Town of Cleveland
October 08, 2026
Town Hall
6:00pm

Audience gave Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
Council member Alex Faulkner led in prayer.

Meeting was called to order by Mayor James Sullivan at 6:00pm.

Roll Call:

Council members Jason Grigsby, Donna McDougal, Monica Moorer, and Alex Faulkner were present. absent Chad Pass

Others present:

Town Clerk Miranda Shirley, Office Manager Michele Sanders, Superintendent Steve Pass, Mike Killette, Town Attorney Alex Smith, Justin Ragsdale, Mike Parrish, Eric Cox, Benny Richardson, James Dobbs, Anita Pass, Leslie Diadoto

Reading of September 10, 2026, minutes. A motion was made by Donna McDougal and second by Jason Grigsby all yes approved as submitted.

On the Agenda to Speak
Leslie Diadoto- Neighture Wellness Ranch -I just really wanted to introduce myself and let everybody know a little bit about what we're doing. We live on Bend Road. We've got a 60-acre property over there. I've been working with my horses for like equine assisted learning for the last few years under an LLC. We've now formed a nonprofit and got approval for that in June. expanded our services. It's called Nature, N-E-I-G-H, Nature Wellness Ranch. Our mission is to improve the emotional and mental health and well-being of those in our community and beyond by providing people with opportunities in nature and with horses to kind of unplug and reset our nervous systems. We hope to help veterans, first responders, victims of abuse, people with trauma history, people in recovery. . We are having a big opening day festival and fundraiser on November 14th. So I'll be getting flyers out for that soon. Right now, we do have a Facebook presence. We've got a website up. We've had some technical issues with our website and our phone.. I will certainly give you a card and feel free to reach out to me and I hope everybody will come out and see us on November 14th and see a little bit about what we hope to do. Thank you. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Report:
Mayor James Sullivan, Well, we finally, after a long wait, our grant's been approved. So we'll be starting paperwork and stuff on that here quick. I mean, it's been right at two years waiting on this. So hopefully we can get started now.

Chamber- Alex Faulkner stated nothing from the Chamber and the Cover Bridge Festival has been canceled.

Utility Department

Steve Pass Yeah, I apologize. I hadn't been here for the last two or three days to really get anything on it, but I did have a couple things I wanted to bring up the raise for James that we've mentioned last meeting.
Yeah.
Just bring it back up. I don't know if you all decided y'all or Alex did or whatever. Just hear what that was.

Mayor James Sullivan, I had that in my papers from work session, not only was it for James, but it was mentioned that Benny didn't get his, also. So, yeah, I had that, I had that down.

Steve Pass stated Okay, and then also we've had some problems. I don't know, I guess y'all have seen, go by and see the lift station over here on 231 before you get to the trade school. We've been, we've had some problems over there. The last couple of weeks and they got Hydroservice over to fix and start fixing it. Monday, Tuesday, whatever it was. Tuesday, Tuesday. No, Wednesday. What's today? They started yesterday. Anyway, they've had some problems running out a lot more than what they had quoted foreign on this. So, I don't really know what is going to be, but that's something we couldn't avoid, so we'll just have to wait and see.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner What's it doing wrong? What's it not doing?

Steve Pass Well, it wasn't pumping, it had a lot of vibration, and it was a new pump. But the vibration in it was because bolts had come out of it. And then during that, I guess originally, it was installed wrong, and the railing system in the bottom wasn't anchored right. And that just makes it much worse. But the original thing was the check valves weren't working. So, we was replacing check valves. And so they'd been doing one, they finally got the other one done today. And hopefully there wasn't as much wrong with that side as the other, but we have got both check valves and all that stuff replaced. And we had to put one of our pumps that we have spare, put it back in over there yesterday and then sent that one to HydroService for repair so we'll have a spare. So, we'll wait to hear on that one. Like I said one of the quotes was to replace all that and the reason for that being it's a confined space. That was why it was so expensive but that was about $6,000 quote and for some of the stuff that they've run into like I said I don't know what it's going to be. I really hadn't had time last day or two to just be right on it. It's just kind of like it's got to be fixed, and it's got to be fixed right?

Council member Jason Grigsby What about our well project?

Steve Pass, Well project, I think it was that maybe the last meeting one of you all asked about it anyway like the next day or two, but the electrical people got there and put in the pole and all the switches and it's ready for Alabama Power. And I've made contact with the power company guy and sent in the information from the engineer about the load center and all this, but I've not heard back from him. So right now, we're relying on Alabama Power.

No, we could go ahead and get that pump and put it in and have it ready. But I was really kind of hoping without power there, so when the pump people put that in, they go look at it. I don't want to put it in and it just said there.

Council member Donna McDougal asked if we cannot post a vote on the raise tonight.?

Mayor James Sullivan Yeah, we can. I just let him go over. We discussed the park with Beanie on the park, which didn't get his raise. After he'd been here a year, and then James didn't get his raise after his year. So, what is the pleasure of the council?

Councilmember Monica Moorer Well, that's in the hand, book but I think they should get the raise.

Mayor James Sulivan Okay, you want to put that in motion?
Councilmember Monica Moorer I motion they get the raise.

Mayor James Sullvian All right, do we have a second?
Councilmember Jason Grigsby I'll second.
All right, all in favor.
AYES
Jason Grigsby.
Donna McDougal
Monical Moore
Alex Faulkner
Mayor James Sulllivan
Motion carried with majority roll call vote.
Mayor James Sullvian That's for both James and Benny.

Police Department

Mayor James Sullvian Police Department, we've got a resolution in here we need to pass to surplus the three Ford Explorers Resolution 2026-7. Do we have a motion to do that?

Councilmember Alex Faulkner So does that mean we're disposing of those three?

Mayor James Sullvian Yes

Councilmember Monica Moorer I thought we were keeping one.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner That's what I thought too.

Mayor James Sullivan Well, you still got to surplus them out. To keep one, no, not to keep one. That well, what we're going to keep it for?

Councilmember Monica Moorer Well, we got that high fifth officer.

You're saying we last week we needed a fifth officer. We approve that in the budget.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner We approved of that in the budget for the 5th, and that was the question that I asked.

Mayor James Sullivan Yeah we talked about that

Councilmember Alex Faulkner The reason we purchased two Tahoe's is so all four of our guys and then it just got put in the budget to hire a fifth person when they did that. And it was just, I asked, what do we do if we hire a fifth person? And Ken said, "We'll keep an explorer."

Councilmember Monica Moorer the way I remember.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner Yeah, that's the way I recall as well.

Mayor James Sullivan Okay. All right, we just need to amend it to.
Keep the one that's the best one, I guess. Whichever that one is.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner Lower mileage one.

Councilmember Monica Moorer Yeah, we'll keep one with the lowest mileage.
How are we surplus these? How were we cycling We were going to offer. Were we selling them?

Mayor James Sullivan Yeah. Town of Blountsville had offered to buy.

Councilmember Monica Moorer Yeah. And then what have we found out if we got the grant?
Did we get the grant?

Mayor James Sullivan No, we hadn't. We hadn't found out anything on it yet.

Council member What did they offer to pay for?

Mayor James Sullivan $4,000 each.

Councilmember Monica Moorer Whats the Kelley Blue Book

Mayor James Sullivan they are police vehicles

Councilmember Donna McDougal What does Ken and Bill think that's a good deal on those.

Councilman Jason Grigsby Yeah, that's basically about what when I think at the last meeting that was somebody asked what it was and they said it'd be about four or $5000 on them.

Councilmember Monica Moorer Are they 2021?

Mayor James Sullivan Two of them are, one of them is 18.

Councilmember Monica Moorer That sounds cheap. I have not bought a vehicle like that.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner the water pumps are a big thing. Have the water pumps been done on any of these? One of them.

Mayor James Sullivan Yeah, that's what I remember. That's the one that's the one I think it's going to be around $1600, $2000 on the front end.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner Is that one of the 21s

Mayor James Sullivan Yes. It was the one that Sean was driving.

Town Clerk Miranda Shirley Ken was here earlier. He went out on the call.

Councilmember Monica Moorer Yeah, and I don't think that was in the notes from last month when he... Was that a different meeting?

Mayor James Sullivan On what? What's that? I think Chad's the one that asked the question and I think Bill was here at that time too and they said Somewhere around 4 or $5,000 each. You want to table this till the next and talk to Ken or Bill?

Councilmember Monica Moorer Yeah, man, no, we got to keep one of them, right?

Councilmember Alex Faulkner And if we're going to keep one, it needs to be, I think it needs to be the one that we've done the water pump on.. Was the biggest expense on about $6000 just for a water pump, but what would the front end?

Mayor James Sullvian I'd have to be sure that's the same one, but there's an actual bin they say under the front end of it. Let's table that until we get some numbers on it.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner I think we I motion to table it. That's what I motion. Okay. And make sure that we figure out which one has the water pump or if it needs work like an axle we get some numbers on.

Mayor James Sullivan Well they've got the numbers on they got numbers on that okay, but I just have to I just have to make sure that is the one that it was.
We can't really do the resolution if we don't know which one we're keeping.

Town Clerk I need a second to the motion

Councilman Jason Grigsby Yeah, I motion to table it.

Roll call vote to table Resolution 2026-07 Surplus of Police Ford Explorer’s. All Yes. Motion Tabled.

New Business:

Mayor James Sullivan Blount County Animal Shelter is asking for $2490.00.00 donation we made this donation last year.

Councilmember Donna McDougal made a motion to donate $2490.00 to Blount County Animal Shelter. Alex Faulkner second the motion to donate $2490.00 to Blount County Animal Shelter. Roll call vote. All Yes Motion carried.

Mayor James Sullivan presented the striping choices on the Tahoe's, council unanimously like the one with the Gold Stripe on it.

Park Board:
Councilmember Alex Faulkner, And a lot of excitement about this grant and, you know, all this stuff that's finally coming to the lot. But a lot of questions. What are we doing? Who's doing it? Can we volunteer? Can we not volunteer? A lot of different things. Can we still use the batting cages while the construction is going on? I think it would be really good sometime before the end of the year to have just a meeting, council members, park board members, and really there were people here from the public last night who were willing to help. A lot of buzz, a lot of buzz about it. So I think it would be good before we really get into the thick of it to everybody this council the park board and the public to just have a roundtable and just look kind of like the meeting we had to get the letters signed yes something like that.

Mayor James Sullivan Well we've got to sit down with the architect go over the go over with the Birmingham Regional and them we got to sit down with them and tell them what we expect what we want and once we get to the to that they'll send that in and it'll it'll probably a couple more months before they'll say yeah you can get started because architects got to get everything you know lined up.
We'd be putting it out for bid.

Councilmember Monica Moorer We'd be putting it out for bid.

Mayor James Sullivan Yes, it has to go out for bid, and we'd be doing that, but not the whole project.
Yeah, we couldn't. If you and they said this is a lock and key job, then. That was the number that we got. Yeah, an estimated number. You we couldn't we couldn't do it. Well, we've got a lot of people that are really interested in helping in a lot of different ways. I've had several. Yeah. And say that by doing that and there's a formula for all that is that goes toward what they call the in-kind matching because we said we would do 300,000. And we got 300,000. So everything that we can do can come off that 300,000.
At what point how do we do the matching we have to give somebody the money or we just use that money as we start doing the work ourselves.

They'll send in vouchers and then Birmingham Regional they're going to handle all that part but they will send us and then we would we would make a check out.

Council Donna McDougal And remind me our match for that is coming out of the general fund or was it one of the CDS?
Mayor James Sullivan Hopefully we can stretch it out, you know, if we get enough, you know, people that wants to donate, say, I've already talked to the county. They said they would help with it. So, if we save some off what our in-kind was, maybe we'd have enough to light another field. We just have to take a look at it and see.

Councilmember Jason Grigbsy Would it be wise to consider applying for another grant?
The grant I told you about when I was talking to Rodney, some kind of something of the Appalachian. They said they get for the county school, that's where they get a lot of their grants from us through, and this is considered part of the Appalachian. Yeah, whatever.
And there are.

Mayor James Sullivan Well, I'm going to talk to Sawyer. We're supposed to be meeting with him to see If we can go ahead and apply.

Town Clerk Miranda Shirley Certain grants that we can apply for with the grant, you know, with the LWCF, and there are certain ones that we can't. So that's kind of a little bit of a problem that we're running into. But speaking with Sawyer today, we let the architect company that we did the RFQs on, let them be informed that, hey, you were chosen for the selection. They were notified today. And then we had to do the proposal agreements, you know, and then They'll get us the paperwork. They'll come before y'all to see if, hey, you know, they're wanting this much, but we only want to do this much. So that's, you know, when we were talking about having another meeting, there's going to probably be another one down the line in regards to that. And with Sawyer, he's going to have surgery on Monday, so I probably won't hear back from him probably until about Thursday or so.

Mayor James Sullivan Once we have that meeting, I guess that would be the, after we have that meeting and talk to the architects and all would probably be a good time to, then we can let the public and park board and everybody know. And invite the architects. Yeah, everybody.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner Everybody. Yes, absolutely

Mayor James Sullivan There's a criteria that the architect has to follow on what qualifies for in-kind yeah he'll be able to tell you. Yeah there's a formula or something it ain't like Alex come out there and say I'm gonna charge $158 an hour for my labor with this shovel they've got different formulas for manual labor and equipment that for shovel it'd take more of that oh yeah oh yeah But we can't just, we can't just make up a number is what I'm saying. Okay. Anything else to come before the council?

Old Business:

Steve Pass I got one other thing We talked last meeting or Benny did about his vacation and I think Alex was going to look at handbooks or something. There's a problem with his vacation, you know, it wasn't falling. we hadn't adopted the 25 handbook yet we're going by 23 so yeah so I don't know if you have that on your list.

Attorney Alex Smith I don't recall what the issue with this vacation was but which the issue of the handbook is in my opinion still the same we've not adopted the new one um next month's agenda so the 25 Steve made a change in the way the vacations calculated yeah.

Steve Passs That's what he well right now this is October so he's a month at be a month in his three years is that right?

Benny Richardson (from the citizen area) Yes sir September the first I became eligible for another week of vacation under the current policy that's not been adopted yet it says I can't get that until January it don't get don't the clerk does not have to or they don't add it until January even though it's four months later.

Attorney Alex Smith When we did that or I didn't I wasn't a part of that but when y'all did that why was there a change in it from the previous version on that I'm just curious.
I don't, I was not involved in the redraft of that, so I don't know what the thinking was.
What would be the, I don't.
See the problem in light of the fact it was just an oversight that we didn't adopt it, you know, and in the spirit of fairness, I think council all would consider, you know, if he's eligible for it in September, I think we ought to give it, we ought to get it.
Attorney Alex Smith stated Well, yeah, we can do, we can do that.

Town Clerk Miranda Shirley Dominion Payroll had a copy of our handbook. Whenever we got the handbooks back and they were voted on, it got sent to Dominion. And there was, they did add time to people, but they took time away from Eric one day for some reason. And I had to fix it. So that's whenever I had to go in there now and do it manually.

Mayor James Sullivan All right, do we have a motion to go ahead and grant Benny his vacation since he's already got his three years in.

Councilmember Monica Moorer For everybody on their three years.
That's what they've been here 3 years. Would it affect anybody but Benny right now? Is the only one it affects? What affects you right now too Asking the Town Clerk with the hand raised? Is there anybody else James Dobbs with his hand raised?
Benny Richardson And we're considering changing that until you get it on your anniversary.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner Yes, your three-year anniversary.
Benny Richardson That would be fantastic.

Council member Monica Moorer So, do we need to change the handbook before he did the resolution next month?

Mayor James Sullivan Yeah, we'll just get Alex to change that in the handbook, Alex, to Read it. They get their vacation on their anniversary date.

Councilmember Alex Faulkner Is that what's in the twenty-five draft? We'll change it. We'll change that. We'll fix that. So moved.

Councilmember Monica Moore second the motion to change to 3-year anniversary date to award 40 hours vacation time. Roll Call vote. All Yes. Motion carried.

Jason Grigsby made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Monica Moorer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

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Mayor, James Sullivan

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Miranda Shirley, Town Clerk