

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: December 11, 2025
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of December 15, 2025

Lake Shamrock Dredging. Mechanical dredging by the city continues at the west end of the lake. The city's barge operates during normal DPW business hours as time and workload permit. We will continue mechanical dredging as long as the excavator can break the ice in the area. Savin's hydraulic dredging had been continuing to break ice and work the areas that have been discussed to complete the project, but they unfortunately are no longer able to keep the ice broke up and open water to continue at this point. They have now pulled the barge for the season and will be back to start work in 2026 as soon as possible weather permitting to hopefully complete before the March 15th through June 30th fish spawning pause occurs.

Lake Shamrock Dam Project. For the dam project, our engineering firms, GEI and Spicer, are continuing design work for the new dam, emergency/auxiliary spillway, and the new walkway. GEI and Spicer are continuing to work toward completion of the design. The City is now meeting weekly with the design engineers and project managers to get the RFP for the project out in the next month or so. We are still waiting on the grant agreement with FEMA and will bring that to you at a future meeting.

Christmas in Clare. The annual Christmas in Clare event is scheduled for Sunday, December 14th. There will be lots events during the day at the Depot and around town and there will be a lighted Christmas Parade through Clare at dark (*flyers att'd*). The Clare Area Chamber of Commerce website and social media also have more information and additional event information.

Board and Commission Meeting Schedules for 2026. Attached is the list of dates for all the 2025 City Commission Meetings as well as the tentative schedules for all the other boards and commissions. There are five Mondays in December so we will have an extra week in between meetings over the holidays, and as a reminder, the first meeting of 2026 will be on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Airport Fence RFP Bids. A few meetings ago the City Commission discussed the desire to create an RFP for fencing at the Airport. Airport Manager Gabe Ambrozaitis recently opened the bids for that proposal (7 bids were received). There were two options asked for, as requested by the City Commission. One option was to fence off the entire perimeter of the airport and one was to fence just the west side of the main runway and along the north end of Eberhart Avenue. As sometimes happens, the project evolved as further details and questions were raised. Additional gates and cattle gate sections were required due to airport regulations. The proposed cost of the project is included in the attached bid tabs and ranged from \$87,052 to \$322,498 for the partial section and \$427,606 to \$971,098 for the full perimeter. The information is still being analyzed by the Airport Manager, Engineers, and staff. We should be able to have additional information to you sometime after the beginning of the year for discussion and direction, but I wanted to get you these preliminary results and numbers now.

Ice Rink. The ice rink at the large pavilion at Shamrock Park will hopefully be open for use in the near future. The City has been able to get started putting water on the rink and the cold temperatures seem to be cooperating to keep the layers freezing. Look for an announcement on City Social Media (Parks and Recreation Facebook Page) when the ice is thick enough to open the rink for use for the season as long as weather permits.

2025 “State of the City” Letter From Mayor and City Manager. As you likely have already seen in the last city newsletter, the Mayor and I drafted a letter to city residents and businesses as an end of the year “State of the City” type report that highlights a few of the accomplishments this year and some of the many things that make the City of Clare a great place to live, work, and visit. I have attached it here in my report as well.

Holiday Closures and Hours. Christmas and the New Year are just a couple weeks away. Just a reminder that City Hall hours for those two weeks will be as follows:

Monday, December 22nd – 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 23rd – 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 24th – Closed for the holiday.
Thursday, December 25th – Closed for the holiday.
Friday, December 26th – Normal Friday Closure.

Monday, December 29th – 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 30th – 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 31st – Closed for the holiday.
Thursday, January 1st – Closed for the holiday.
Friday, January 2nd – Normal Friday Closure.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Attachments:

1. Christmas in Clare Flyers.
2. Board and Commission Meeting Schedules for 2026.
3. Airport Fence RFP Bid Tab.
4. “State of the City” Letter From Mayor and City Manager.



CHRISTMAS IN CLARE

DECEMBER 14TH, 2025



AT THE CLARE DEPOT - 201 W. 4TH ST.



12PM TO 5PM

* Outdoor Holiday Market

* Hot Dogs by Clare Area Kiwanis & Bubba-Q Mobile Food Truck

* Dragon Martial Arts will be doing interactive demonstrations outside the Depot

* Doughnut Holes, Hot Chocolate, & Coffee inside the Depot by Cops & Doughnuts

2PM TO 5PM

* Visit Santa in his house



* Town's End Clydesdale Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
Sponsored by Stephenson Wyman Funeral Home, RB Harsh Construction,
& Mid Michigan College

* Clare County Arts Council will have Make & Take Crafts in lower level of Depot,
White House Ornament silent auction,
& a free book (one per family while supplies last)

3PM

* Christmas Dog Costume Contest
Sponsored by Family Farm and Home

5:30PM

* Lighted Parade through Downtown Clare
Route: McEwan St. from State St. to 3rd St.

FOLLOWING PARADE

* Tree Lighting - West side of Depot

* Christmas Caroling - Depot

7PM

* Tesla Light Show - Brookwood Athletic Complex

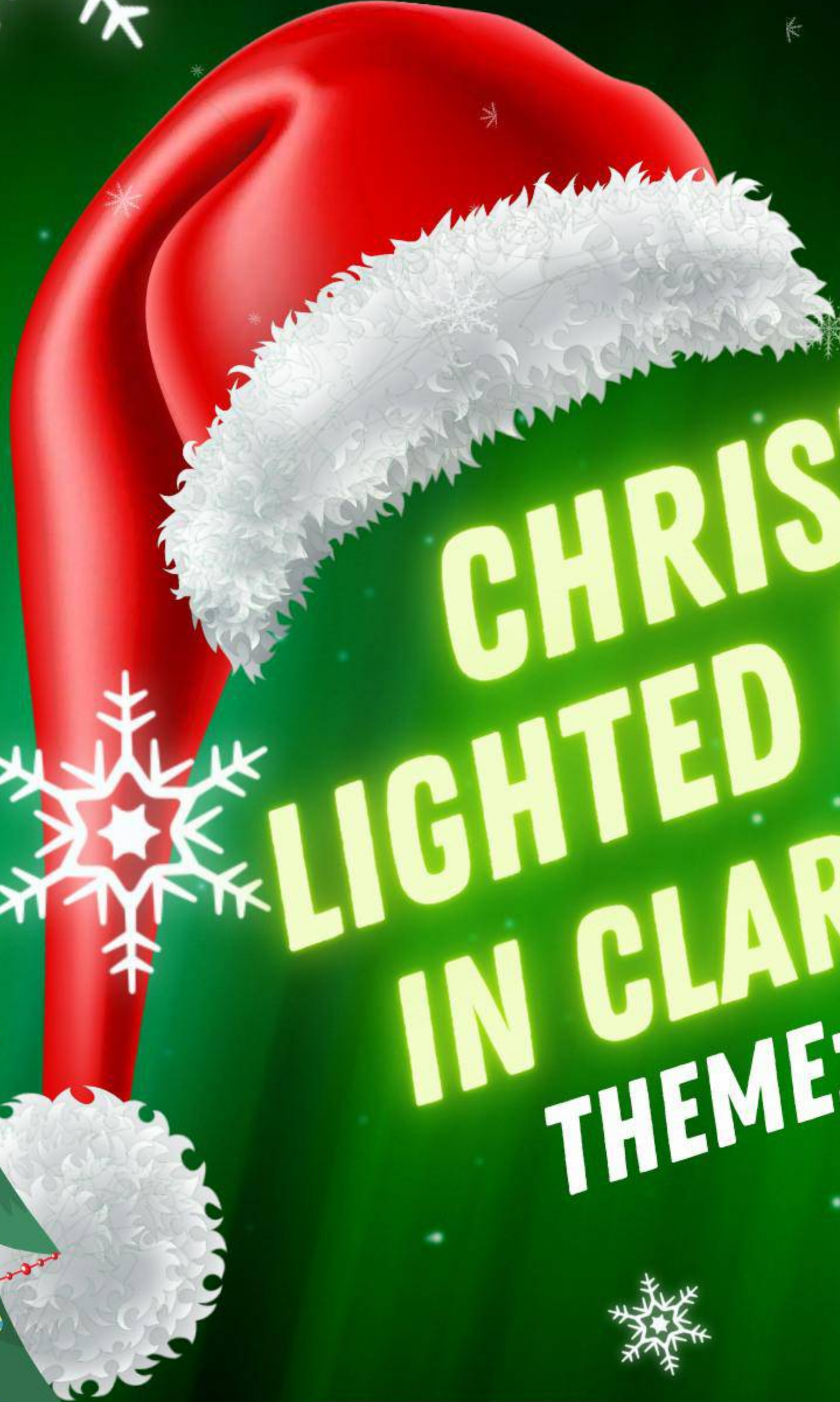
6PM TO 8PM

* Walk Through Bethlehem
3557 E. Colonville, Clare

County-Wide Decorating Contest - Homes, Businesses, and Parade Floats
Theme - Whoville

Thank you to our Partners & Sponsors!





CHRISTMAS LIGHTED PARADES IN CLARE COUNTY THEME: WHO-VILLE



**SIGN UP TODAY!
PARTICIPATE IN
ALL 4 PARADES!**

Dec. 12 - Harrison Christmas Parade 6PM

Dec. 13 - Lake Christmas Parade 5:30PM

Farwell Christmas Parade 7PM

Dec. 14 - Clare Christmas Parade 5:30PM



CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

Office 989.386.7541 | Fax 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

The Clare City Commission

will hold its **2026** regularly scheduled meetings
at 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan, 48617
on the following dates:

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541

Fx 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

Manager x102

Assessor x103

Clerk x106

Treasurer x107

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ph 989.386.2182 or

989.386.7541 x202

Fx 989.386.4508

UTILITY BILLING

Ph 989.386.7541 x201

W/WWT PLANT

Ph 989.386.2321

Fx 989.386.2387

POLICE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2121

Fx 989.386.0440

FIRE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2151

Fx 989.386.3020

PARKS & RECREATION

Ph 989.386.7541 x213

Fx 989.386.4508

AIRPORT

Ph 989.386.0445

Fx 989.386.4508

January 5
January 19
February 2
February 16
March 2
March 16
April 6
April 20
May 4
May 18
June 1
June 15
July 6
July 20
August 3
August 17
September 8
September 21
October 5
October 19
November 2
November 17
December 7
December 21

All meetings are at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise posted.





CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

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The Clare City Planning Commission
will hold its **2026** regularly scheduled meetings
in the Commission Chambers at Clare City Hall
202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan, 48617
on the following dates:

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541
Fx 989.386.4508
www.cityofclare.org
Manager x102
Assessor x103
Clerk x106
Treasurer x107

January 14

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ph 989.386.2182 or
989.386.7541 x202
Fx 989.386.4508

February 11

March 11

UTILITY BILLING

Ph 989.386.7541 x201

April 8

W/WWT PLANT

Ph 989.386.2321
Fx 989.386.2387

May 13

June 10

POLICE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2121
Fx 989.386.0440

July 8

August 12

FIRE DEPT. NON-EMERGENCY

Ph 989.386.2151
Fx 989.386.3020

September 9

October 14

PARKS & RECREATION

Ph 989.386.7541 x213
Fx 989.386.4508

November 11

December 9

AIRPORT

Ph 989.386.0445
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All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted or postponed.



CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

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www.cityofclare.org

The City of Clare **Downtown Development Authority** will hold its **2026** regularly scheduled meetings at City Hall 202 W. Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan, 48617 on the following dates:

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541

Fx 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

Manager x102

Assessor x103

Clerk x106

Treasurer x107

January 8

February 12

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

July 9

August 13

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

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CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

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www.cityofclare.org

The City of Clare **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** will hold its **2026** regularly scheduled quarterly meetings in the Commission Chambers at Clare City Hall
202 W. Fifth Street, Clare, MI, 48617

The scheduled meeting dates are as follows:

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541

Fx 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

Manager x102

Assessor x103

Clerk x106

Treasurer x107

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January 20

April 21

July 21

October 20

All meetings are at 5:30 p.m. unless posted or postponed.





CITY OF CLARE

202 West Fifth Street | Clare, Michigan 48617-1490

Office 989.386.7541 | Fax 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

The Clare **Municipal Airport**

will hold its **2026** regularly scheduled meetings
at 10725 South Eberhart Road, Clare, Michigan, 48617
on the following dates:

CITY HALL

Ph 989.386.7541

Fx 989.386.4508

www.cityofclare.org

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Clerk x106

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AIRPORT

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January 7

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

July 1

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

All meetings are at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted.





CITY OF CLARE

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The **Clare Railroad Depot Governing Board** will hold its **2026** regular quarterly meetings in the lower level of the Clare Union Railroad Depot at 201 W. Fourth Street, Clare, MI, 48617

The scheduled meeting dates are as follows:

January 7

April 1

July 1

October 7

Meetings are held at 8:00 a.m. unless otherwise posted, or postponed.

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Ph 989.386.7541

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RFQ NAME: Airport Fencing

RFQ DUE: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 3:00 pm

Vendor	BID AMOUNT	Vendor Contact Information	
		CONTACT NAME & ADDRESS	PHONE/EMAIL
American Fence & Supply	#1-\$971,098	Giles Crouch 21200 Schoenherr	248-545-7070 gcrouch@amerifence.com
	#2-\$272,732	Warren, MI 48089	
Schepke Consulting	#1-\$964,158	Chase Schepke 11073 W Shore Dr	248-798-2048 contact@schepkeconsulting.com
	#2-\$225,516.88	Houghton Lake, MI 48629	
J. Ranck Electric	#1-\$691,825	Adam Ranck 1993 Gover Parkway	800-792-3822 ajranck@jranck.com
	#2-\$160,770	Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858	
Delta Specialty Contractors LLC	#1-\$936,167.60	Derek Collins 203 Mane St.	318-816-2601 dcollins@deltaspecialtycontractors.com
	#2-\$229,675.82	West Monroe, LA 71292	
Nevill Supply Inc.	#1-\$427,606	Andrew Nevill 8405 S Eberhart Ave	989-429-5329 nevillsupply@gmail.com
	#2-\$87,052	Clare, MI 48617	
OCG Companies LLC	#1-\$948,695.89	Tony Muer 1615 S Telegraph Rd	248-451-1620 info@ocgcompanies.com
	#2-\$322,497.70	Bloomfield, MI 48302	
Nationwide Construction Group	#1-\$682,064.03	Scott Keller 69951 Lowe Plank Road	586-749-6900 skeller@nationwidecos.com
	#2-\$169,880.70	Richmond, MI 48062	

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Dear Clare Residents,

As another year draws to a close, we are grateful for the opportunity to reflect on the progress, challenges, and accomplishments that continue to shape the City of Clare. Serving this community is an honor, and we are pleased to share this “State of the City” update with you.

Clare continues to demonstrate what a small city with a big heart can achieve when we work together. Over the past year, we have made meaningful strides in infrastructure, public safety, community development, and quality of life—always with an eye toward long-term stability and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

This year, the City completed several key infrastructure projects that will serve residents for decades to come. Improvements to our water and sewer systems, continued investment in our streets, and updates to public facilities reflect our commitment to maintaining reliable, modern services. These essential upgrades, many supported by grant funding which help stretch taxpayer dollars even further, ensure that Clare remains strong, resilient, and ready for the future.

Public safety remains one of our highest priorities. The Clare Police Department and Clare Fire Department have continued to expand training, modernize equipment, and strengthen community relationships. Their dedication—along with the support of residents—helps ensure that Clare remains a safe and welcoming community for families, businesses, and visitors.

We have also seen renewed energy in Clare’s economic and community life. Local businesses continue to invest in our downtown, commercial corridors, and Industrial Parks and we have welcomed several new enterprises this year. Our parks, programs, festivals, and recreation opportunities continue to bring people together and showcase the spirit that makes Clare truly special. The success of the 50th Irish Festival this year was a shining example of our community pride and the willingness of residents, volunteers, and organizations to work hand-in-hand.

Fiscal responsibility remains a core focus of city leadership. Despite rising operational costs and economic uncertainties, Clare maintains a stable financial position. Strategic planning and careful budgeting allow us to continue vital services while preparing for future needs. We remain committed to transparency and responsible management of the resources entrusted to us.

Looking ahead, 2026 will bring new opportunities and continued investment. From infrastructure improvements to community development initiatives, we are focused on maintaining the momentum of the past year while preserving the small-town character that defines Clare. The City Commission, staff, and community partners will continue working together to ensure that Clare remains a strong, vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

On behalf of the City Commission, our dedicated employees, and the entire leadership team, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your engagement, your support, and your belief in our community. Clare is at its best when we move forward together—and together, we will continue building a bright future.

Warm regards,

Pat Humphrey, Mayor



Jeremy Howard, City Manager

