

CITY REPORT



FEBRUARY 2024

Week 5th -9TH

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Executive Summary

The City of Waycross is integrating and training staff to enhance customer service and increase capability, while collecting and utilizing data driven analytics to drive future decision making. Additionally, the city is reassessing all procedures, processes, and programs to ensure proficiency & compliance and is adequately postured to better serve the community.

The City of Waycross is reevaluating the Capital Improvement plan to ensure it better aligns with the Operating budget to meet future requirements and deliverables as outlined in the Strategic Business Plan (working). Additionally, the Commission's priorities are to ensure safety, create a prosperous business climate, and to govern with transparency and effective communication.

District 1
Commissioner



Mr. Norman Davis

District 2
Commissioner



Ms. Sheinita Bennett

District 3
Commissioner



Ms., Katrena Felder

Honorable Mayor



Mr. Michael-Angelo James

District 4
Commissioner



Mrs. Diane Hopkins

District 5
Commissioner



Mr. Alvin Nelson

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CITY REPORT



Table of Contents

PG. 2. Executive Summary

PG. 3. Table of Content

PG. 4. City Priorities

PG. 6. Community Development

PG 9. Business Integration & Information Systems

PG. 12. Protective Services (Fire)

PG. 15. Protective Services (Police)

PG. 18. Human Resources

PG. 20. Finance

PG. 27. Public Works

PG. 31. Engineering

PG. 35. Community Calendar

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Priorities

The City's priorities remain connected to enhancing customer service and communication, community engagement & development, and economic growth.



<https://www.facebook.com/p/City-of-Waycross-Government-100069328174806/>

Week's Priorities:

1. Continuous evaluation of city processes and systems that lead to better efficiency and customer service.
2. Community Clean up.
3. Streets, Roads, and Projects update (priority) execution.
4. Budget review execution.
5. GDOT meeting follow-up execution.
6. Infrastructure Revalidation execution.
7. Community interaction/engagement (7).

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8. Community Stakeholders way-ahead execution.

9. ARAP finalization execution.

Funding Updates: None.

Mayor, Commission, City Manager Travel & Training: None.

Projects:

Community Volunteer Program execution.

Inclement weather SOP execution.

Community Clean-up program execution.

Citizens in-need data collection execution.

Decision Required: None.

Miscellaneous: None.

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Marc Hawkins Community Improvement Director



<https://www.waycrossga.gov/community-development.php>

Week's Priorities:

Systems and procedures modernization.
Blighted properties execution.
FY25 Budget execution.
Thomasville Rescue meeting execution.
Research new rescues/shelters partnership.

Funding Updates: None.

Travel & Training:

Statesboro Housing 201 Conference.

Projects: None.

Decision Required: None.

Miscellaneous:

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City of Waycross - FYI List; 1/26/2024 – 2/02/2024

Week of – FYI List; 1/26/2024 – 2/02/2024

Building Permit (turned in / pending approval)

Commercial

Location: 1606 Memorial Drive

Contractor: TBD

Job Valuation: \$ 875,000.00

Permit Fee: pending

Commercial

Location: 121 Victory Drive

Contractor: RH Tyson Construction Inc

Job Valuation: \$ 4,300,000.00

Permit Fee: pending

Building Permit (approved)

Residential

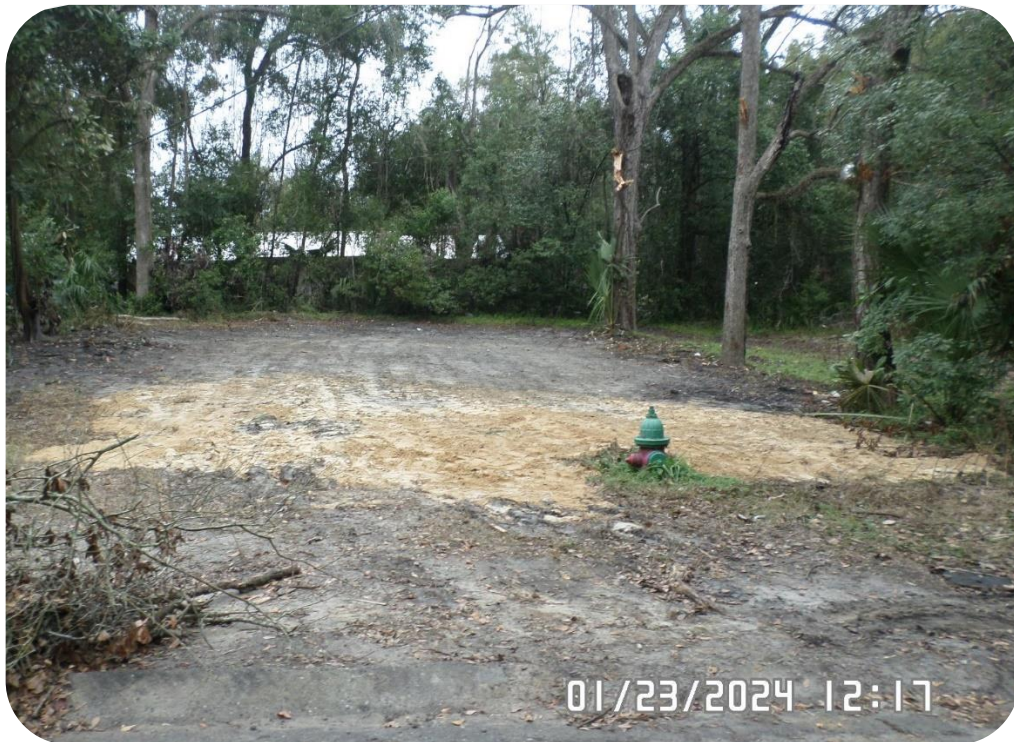
Location: 1300 Emerson Street

Contractor: Chris Griffis Construction

Job Valuation: \$ 0.00

Permit Fee: \$ 30.00

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Patrick Simmons Business Integration & Information Director



Systems<https://www.waycrossga.gov/business-integration-information-systems.php>

Week's Priorities:

ARAP email and notification execution.
OATH Hearts for the Homeless execution.
Swampfest Board Meeting execution.
Chamber Annual Banquet execution.
Swampfest Pageant execution.
Black Pilots Airshow meeting execution.

Funding Updates: None.

Travel & Training: None.

Projects:

District Dashboard.

Decision Required:

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ATC Wi-Fi Update Decision execution.

Miscellaneous:

2024 Upcoming Businesses:

- Fairfield Inn
- Zels
- P.O.P.S
- The Crest
- Dunham's Sports

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David Eddins Protective Service (Fire) Chief



<https://www.waycrossga.gov/fire-department.php>

Week's Priorities:

Physical agility and written test execution.

New Hire research execution.

Funding Updates: None.

Travel & Training:

February 5-7th Legislative Firefighter's Recognition Day & Fire Service meetings.

Projects: None.

Decision Required: None.

Miscellaneous:

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Incident Responses for 2023

Building Fires	49
Vehicle Fires	15
Brush/Grass/Trash/Dumpster Fires	39
Other Fires	9
EMS Assist/Other Medical	364
Vehicle Accidents	168
Lock Out/In of Car or Home	93
Rescue	10
Hazardous Material	34
Electrical	47
Public Service Calls	225
Good Intent	138
False/Activated Alarms	234
Weather Related	5
Other	5

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Tommy Cox Protective Services (Police) Chief



<https://www.waycrossga.gov/police-department.php>

Week's Priorities:

FY25 Budget review execution.

Citizen's Police Academy assignments execution.

Major Case File Review execution.

Funding Updates:

Citizen Police Academy partial funding request.

Travel & Training: None.

Projects:

Special Operations Renovation execution.

Decision Required:

Replacement of Wrecked Patrol Cars (2)

Miscellaneous:

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WPD participated in Teen Maze (life choices) Educational Event at Ware Middle School.

Court Cases

Current month/Year to Date

Driving under the Influence	3	56
Traffic Warning	235	2613
All other Traffic Citations	132	1492

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Marissa Hendrix Human Resources Director



<https://www.waycrossga.gov/human-resources.php>

Week's Priorities:

Workforce Onboarding execution.

Employee Handbook update.

Mental Health resources execution.

FY25 budget execution.

Funding updates: None.

Traveling and Training: None.

Projects:

Sexual Harassment training execution.

Decision Required: None.

Miscellaneous:

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Job Growth Explodes in January

U.S. employers added 353,000 new jobs in January, much more than expected, according to the [latest employment report from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). Job gains occurred in professional and business services, health care, and retail trade.

The unemployment rate held at 3.7 percent. It ranged from 3.4 percent to 3.8 percent during 2023 and has stayed under 4 percent for the past 24 months. Average hourly earnings rose 0.6 percent on the month and were up 4.5 percent from a year ago.

The report is further evidence that the labor market remains healthy. Earlier this week, the Department of Labor reported [9 million job openings in December](#), or 1.4 positions for every unemployed person.

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Greg Smith Finance Director



<https://www.waycrossga.gov/finance.php>

Week's Priorities:

Future Projects cost estimate execution.

FY23 Audit execution.

FEMA update execution.

COLA execution.

Funding updates: None.

Traveling and Training: None.

Projects:

Meter replacement software execution.

Decision Required: None.

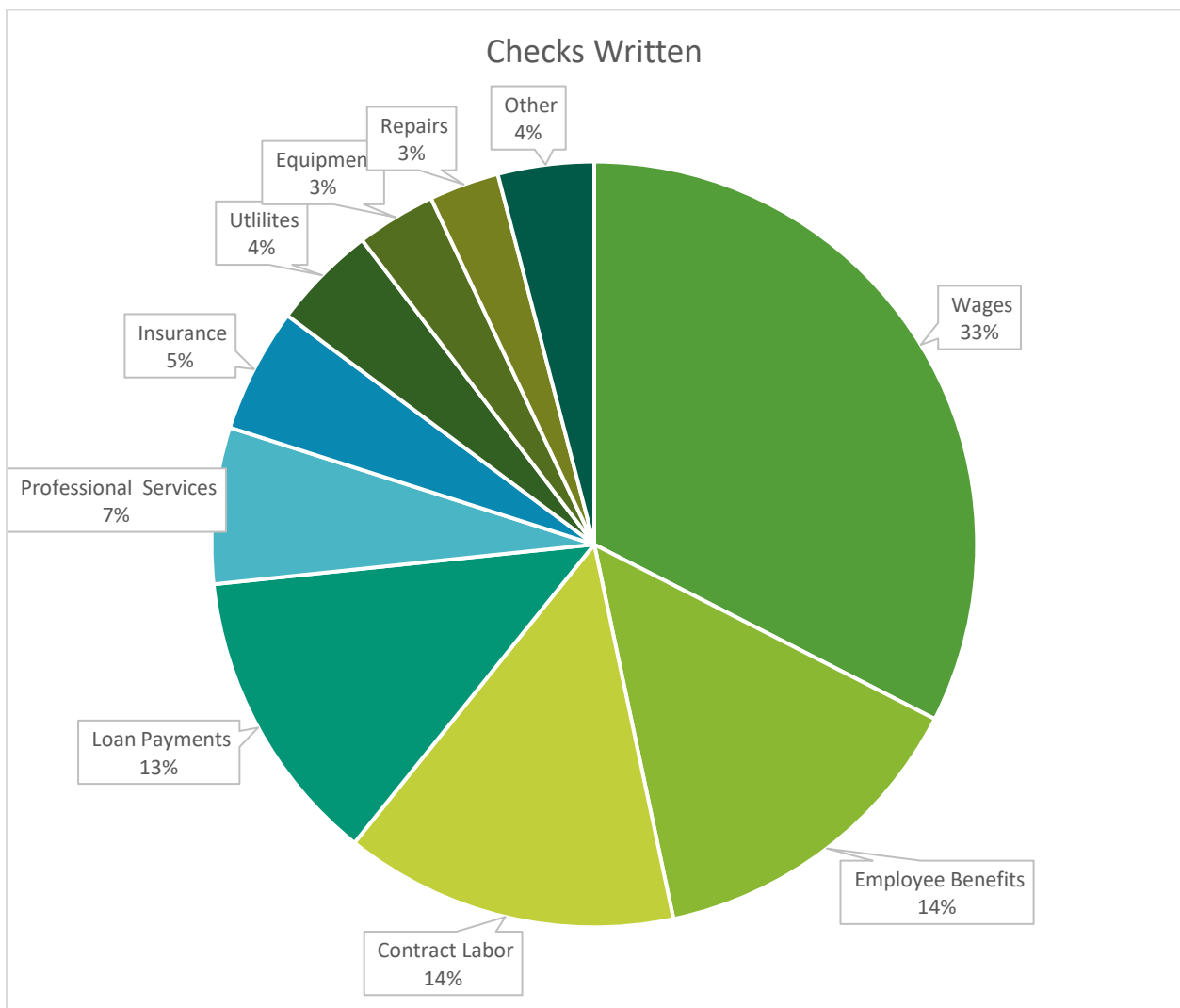
Miscellaneous: None.

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Budget Charts

City Year mid-point funding expenses



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General Fund	Budget	Actual	%	Health Ins.	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 16,078,617	\$ 8,434,704	52.5%	Revenue	\$ 2,027,029	\$ 1,098,599	54.2%
Expenditures	\$ 16,078,617	\$ 8,055,957	50.1%	Expenditures	\$ 2,027,029	\$ 956,905	47.2%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 378,747		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 141,694	
Water/Sewer	Budget	Actual	%	Workers Comp.	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 7,211,000	\$ 4,625,173	64.1%	Revenue	\$ 485,000	\$ 223,000	46.0%
Expenditures	\$ 7,211,000	\$ 4,272,043	59.2%	Expenditures	\$ 485,000	\$ 781,727	161%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 353,130		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ (558,727)	
Storm Water	Budget	Actual	%	Retirement	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 750,000	\$ 381,727	50.9%	Revenue	\$ 1,345,797	\$ 666,363	49.5%
Expenditures	\$ 750,000	\$ 266,116	35.5%	Expenditures	\$ 1,345,797	\$ 567,236	42.1%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 115,611		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 99,127	
Waste Mngt.	Budget	Actual	%	Sp.LOST 2014	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 2,672,225	\$ 1,299,305	48.6%	Revenue	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 10,869	0.8%
Expenditures	\$ 2,672,225	\$ 1,253,286	46.9%	Expenditures	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 201,967	14.4%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 46,019		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ (191,098)	
Garage Fund	Budget	Actual	%	T. SPLOST 2018	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 432,594	\$ 216,297	50.0%	Revenue	\$ 6,915,462	\$ 737,789	10.7%
Expenditures	\$ 432,594	\$ 193,426	44.7%	Expenditures	\$ 6,915,462	\$ 570,772	8.3%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 22,871		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 167,017	

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Hotel/Motel	Budget	Actual	%	R.T. SPLOST	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 511,674	\$ 274,952	53.7%	Revenue	\$ 306,238	\$ 175,897	57.4%
Expenditures	\$ 511,674	\$ 320,239	62.6%	Expenditures	\$ 306,238	\$ 14,470	4.7%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ (45,287)		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 161,427	
Auditorium	Budget	Actual	%	SPLOST 2023	Budget	Actual	%
Revenue	\$ 43,000	\$ 15,800	36.7%	Revenue	\$ 3,200,000	\$ 1,872,050	58.5%
Expenditures	\$ 43,000	\$ 32,145	74.8%	Expenditures	\$ 3,200,000	\$ -	0.0%
Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ (16,345)		Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 1,872,050	
				ARPA-3 Years	Budget	Actual	%
				Revenue	\$ 5,033,363	\$ 5,083,379	101%
				Expenditures	\$ 5,033,363	\$ 2,402,290	48%
				Rev. Over Exp.	\$ -	\$ 2,681,089	

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T-SPLOST & SPLOST

Waycross & Ware County 2024 T-SPLOST Proposal

What is a Single County T-SPLOST?

- A Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) is a sale tax used to fund capital projects proposed by the county and city governments. The Transportation Investment Act (TIA) or T-SPLOST is a regional sales tax for transportation purposes **ONLY**.
- 100% of the funds that are collected by this initiative will be spent on transportation projects in THIS COMMUNITY.



How much money will be raised with a Single County

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T-SPLOST?

- Assuming the max rate of 1.0% is leveraged for 5 years, it is projected that Waycross and Ware County will generate approximately \$45 Million from April 2024 to March 2029.
- These funds will be shared equally (50/50) between Ware County and the City of Waycross.



How can the money be spent?

Funds can only be spent on transportation purposes, which is defined in O.C.G.A. Section 48-8-260(5) as:

“...the tax are to be used in whole or part for capital outlay projects consisting of road, street, and bridge purposes, then authorized uses of the tax proceeds shall include: (A) Acquisition of rights of way for roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and bicycle paths; (B) Construction of roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and bicycle paths; (C) Renovation

CITY REPORT



and improvement of roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and bicycle paths, including resurfacing; (D) Relocation of utilities for roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and bicycle paths; (E) Improvement of surface water drainage from roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and bicycle paths; and (F) Patching, leveling, milling, widening, shoulder preparation, culvert repair, and other repairs necessary for the preservation of roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks, and bicycle paths...”

Note: A minimum of 30% of revenue generated must be consistent with the Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan.

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James Smart Public Works Director



<https://www.waycrossga.gov/public-works.php>

Week's Priorities:

City Blvd curbs edging execution.

Mulch yard cleaning execution.

ESG leak repairs, Farris ST, Owens ST, MLK

Funding Updates: None.

Travel & Training: None.

Projects:

Storm Drain cleaning execution.

Decision Required: None.

Miscellaneous: None.

CITY REPORT



Public Works City Services

Sanitation Services

Garbage: Only the rollout may be used for disposal of residential garbage. If one container is not sufficient, the city will provide an additional container for residential, \$6.99, and commercial, \$11.13. Your container must be curbside the evening before your collection day. After the collection, the emptied container must then be removed from the curbside and returned to your storage area. Call City Hall at 912-287-2900.

Yard Trash: Yard trash should be placed on the curb or city right of way in one large pile (not on the street). Your yard trash must be ready for collection by 7:00 AM on your collection day.

Limbs should be cut in 8-foot lengths and be no larger than 8 inches in diameter. Tree removal will not be collected; this includes limbs, tree trunks, stumps, or stump grindings. Do not place yard trash next to any immobile objects such as light poles, mailboxes, cars, etc. For further information, call the Public Works office at 912-287-2955.

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Household Special Pickups: This refers to the removal of large bulky items such as appliances, mattresses, furniture, carpet, and other household items. Customers may call weekly by Thursday at noon to schedule a pickup of five items or fewer. Collections are Friday of each week. Call the Public Works office at 912-287- 2955 to schedule your pickup.

More than 5 Item Household Collections: Customers having larger loads may call and request a special pickup. A special pickup fee of: ¼ load \$36.23, ½ load \$77.63, and full load \$155.25 must be paid in advance to City Hall. You will then be issued a pickup date on Tuesday or Friday. Call the Public Works office at 287-2955 to schedule a pickup.

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Engineering

<https://www.waycrossga.gov/engineering.php>

Week's Priorities:

Monitor the rehab of the Central Park Apartments' drainage system.

Carswell Drainage improvements ongoing.

Funding updates: None.

Traveling and Training: None.

Projects:

2019 TSPLOST Multi-infrastructure Improvements –

Crawford Street –paving started.

Richmond Ave.- paving completed.

Jane Street- paving started.

Hanover Street- paving started.

Beville Street- paving started.

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- ***Construction can be lengthy; we do our best to not inconvenience citizens but there may be delays.***

Decision Required: None.

Miscellaneous:

2023 milestones

The last twelve months have been busy, with the paving of Albany Avenue from Plant Avenue to Waller Street, the city installed 81 new water services, 3 new fire hydrants and approximately 6,083 linear feet of mains. The sanitary sewer portion of the project called for the re-establishment of 49 sewer services, 45 new sewer services and 3,270 linear feet of sewer mains. The Albany Avenue Resurfacing Project was completed June 7, 2023.

Our current project underway includes the paving of Jane Street, N. Crawford Street, Beville Street, Hanover Drive and Richmond Avenue. During the execution of this project, the city installed 114 new water services, 1 new fire hydrant and installed 950 linear feet of water main.

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32

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The City Roadbotics Evaluation was completed to determine the ranking of all city streets. The city has 382 streets that were reviewed by the program using various criteria. The commission decided to use the 70% - 30% (Roadbotics ranking/GDOT utilization assessment) rule to determine the paving needs at this time. The City will use the top 20 list to begin street & drainage improvements to be paid for with funding from TSPLOST, Stormwater Fund and the Water & Sewer Fund. Utilities will be upgraded as needed. The unpaved street list was prioritized as well, based on utilization (the number of houses facing the street, traffic, facilities, etc.). Paving of these roads is scheduled to begin in February.

The Infrastructure Crew replaced storm drain-pipe on Senate Street, Toomer Street, McDonald Street, Baltimore Avenue and Perham Street. Storm drain-pipe was also replaced at the intersections of Lee & Fireman and Eastover & Spurgeon. In total, 1,007 feet of storm drain-pipe has been replaced. The current on Perham Street and Carwell Avenue is being delayed due to a water main conflict. The City is working to resolve the issue and should be back on the project by January 16, 2024.

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Community Calendar

Feb 2 – First Friday.

Feb 5/6 – Working Session/Commission meeting.

Feb 7 - Chamber Annual Banquet

Feb 8 - Tra Battle - Inspirational Night

Feb 13 - Rise and Shine - Southern Forest World

Feb 13 – City Codes Information Sharing session.

Feb 15 – TPCC meeting.

Feb 15 - Community/Faith Outreach Meeting

Feb 15 - Business After Hours - Memorial Satilla Health

Feb 17 - Arbor Day - Southern Forest World

Feb 17 - Ribbon Cutting - Woody's Top Putt

Feb 17 - 3rd Saturday

Feb 19/20 – Working Session/Commission meeting.

Feb 21 – Property owners/Realtors Working Group session.

Feb 22 – City Update.

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