ST. CLAIRSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
October 19, 2026

Jim Velas, Council President
Don Vincenzo, Council, 1st Ward
Kristi Lipscomb, Council, 3rd Ward
Mike Kasper, Council, 4th Ward
Audrey Brahler, Council-At-Large
Lucian Murzyn, Council-At-Large
JC Thrash, Council 2nd Ward
Mike Smith, Council-At-Large

Kathryn Thalman, Mayor
Scott Harvey, Public Service/Safety Director
Annette Nichols, Finance Director
Matthew Arbenz, Chief of Police
Tom Murphy, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Law Director, Joseph Vavra

The meeting was called to order by Council President Jim Velas at 7:00 pm. President Velas led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of the public were thanked for their attendance.

ROLL CALL:

Brahler	HERE	Smith	ABSENT
Kasper	HERE	Thrash	HERE
Lipscomb	HERE	Vincenzo	ABSENT
Murzyn	HERE		
	Five (5) Present		Two (2) Absent

MINUTES: Council President Jim Velas confirmed all Councilmembers received the minutes from the October 5th Council Meeting. Councilwoman Lipscomb made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2026, Council Meeting; the motion seconded by Councilman Murzyn.

ROLL CALL:

Brahler	YES	Smith	ABSENT
Kasper	YES	Thrash	YES
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	ABSENT
Murzyn	YES		

Roll Call Vote: Five (5) YES Zero (0) NO Zero (0) ABSTAIN Two (2) ABSENT

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

CITIZEN HEARING: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

REPORTS:

Mayor Kathryn Thalman reported that the City's Fall Art Show will take place during the week, with artwork drop-off scheduled for Wednesday, October 21, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The public viewing and ribbon presentation will be held on Friday, October 23, from 5:00 p.m.

to 9:00 p.m., at the Unified Bank Junior Sports Building. The Mayor stated that approximately 32 artists are expected to participate and expressed her appreciation for the community's interest in the event.

Mayor Thalman also reminded Council of the upcoming Halloween event organized by the St. Clairsville Area Chamber of Commerce. She encouraged Councilmembers and residents to attend and support the downtown activities.

Service Director Scott Harvey – Departmental Report Presented by Mayor Thalman

In the absence of Service Director Scott Harvey, Mayor Thalman presented his departmental report, providing updates on City operations, infrastructure improvements, and upcoming projects.

Regarding the Electric Department, the Mayor reported that Chad Martin attended the AMC Conference in Columbus during the previous week. She also reported that a motor vehicle accident on Maple Avenue caused an extended power outage. Electric Department personnel worked throughout the day to restore service, including replacing a damaged utility pole and transferring electrical lines to the new pole.

Regarding the Water Department, the Mayor announced that improvements to the Providence Pump House have been completed. The project included culvert and roadway improvements, roof replacement, painting, electrical upgrades, and replacement of a pump. She also reported that planning and engineering are underway for Phase III of the City's Waterline Improvement Project, including the preparation of preliminary cost estimates. Additionally, Water Department crews responded to and repaired a waterline break on Patty Drive. Mayor Thalman commended employees for completing the repairs promptly.

Regarding the Wastewater Department, the Mayor reported that a new pump has been installed at a City lift station. With the installation completed, all four pumps are now operational.

Regarding the Street Department, roadway patching and maintenance activities remain ongoing, with significant improvements recently completed on Harbell Drive. The City's annual leaf collection program is expected to begin during the first week of November. An official collection schedule will be announced, and residents are encouraged to monitor the City's website, www.stclairsville.com, for additional information.

Mayor Thalman also reported that City representatives attended the quarterly meeting of the Belomar Regional Council, where several upcoming St. Clairsville infrastructure projects were reviewed. These included bike trail repaving, bike trail bridge repairs, and the West End sidewalk extension. Work on these projects is anticipated to begin after the start of 2027.

Regarding the proposed St. Clairsville Community Center, the Mayor reported that a meeting was held with Chain Engineering to discuss site preparation and the project's bid package. The site preparation project was advertised for bids on October 19.

The Mayor further reported that discussions with Verdantas addressed several infrastructure and utility projects, including potential improvements to the West End Wastewater Treatment Plant, planning for Phase III of the Waterline Improvement Project, stormwater inspection scheduling, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, and the sludge press at the City's main wastewater treatment facility.

Regarding the Streets Committee, Mayor Thalman reported that discussions are continuing concerning proposed truck weight and axle-load restrictions on certain City streets.

The Mayor also reported that CPR training was conducted for 15 City employees as part of the City's ongoing employee safety and emergency preparedness program.

Additionally, a departmental staff meeting was held on Friday to review programs, infrastructure improvements, and capital projects anticipated to begin in 2027.

In closing, Mayor Thalman emphasized that 2027 is expected to be a particularly active year for City infrastructure improvements, including the West End sidewalk extension, waterline replacement projects, and construction associated with the new Community Center. She expressed her appreciation to City employees and department personnel for their continued hard work and dedication.

Service/Safety Director Scott Harvey [ABSENT] No report.

Police Chief Matt Arbenz [ABSENT] No report.

Finance Director Annette Nichols [ABSENT] No report.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Tom Murphy [ABSENT] No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Chair Mike Smith [ABSENT] No report.

Building and Grounds Chair Don Vincenzo [ABSENT] Council President Jim Velas provided an update on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, reporting that he, Councilman Don Vincenzo, Service Director Scott Harvey, and Mike Reed recently visited the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant to inspect the newly constructed storage building.

Council President Velas expressed his satisfaction with the completed structure, noting that it provides substantial additional storage space for departmental equipment and materials. He explained that shelving will be installed and equipment currently stored outdoors will be relocated into the building to protect it from exposure to the weather.

Although the building will not be heated, Council President Velas emphasized that it will provide much-needed protection for City equipment and supplies. He commended the

improvements and encouraged other Councilmembers to visit the facility to see the new building firsthand.

Police Chair Mike Smith [ABSENT] No report.

Recreation Chair Kristi Lipscomb reported that the Recreation Board's regularly scheduled meeting was canceled due to the lack of a quorum. As a result, no official Board meeting was held.

Councilwoman Lipscomb also discussed the upcoming Halloween trick-or-treat event at the Central Park Amphitheater, scheduled for Wednesday, October 28. Approximately 14 to 15 vendors are expected to participate by distributing candy to children. It was noted that the event attracted a large number of children the previous year, and volunteers are welcome to assist with candy distribution. Recreation Director Eric Gay is coordinating volunteer participation.

Council was also reminded that the City's official Trick-or-Treat Night is scheduled for Saturday, October 31.

School Board Chair Mike Kasper reported on the recent St. Clairsville Board of Education meeting, during which Board members discussed placing greater emphasis on recognizing and promoting student academic achievements.

Councilman Kasper explained that while athletic accomplishments and team records frequently receive considerable public attention, students who excel academically do not always receive the same level of recognition. He stated that the School Board is exploring ways to increase awareness of academic accomplishments and provide greater recognition to students for their educational achievements.

Councilman Kasper also reported that the Board conducted an extensive review of the District's Ohio Department of Education State Report Card. He noted that the presentation was detailed and provided considerable information regarding the District's academic performance. He reported that the District was performing at approximately 86%, as presented during the meeting, and expressed a positive assessment of its performance relative to similarly sized districts in Ohio.

In response to a question regarding public access to the report card information, Councilman Kasper confirmed that the materials could be requested from the School Board. He explained that the supporting information includes extensive spreadsheets that may be more practical to distribute electronically rather than in printed form.

Park District Chair Lucien Murzyn reported that the Committee met approximately two weeks earlier for a brief meeting lasting about 20 minutes, with no additional business requiring discussion.

He announced that the next meeting is scheduled for November 4 and that the Committee will transition from meeting twice monthly to once per month.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS: Law Director Joe Vavra

FIRST READING

Resolution 2026-14 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING KATHRYN THALMAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ST. CLAIRSVILLE, TO EXECUTE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION/CONSERVATION PROJECT PASS-THROUGH GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

A motion was made by Councilman Thrash that the rules requiring three separate readings be suspended on Resolution No. 2026-14 and that the Resolution, be passed on an emergency basis; seconded by Councilwoman Lipscomb.

ROLL CALL:

Brahler	YES	Smith	ABSENT
Kasper	YES	Thrash	YES
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	ABSENT
Murzyn	YES		

Roll Call Vote: Five (5) YES Zero (0) NO Zero (0) ABSTAIN Two (2) ABSENT

Motion Carried

Councilman Trash made a motion to pass Resolution No. 2026-14; seconded by Councilwoman Lipscomb.

ROLL CALL:

Brahler	YES	Smith	ABSENT
Kasper	YES	Thrash	YES
Lipscomb	YES	Vincenzo	ABSENT
Murzyn	YES		

Roll Call Vote: Five (5) YES Zero (0) NO Zero (0) ABSTAIN Two (2) ABSENT

Motion Carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

No citizens spoke to the Council

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to come before Council, Councilwoman Lipscomb made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Murzyn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 2, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. All Councilmembers will be present at the City Building for the next meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to attend the meeting in the Council Chambers.

Jacob DeBertrand, Council Clerk

Jim Velas, Council President