPOINTMENT**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Mayor Stanger stated that Councilmember Barbara Patterson was on the City Council for 14 years. She will be greatly missed.</p> <p>He went on to explain that the City Council will follow the guidelines established in Utah State Code 20-A-501 to narrow down the applicants and eventually reach a selection. The order of the presentations was determined by each applicant randomly drawing a number based on the alphabetical order of their last name.</p> <p>Each applicant provided a 3 minute presentation. After all the presentations, the applicants were given a question and asked to respond in reverse numerical order.</p> <p>Mayor Stanger expressed appreciation for all those who applied for the vacancy and are willing to serve.</p> <p>#1 Theron Hinckley stated that Clinton is a special place to live. He recalled his wife telling him of conversation she had with a family visiting from New York that expressed that Clinton may be too clean. He would like to help keep the City this way. The people and community in addition to the Recreation programs are what he loves most about Clinton.</p> <p>He commented on the regular City Council meeting that took place on June 27, 2023 which he attended. He was impressed with the attention to detail, critical thinking, desire to get things right and the collaboration and desire for fairness that took place amongst the Council during their discussions.</p> <p>His background is in business. Relationships are important in this field. He would like to contribute some of his experience to the City Council. His #1 motivation to apply for this vacancy is that he loves this community.</p> <p>#2 Jenifer Christensen stated she lives near Heritage Park. She graduated from Clearfield High. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Utah State University with a Major in Political Science and a Minor in Russian.</p> <p>Her and her children love living in Clinton City. She feels there has been good</p>
-------------------	--

planning by Clinton City leadership. She appreciates the community events, the flowers and the trail maintenance. She feels there is a need to continue to maintain intentionality in controlling growth.

She was impressed in reviewing the DRAFT of next year's budget. From the budget it is clear that Clinton cares about people; they are addressing issues that involve growth, infrastructure, traffic control and property rights. She appreciates that Clinton has the second lowest tax rate in Davis County but realizes there is a cost to providing all the services enjoyed by the residents. She would like to serve on the Council because she cares about the community.

#3 Alan D. Hansen stated he has experience in local government by serving on the Clearfield City Council, the Clearfield Planning Commission and the Davis County Commission. He has been a resident in Clinton for 20 years. He loves the quality of life in Clinton. He appreciates the business district. He feels that the 1800 N and 2000 W widening projects will help Clinton attract more business. He said that alternative types of transportation may need to be looked at. He feels he could help in this area. He was instrumental in getting the rail stop installed in Clearfield. He would like the opportunity to serve in Clinton and has the experience needed.

#4 Austin Gray stated he has good family support in Clinton. He currently works as a Paramedic and is earning his Doctorate in Public Administration. He appreciates the first responders in Clinton. He moved to Clinton when he was 8 years old. He has been impressed with the growth of the City. He feels business development is important. There is more opportunity to attract business.

The Parks and Recreation departments do a phenomenal job in Clinton.

In regards to housing, we need to plan for the future. It might be time to look at updating the General Plan. He feels that 3000 W would be a good location for higher density housing.

#5 Tony Thompson said he is known for being straight forward. Some of the successes of the City are the commercial development. He has experience and knowledge about Clinton; he has been on the Planning Commission for 21 years and works for Davis County.

He said good commercial and planning and development are important. The General Plan drives ordinance updates and is very important. State legislation changes regularly. Ordinances drive the development. He would like to be active in continued ordinance review and updates. The General Plan is an important document to keep updated and to follow.

#6 J. Stark explained he has taken the opportunity to learn about the functions of the City. He appreciates the effort of the City Council to prepare for City Council meetings. He has been fascinated by the intricate detail included in the City Council packets provided by staff and appreciates the thoughtfulness of the City Council in addressing the issues.

He informed the Council that his great grandparents moved to Clinton in 1910. He feels he could represent the population well.

He is the president of Renatus, a company that is committed to the creation of Real Estate Investors. It has been a learning and growing experience. He realizes the City Council is cognizant of many important aspects of the City. He would like to share his experience on the City Council.

Mayor Stanger asked the applicants to answer the following two part question:

What your feelings are in regards to raising taxes and how would you fund a City either by a decrease in expenses or an increase in the revenue side.

The candidates addressed the questions in reverse order.

#6 J. Stark responded that an increase in taxes is necessary based on the conversation that took place in the June 27, 2023 City Council meeting. It needs to be explored and 5% may not be enough. It is an appropriate time to do a review of the property taxes and what may be needed. Dennis has done a fantastic job of balancing the budget.

He is in favor of looking at option to bring in increased revenue to the City; he feels that community events could help bring people to Clinton and increase sales tax revenue.

#5 Tony Thompson explained that taxes are a cost to live in America. It is important to fund services and democracy. He is not in favor of annual increases. He feels that Clinton has been very responsible with the budget, taxes and revenue.

He referred to an article in the American Farmland Trust which compares the cost of community services. The article addressed revenue tax dollars coming in vs. expenses and commercial and industrial costs.

He feels that creating a substantial commercial base is the key to increasing revenue for the City budget.

#4 Austin Gray said that budget and taxes are important to government. He has been reviewing the budget. He agrees that inflation has to be dealt with in the City. A tax increase may be necessary. He would like to continue with keeping reserve funds set aside. He does not feel there is a lot to cut in the current budget.

He feels that enticing business for more sales tax revenue would be a good option to increase funds for the City.

#3 Alan D. Hansen stated that Clinton City has been well managed. There doesn't appear to be much that can be cut from the budget. He does feel there are other ways to increase revenue besides raising taxes. He feels that applying for grants and attracting business are good options. He would only be in favor of raising taxes as a last resort.

#2 Jennifer Christensen understands that governments are systems and they require investments of time and capital. She appreciates that the City invests in public safety and that Clinton is one of the safest cities in Utah.

She feels that raising taxes is necessary. Clinton has the second lowest tax rate in the County with quite a gap. She does feel that some innovative ideas could be implemented to protect seniors and residents on fixed incomes.

Areas that could help in bringing in more revenue are accessing CDBG grants and public money as well as considering a RAP tax.

#1 Theron Hinckley commented that when talking about budgets and taxes, it is important to consider those on fixed incomes and young families. Thoughtful

consideration should be given to why and who will be affected by raising taxes.

Good community services and activities and safety are important. These things come with a cost. He is not a proponent of raising taxes more than what is necessary. He feels that if taxes are raised, it should only be for what is absolutely needed.

Grants are a good way to raise funds. He also thinks that attracting good businesses are a good way to bring revenue to the community.

Mayor Stanger said again how impressed he is with qualifications and experience of the applicants. He encouraged everyone to continue seeking ways to serve.

Councilmember Dougherty stated she was very impressed with the entire group of candidates. She admires their strong character and good intentions. She went on to identify how each candidate impressed her most. She said this will be a very difficult decision.

Theron - very caring

Jennifer – experienced

Alan - great public servant

Austin – public service as a paramedic and continued education

Tony – knowledge and experience

J. Stark – personality and excitement to serve

Councilmember Searle commented how much he enjoyed listening to each presentation. He was impressed with each one of them. He identified one word that comes to his mind for each candidate.

Theron - Caring

Jennifer - Respect

Alan - Wise

Austin - Vibrant

Tony - Knowledge

J. - Value

Councilmember Stanton said she was impressed with the comments of the applicants as well. She feels they were all in-tune, knowledgeable and truly love the community. She feels confident than any one of the candidates would continue to promote good goals and dreams for Clinton. She expressed appreciation for these candidates being willing to apply.

Councilmember Tyler said that he was also very impressed with the quality of the applicants. The willingness to serve says a lot about an individual. He appreciates the research the applicants have done. Collaboration is important and he feels all of them would be a good fit for the Council. The wisdom and knowledge displayed by each individual is appreciated.

Mayor Stanger asked the Council for a decision and explained the State Code dictates the voting process.

Councilmember Dougherty explained that this is a difficult decision. We are currently in the process of conducting a municipal election. The Council has the option of choosing an individual that is a candidate and will continue on after the election or an individual who will only serve for six months.

Councilmember Stanton agreed this is a difficult decision. The candidates are amazing.

	<p>Mayor Stanger asked the Council for their vote.</p> <p>Councilmember Dougherty - Tony Thompsons Councilmember Searle – J. Stark Councilmember Stanton – J. Stark Councilmember Tyler – J. Stark</p> <p>J. Stark will be appointed to fill the vacancy left by Councilmember Patterson</p> <p><b><i>Councilmember Dougherty moved to approve J. Stark to fill the City Council vacancy through the end of the term for Barbara Patterson of December 31, 2023. Councilmember Tyler seconded the motion. Voting by roll call is as follows: Councilmember Dougherty, aye; Councilmember Searle, aye; Councilmember Stanton, aye; Councilmember Tyler aye.</i></b></p> <p>Mayor Stanger thanked everyone for taking the opportunity to apply. He thanked the Council for their thoughtful contemplation</p> <p>J. Stark will be sworn in on July 11, 2023 at the next City Council meeting.</p>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<p><b><i>Councilmember Stanton moved to adjourn. Councilmember Dougherty seconded the motion. Councilmembers Dougherty, Searle, Stanton and Tyler voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.</i></b></p>

---

**Lisa Titensor, Clinton City Recorder**