

THE CLEVELAND CONNECTOR

Summer 2024
NEWSLETTER



FY 2024/2025 BUDGET - NO TAX INCREASE

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Feature Story:
FY 2024/2025
Budget - No
Tax Increase



Joe Fivas
City Manager

The FY 2025 budget addresses the needs of the City of Cleveland. "It is always a challenge to keep up with the demand for services and facilities in a growing community" said City Manager Joe Fivas.

The FY 2025 budget does not include a property tax increase from the current \$1.713 tax rate. The City Council unanimously approved the city's FY 2025 budget keeping the city's tax rate the same.

This year's budget includes essential items required for the city to continue to move forward and make significant progress on goals for the new fiscal year. The city continues to grow its tax base by continuing to invest in infrastructure projects such as downtown revitalization.

"The hard work of city staff, and the very conscientious work of the city council resulted in passing another budget with, yet again, no tax increase. I was thrilled the council unanimously pass the very conservative, prudent budget. Being able to accomplish all that we're accomplishing... the progress, the growth, improvements, renovations, revitalizations to do all of that, and not have a tax increase is such an important and sometimes overlooked gift to taxpayers," said Mayor Kevin Brooks.

For more information on the FY 2025 budget, visit the City of Cleveland website at: <https://www.clevelandtn.gov/168/Budget>

Mission Statement: Provide for the welfare of all citizens of Cleveland through efficient, high quality services, sound leadership and progressive planning for the future.



ARBOR DAY 2024-TREE CITY/BEE CITY USA

Earlier this year, Arbor Day 2024 was celebrated at Fletcher Park, located off Tennessee Nursery Road. The park is a beautiful passive park and is a perfect location to celebrate trees and bees.

The City of Cleveland celebrated 32 consecutive years as a Tree City. We also had our first pollinator event since being designated a Bee City USA in November 2023. The event was well attended. Tree Board members celebrated 32 consecutive years as Tree City USA. Also celebrating our first designated pollination garden, promoting our pollinators.



Pictured: Tree Board Chairman Matt Coleman, Tree Board members: Amy Banks, Jo Benjamin, Nick Romito. City Council Members: Vice Mayor Avery Johnson, Councilman Dale R. Hughes, Councilman Bill Estes, Councilman Tom Cassada and Councilwoman Marsha McKenzie and numerous others attended.

CANDIES GREENWAY PHASE I COMPLETE

Earlier this year, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark the opening of the first phase of the Candies Creek Greenway. Special thanks were extended to Westmore Church of God for granting an easement and to Barry Ray, CEO at Legacy Village for donating the property. As a result of the easement and donation of property, pedestrians can now enjoy a 1.1 mile strip of new greenway, can park at the new trailhead featuring a 20-space parking area and cross onto the new greenway via a pedestrian bridge, formerly a cart crossing from the old golf course.

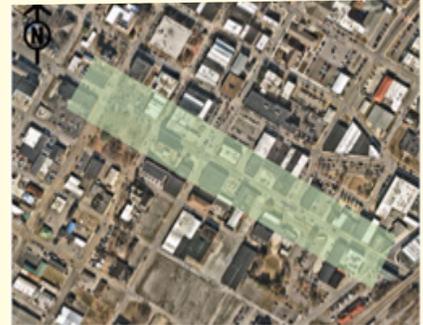


It has been an historic year for the Cleveland/Bradley Greenway as the first phase of greenway is now completed. Residents can enjoy another quality of life improvement with easy access via a newly installed sidewalk along Candies Lane.

Pictured: Mayor Kevin Brooks, Bradley County Mayor D. Gary Davis, Councilman Ken Webb, Councilman Tom Cassada, Councilman Bill Estes, City Manager Joe Fivas, Greenway Chairman Cameron Fisher; Members of Westmore Church of God; and others attended the ceremony.

DOWNTOWN MAKING GREAT STRIDES

Downtown progress: There have been great strides made on Inman Street. Sidewalk construction continues around TDOT's paving and striping schedule. Sections of Inman Street will remain closed after street paving is completed to protect the safety of the workers and allow progress to continue in the most time-efficient manner until the sidewalks are completed. Streetscaping in the area will put the final touches on the project and will be planted this fall. As with any construction project, we appreciate your continued patience and support.



Downtown Improvement Grant (DIG): The City of Cleveland was awarded \$300,000 from TNECD for improving building facades, courtyard improvements, and streetscaping. \$200,000 has been used reimbursing downtown property owners for qualified improvement projects. Property owners (15) were awarded and are required to contribute the matching amount to grant funds. The remaining grant funds have been invested in streetscape improvements within the Mainstreet district. Over \$719,000 of improvements are in the works. The deadline for completion of these projects is Dec 31st.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Craig Foote
Fire Marshal

The employee spotlight in this edition is on our new Fire Marshal Craig Foote. He has been with the city for over 25 years. He served most recently as Lieutenant with the Inspections Division. Craig entered the fire service in 1995 at the Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department in Collegedale, TN. He has worked for the Cleveland Fire Department since 1998 and has held the positions of Firefighter/Paramedic, Engineer, Company Officer, and Fire Inspector/Fire Investigator. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Arkansas State University and a Bachelor of Professional studies degree from the University of Memphis with concentrations

in Fire Administration and Fire Prevention Technology. He has numerous certifications from the Tennessee Commission on Fire Fighting and the International Code Council. He is a member of the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association; International Association of Arson Investigators; and the Institute of Fire Engineers. Outside of work, Craig volunteers as a counselor with his church's youth organization. He and his wife Isabel have 2 sons with whom they love to travel. Craig is an avid Baltimore Orioles fan and is often found with eyes glued to the television watching the game. "On behalf of the Mayor, City Council, and myself, Congratulations!" said City Manager Joe Fivas.

Mayor & City Council

Kevin Brooks
Mayor

423.476.8931, kbrooks@clevelandtn.gov

Marsha McKenzie
Councilwoman District 1

423.584.9513 mmckenzie@clevelandtn.gov

Bill Estes
Councilman District 2

423.595.0062, bestes@clevelandtn.gov

Tom Cassada
Councilman District 3

423.457.9867, tcassada@clevelandtn.gov



David May, Jr.
Councilman District 4

423.593.8236, dmay@clevelandtn.gov

Dale R. Hughes
Councilman District 5

423.599.1927, drhughes@clevelandtn.gov

Ken Webb
Councilman At-Large

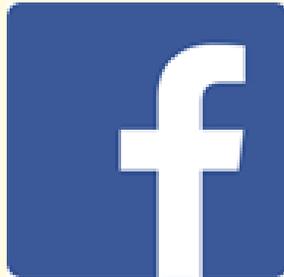
423.280.8658, kwebb@clevelandtn.gov

Avery L. Johnson, Sr.
Vice Mayor/Councilman At-Large

423.458-8454, ajohnson@clevelandtn.gov



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City Departments:

- Animal Control 423.559.3333
- Cleveland Regional Jetport 423.650.3775
- Codes Enforcement 423.473-3201
- Development & Engineering Services 423.479.1913
- Fire (non-emergency) 423.476.6713
- Dispatch (non-emergency) 423.728.7311
- Municipal Traffic Court/Business Tax 423.472.4551
- Parks and Recreation 423.479.4129
- Police (non-emergency) 423.476.1121
- Public Works 423.472.2851

Job Opportunities:

- Firefighter
- Police Officer

Additional job openings are posted on the city's website at:
<https://www.clevelandtn.gov/jobs.aspx>

City of Cleveland

General Business Information, Call: 423.472.4551
City offices are open Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(excludes holidays)

City Council meetings are held on the
2nd and 4th Monday, unless otherwise noted
(Excludes holidays). There are two sessions.

Work session is held at 1 p.m.

Voting session is held at 3 p.m.

in the City Council Chambers located
on the 2nd floor of the Municipal Building
at 190 Church Street.

Agendas are posted on the city's website at:
<http://www.clevelandtn.gov/AgendaCenter>