

Town of Clio Council Meeting
101 Calhoun Street
6:00 PM Clio Community Center

March 19, 2026

Present: Mayor Adam Pate, Councilman Pearly Thomas, Council Person Morgan Pate, Council Person Samuel McCollum.

Guest: Councilwoman Pearlie Lawson (Venice Hills, District 4)

Absent: Council Person Chris McArthur, Town Clerk Robyn Williamson - Jacobs due to family sickness.

Called to Order: Mayor Adam Pate

Prayer: Mayor Adam Pate

Approval of the agenda: Agenda were reviewed and approved adding Councilwoman Pearlie Lawson (Venice Hills, District 4)

Motion made by Council Person Samuel McCollum second by Council Person Morgan Pate

Approval of Minutes from February 19 , 2026, reviewed; no amendments noted. Motion made by Council Person Morgan Pate second by Council Person Pearlie Thomas.

Public Comments: Pearlie Lawson: Community Clean-Up Initiatives
Countywide Clean-Up: March 23–28 for Districts 4 and South/West Bennettsville; supplies (utility gloves, green bags, safety vests) provided free by the county via SC Technical College.

- **Liability release and photo forms** required for participants.
- **Encouragement for Clio to participate** and address local eyesores, especially a trash pile on Calvin Street.
- **Clio's Clean-Up Day:** Scheduled for April 4th at 12 PM, following the Easter egg hunt.
 - Supplies available through county contacts.
 - Volunteers and marketing efforts encouraged.
- **Recycling Drop-Off Reminder:** Free county recycling center available for most items except household trash; possible extra dumpsters being considered.

• **Mayor's Community Events & Announcements**

Community Events

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** April 4th, 10:30 AM at Bennett Park, followed by the clean-up event.
 - Planning meeting: March 26th, 6 PM at Town Hall.
- **Soup Day:** Successfully served approximately 150 residents, distributing soup and essential supplies.
- **Upcoming Festivals:**
 - **Big Hats and Bow-ties (Kentucky Derby party):** May 2nd.
 - **Ribs and Rides Festival:** May 30th at Clio Elementary School.
 - Features: Three bands (including Cameron Gardner, Next Level, Prince tribute), food trucks, vendors, car show, kids' area, and guest Ed Piotrowski.

Financial and Audit Updates

- **Audit Completion:** 2024–2025 audit finished; \$19,000 invoice to be paid, enabling release of previously withheld funds.
 - Auditor to begin 2025–2026 audit immediately.
 - This progress is expected to unlock new opportunities and funding for the town.
- **Financial Report (February 2026):**
 - **General Fund:** \$62,082.10 revenue (monthly); \$256,382 YTD. Expenses: \$56,798.92 (monthly); \$337,354.60 YTD.
 - **Water & Sewer:** \$30,083.32 revenue (monthly); \$251,563.92 YTD. Expenses: \$21,651.13 (monthly); \$231,384.42 YTD.
 - **Status:** Financials approved; slight surplus in water/sewer.

Elections and Political Updates

- **Mayor's Election:** November 3rd, 2026; filing August 3rd–14th. Early voting October 19th–31st.

- **Town Council Seats:** Next up for election in 2027 (Morgan and Chris).
- **County Council Primaries:** June; Districts 1, 4, 7, and 8 up for election.
 - Explanation of primary/runoff process provided.
- **Encouragement to participate in grant programs** (e.g., water/sewer grants, Peace Cause) and ongoing legislative updates.

Grants and Development

- **Department of Energy Block Grant:** Town likely to receive ~\$100,000 for sewer plant improvements (pending official confirmation).
- **Other Grants:** Ongoing engagement in grant opportunities for infrastructure and demolition/redevelopment projects, with support from town water engineer and regional agencies.

Public Safety and Police Update

- **Ongoing Investigation:** Police Chief Freeman and investigator Clay working intensively on the shooting of a 13-year-old on Main Street. No new public details, but progress is being made and an arrest is anticipated.

Miscellaneous and Operations

- **Beautification:** Plans to refresh flower boxes and address overgrown weeds uptown.
- **Unfinished business: None**
- **New Business: None**
- **Adjournment:** Meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn motion made by Council Person Morgan Pate second by Samuel McCollum; all in favor meeting was adjourned.
- Mayor Pate: reminders about upcoming events and town burning schedule.

Signed By Town Clerk: _____

