



MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025 – 5:00 PM
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
*****SEE DISCUSSION NOTES*****

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Waycross City Commission Meeting was called to order on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 5:00 pm by Mayor James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present were Commissioners Alvin Nelson, Katrena Felder (in at 5:06), Shawn Roberts and Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett

- A.** Invocation: Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett

Invocation led by, Timothy Hathaway

- B.** Pledge of Allegiance
C. City Clerk to Read Section 2-66 (a) – Decorum.

Read by City Clerk, Jacqueline Powell

- D.** Request Motion to Approve Agenda

There was a motion made by Mayor Pro, Temp, Sheinita Bennett to approve, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

II. PUBLIC REMARKS ON OFFICIAL ACTIONS

III. EXECUTIVE DUTIES:

- A.** Presentation: The Kennedy L. Sanders Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award

Was presented by the Mayor and City Manager to Anchor of Hope, Danielle Smith and also to Ga. Department of Veterans Office

- B.** Employee of Month:

Was presented by the City Manager to Jacqueline Powell

IV. OFFICIAL REPORTS:

A. City Manager's Report

Shown the presentation from Mondays meeting.

B. Mayor's Report (To Include Any Public Service Announcements).

V. CONSIDERATION OF OFFICIAL ACTIONS:

A. Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:00 pm.
- b. Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Monday March 31, 2025, at 5:00pm.
- c. Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 5:00 pm.
- d. Waycross City Commission Planning & Information Session, Monday April 14, 2025, at 5:00pm
- e. Waycross City Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:00 pm.

2. Ordinance Second Readings: n/a

3. Privilege License Renewals: n/a

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

B. Privilege Licenses:

- a. WAWA, P. Valentino, 1810 South Ga. Pkwy, Waycross, Beer and Wine. Package Sales Only.
- b. Pour Decision's Beverage Co. Inc dba Edd's Package Store, H. Sweat Jr., 608 S. Ga. Pkwy, Waycross, Beer, Wine and Liquor. Package Sales Only.

Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Felder, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

C. Bids:

1. WAYX 25-07 Fire Dept. Vehicles and Equipment

Motion to approve the consent calendar was made Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

2. **WAYX 25-08 Public Works Vehicles**

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Felder. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

3. **Tyler Technologies-Request to Amend the Contract**

Motion to approve the consent calendar was made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Commissioner Roberts. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

D. Ordinances: n/a

E. Resolutions:

1. **A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Declare Two (2) City Owned Fire Department Vehicles and One (1) Fire Safety Trailer To Be Surplused Property; To Provide For Sale on GOVDEALS.COM; and for Other Purposes.**

Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Roberts. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

2. **A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Declare Four (4) City Owned Public Works Vehicles To Be Surplused Property; To Provide For Sale on GOVDEALS.COM; and for Other Purposes**

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

3. **A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia To Approve A Contract Amendment with Tyler Technologies to Add A Fixed Asset Module For The City's Finance Software Which Was Not Part of the Original Contract For Necessary Upgrades; and for Other Purposes.**

Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

4. **A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia To Approve Purchase of A New Mosquito Sprayer for Public Works; and for Other Purposes.**

Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

5. **A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Purchase of a New Equipment Trailer for Public Works; and for Other Purposes.**

Motion to approve made by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Roberts. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

6. A Resolution of the City of Waycross Georgia, to Approve Fireworks Display Agreement with Pyrotecnico, Inc. for the Fourth of July 2025 Fireworks Exhibition; and for Other Purposes.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

7. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia to Approve A Contract with SEAS Community Partners, Inc. To Provide Grant Writing Services for City of Waycross, Georgia, and for Other Purposes.

Motion to approve made by Commissioner Nelson, seconded by Mayor Pro Temp, Bennett. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

VI. LAST CALL and/or ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The mayor adjourned the meeting at 5:57pm

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:


MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:


JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk



*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

CITY CLERK: Section two Dash 66 decorum. The mayor, commissioners, staff, and persons in attendance shall conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner except when expressly authorized by the mayor. All remarks, comments and questions shall be directed to the mayor and not to individual commissioners, staff, or persons in attendance. A commissioner, staff or person in attendance shall not speak at a meeting until the Commissioner, staff or person in attendance has been recognized by the mayor and granted permission to speak or ask a question. All comments, remarks or questions made by the Commissioner's staff or persons in attendance shall address the item or motion that is being discussed or be pertinent to the resolution, ordinance, or agenda item before the Commission. No one shall make or use inappropriate, insulting, vulgar, obscene, or profane language, or make any offensive remark or comments while speaking. Nor shall anyone accuse any other person of being immoral, violating any law, rule, or regulation, or committing any ethical violation. Further, no one should use this opportunity for public comment to speak about any activity undertaken for political reasons or ends, such as campaigning for votes before an election, campaigning for another person, making speeches, attempting to raise funds, etc., or otherwise promoting oneself or one's private position. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Do we have anyone with public remarks on official actions before we move into our vote on the agenda?

CITY CLERK: No, sir. Mr. mayor.

MAYOR: At this time, we'll be looking to the commission to get a motion to approve the agenda so we may move forward.
Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER BENNETT: Mr. mayor, I move that we accept the, um, the agenda.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Second.

MAYOR: So, you have a motion for the approval of the agenda and a second. The motion was given by our commissioner, Shanita Bennett is our mayor pro Tem. And also, our second was given by our commissioner Nelson. All in favor? Aye. All opposed? No motion carries its agenda passes. Moving forward into our executive duties. We're going to look to our city manager.

CITY MANAGER: Uh, thank you, Mr. Mayor. At this time, we have two presentations. I think one of the recipients is running late. Um, but we have one who is present at this time. We're going to start with her, and then we're going to go into the employee of the month. So, um, maybe you want me to discuss the first one. Autism. Okay. So, um, Miss Danielle, if y'all can come to the front, please. I don't know if she's going to come back. Oh, she. Missed me. Join me. Please. So, for those who don't know, I'm actually going to let them speak on her. On her program. Not necessarily a program, but her network and family of those citizens who, um, have family members with autism. It's a great program. Uh, so far, the mayor and I have attended two of the events, um, which were well received. She's also worked with the police force on making sure that parents and citizens enroll their children. Uh, not just their children, but their family members who have autism into the program so that in the event that, uh, they have any situation to train, police show up versus the untrained, um, with autism. So, we really appreciate her, Mr.

Mayor. She's done so much. And this time I would like to give her the mic and let her talk about her program for a few minutes.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

DANIELLE REED- SMITH: Last year, I hosted this big event here in Waycross, where I had a lot of families come out and just was giving advice on autism. As you can see, my daughter is autistic. She's been diagnosed at two. So around Waycross it was hardly anything. It was no support groups. Um, we were young parents. We didn't really want to talk about it, and it was just really devastating for us. So last year, I came up with this brilliant idea. I told my husband, I said, you know what? I think I want to do something with autism. And I had a lot of parents come and tell me, hey, we want to keep going. I had a lot of momentum. It was just it was a lot. It was impactful. So, I started at anchor of Hope and anchor of Hope grew and it grew, and it grew. And this year alone, I serviced over 100 families. Um, I gave 100 book bags out to families. I gave Christmas gifts out. Um, we did this walk downtown. What else do we do? Because I'm always pulling Patrick, uh, the city manager and the mayor on just these brilliant ideas. My next idea is to build a clinic here in Waycross, um, to just start giving services out. These are free services. I don't charge my parents nothing. Just call me if you need potty training, if you need resources in Atlanta or resources in Waycross, like just call me. So, these are free, but my clinic will be what we're working on now is trying to see where we want to put the clinic and how we want to navigate it, but that's our next step. And just bringing awareness to Autism and White Cross. Um, it's not a lot that we know of that's around, but my program is pretty popular and it's pretty it's getting out there. So, if you know anybody, please give them my name, give them my number, and I'm here to help. I'm giving resources. Um, what else? I give a lot, I give a lot, I give resources, community things. Um, we just do a lot for the community, for the city of Waycross. So. And thank you, Rebecca. Me, because this is a little nerve wracking. I was a little nervous presenting to y'all. But thank y'all for the city for backing me on this. honest. We are grateful. Thank you.

MAYOR: Thank you. Danielle. Thank you so very much for all that you do. And so, because of what you've done, we have something for you. We have the Sergeant Kennedy L Sanders outstanding citizen achievement award for you. And you are getting ready to receive a spike, which is similar to a key to the city. So, this is a railroad spike from downtown city of Waycross. This is number 46 of 100 of them. And this is an outstanding citizenship. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think the VA running a little bit late. So, we'll go right into the employee of the month and our newest employee of the month. And much like Mrs. Strickland, I didn't prepare any remarks because it will be a lot of pages. And I'll be talking up here for a long period of time. I didn't want to do that. I want to go ahead and present this month, employee month, the award of recognition. But I will say a few things, Mr. Mayor and commissioner for the audience. Uh, just to know how valuable um, Mrs. Powell is to our organization. So, uh, when I got here two years ago, um, I think Mrs. Powell got here a few months before I did, and she was still in transition. And much like my position, uh, it had been a lot of changes over the previous city clerk going back 20 years now. But the one before that had been here for, I want to say, 18 years for a long period of time. But after that we had seven serving or intern or serving city clerks. Uh, one of them had to be Mark Hawkins back here. He served for. I think that's where everything got messed up at. But, uh, but the thing about that, we did have a lot of people that kind of filled in during that time frame. Um, so some things, um, did get mishandled, um, because the job the city clerk does is very important, and it can't be a secondary job. So, when we had the city finance director doing it, and then we had somebody else filling in. And, you know, a lot of things happened. It wasn't the best. So, move forward and Miss Power

gets here, and she comes in. Uh, do a little bit of organized confusion. Organized confusion. And she had a lot to kind of deal with. And I will say a few things. When she got here, we probably were about 25% business license compliance. And those who really know how taxation works for the city that was killing us. And it's not about necessarily collecting money, but it's about making sure everybody in compliance, especially our restaurants and food services, um, and things of that nature, uh, doctors, all those things. And we will not comply. Uh, Miss Powell and her team. I think Marcus is in here somewhere. Um, another teammate. They have done an outstanding job. And I want to say right now, we're over 85% compliance with our building license, which is a really big deal. But also, with that,

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

um, it's not just about making them bring their check. She missed. Powell and her team do a great job educating our citizens. Um, that was something that, uh, I'm not saying it wasn't happening before we got here, but I will say now it's happening a lot more. Um, she's assisting with Mr. Simmons, um, and finance director, um, by really sitting down with potential business owners, current business owners, and they will take the advice of past business owners and create an environment that can really learn why we do what we do, which is so important. Um, and the last thing I want to keep going, but, um, she brings a sense of peace and humor, um, to the to the city. Every morning I heard Miss Brooks, um, you know, you know, you know, um, so every day, um, they make sure I stay straight. Um, council meeting. I need counseling and support me. I won't speak on the mayor, but he'll probably say some remarks as well about the council. He was seen sometimes, um, when he was in office. But we really appreciate Mrs. Powell, all her efforts. Like I said, uh, she has done a wonderful job here, and I really, I really take pride of like, her being recognized right now because a lot of our workforce, especially the ones in this building, they don't get recognized enough. We got a great team. Now, don't get me wrong on public works, fire department, um, police, uh, all those human resources, they get recognized out by the public all the time. You see on our Facebook comments. But rarely do they get recognized of the people here doing the other type of work that the city has to do. Um, the masterpiece, the finance piece, organizational piece, and the communications piece. Um, so with that being said, Miss Powell, will you take center stage for me?

MAYOR: We are grateful for all the work that you do, and we really know there's much more than we've been seeing done, because you do a lot of things in secret, but you get rewarded openly. And so come on up with. So, on behalf of the city of Waycross, I want to thank you for your outstanding performance. Not only just while you're here, but everywhere you go. Thank you so very much. And here for you, I have just an employee of the month that it says in honor of outstanding performance. And along with that, a little check just to help augment the check of the month. And she represents the rolls in the midst of the thorns. Just in.

CITY MANAGER: And, Mr. Mayor, we have one final presentation. Um, so the final presentation will receive the Sergeant Kenny Sanders outstanding citizen achievement Award will be a representative from the VA. Um, and, um, I think I saw her walk in. Yes, ma'am. If you come to this stage for your fans and watch. She's coming up. I'll talk about the VA, uh, the VA, the VA clinic here in Waycross, Georgia. Uh, as you know, a lot of changes have come down over this previous year. Um, with the VA, um, I go over probably, like, once a week and talk to them. Um, we are very thankful for all they do for our veterans here in the city of Waycross. A lot of their work, like Miss Powell is, is unseen. You know, I know I have, um, watched, um, the VA take citizens off the streets. Um, homeless veterans and take them to the VA clinic and get them serviced. Myself, personally. So, um, we can't give them enough recognition for what they do. Um, the honor staff in my assessment. Um, but they do work. They They've been working on the staff and in some cases don't have all the equipment they need, but they make it work. They got some volunteers over there, um, unpaid volunteers that come in every day, as well as support the mission of the VA. And what we want to do today on your behalf is recognize the entire VA staff. Um, for all the hard work they do for the community, not just our veterans, but for our communities abroad. So, we want to say thank you.

MAYOR: Thank you so very much for all that you've done. Our duty and. Our cities and our citizens are safe because of you. We thank you. And with this, we have the Kennedy L Sanders Outstanding Citizens Achievement Award presented to Georgia Department of Veterans Waycross office in appreciation of your exceptional dedication and compassionate service and assisting our veterans through your efforts, unwavering support, advocacy, and commitment to you, you have helped ensure that veterans receive the respect, care, and resources they so greatly deserve, and this is awarded on this day, the sixth day of May 2025. And I put my seal and my signature. Thank you. You hold this. And here is your key to the city or your spike. Thank you. Thank you. At this time, we will move into our official reports. And we have a report coming now from our city manager, Mr. Duke Raiford.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

CITY MANAGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. At this time. We're moving to the city report. Uh, and for those who were not here last night or not watched the meeting previously, this is the vision. And the mission of the city remains the same. Uh, these are all bands of our priorities. Infrastructure, services, quality of life in the city, workforce. These are the priorities within those. These beings. And we weren't talking to the detail of these. It just. It is Mister Mayor for those watching. And you come to the working session, we'll go into more detail on these priorities set by the Commission. This is the ten-year plan. Right now, we're in year two for the plan. Uh, everything is going well right now. As I mentioned last night, we're on schedule, actually, ahead of schedule for the complete IT systems update or overhaul. Um, we did a brief last night. The strategy for the financial strategy moving forward for the next three years. What you feel like will be very positive for the city and do a lot of work for the city as far as infrastructure and then fleet management for the city itself. So, we're looking forward to making that happen for our citizens, which will enable us to give them the best support possible. And again, as we move into the budget process in the coming weeks, the theme of the budget will be Divest and invest. And that's us. That's us divesting from things that are not bringing value to the city and investing or reinvesting in those things that bring value to the city. The only other thing I report, Mr. Mayor, last night we had a discussion from one of the citizens. I wanted to cover this. Normally when they speak, um, they don't see the feedback that happens between the commissioner and me on those topics. So, what I'd like to do moving forward, um, is trying to address any of those comments in a professional manner. Um, after the meeting, if we have time to go back and research what they're asking about. Um, in particular this situation, we had a concern about code enforcement last night. Um, as far as inspections, I will say that we've been talking about this for pretty much the whole two years I've been here trying to find a better way to do things. And, um, I think we're real close. If I can, I'm going to show, like, a five-minute video. Not the whole five minutes, but the video that the commission was able to witness with the Tyler coming in with the with the code, the new practices code, just so the citizens can see that's coming along here in the future. That's really going to help us out once we modernize and digitize our whole code department. So that's one thing. But the main focus of my report today is I sit down with Mr. Hawkins about, um, last night, and then this morning we did another sit down, and I wanted to kind of give the commission some options, um, to think about, um, for the future, um, about how we do inspections. I'm going to bring up here a little bit to kind of go into detail about this with his expertise. Um, but the main thing that I just from the conversation last night and many more that I have, um, citizens are not satisfied with our vacancy inspection, that we have other inspections. You know, we have new bills, add ons, um, new construction, all those things. But the main problem that we've kind of been, uh, going back and forth with has been the vacancy, that vacancy requirement of six months, um, and um, and water in that part. Um, what we do know and Mark's going to talk about this a little more in detail. That's not a requirement by the state. Um, so we don't have to do it that way. Um, I will, um, go back in history and what I think happened, um, where I speculate happened that at some point in time a previous commission was doing it. What we're going what we're going to present here in a few seconds. And then some things came up and they kind of changed direction. Um, like, like most times the commission is trying to, uh, take care of citizens. And I think at a certain point citizens had to do require to reform or get their own contractors and all those things and get their own inspections done and then present to the city. And what was happening, though the work was probably being not done completely, things signed off wrong and a lot of things done incorrectly. And then once you do that, um, the only negative part is now you do have a situation of a citizen versus citizen legal matter, um, versus right now, um, all those inspections that Mark does, we go by the book. And I think in the past it wasn't doing that. And that's why I kind of changed back over to what we're doing right now if that makes sense. So, what we're asking right now is to kind of think about, for the commission, um, over the next few weeks, and we'll come back to this probably once the budget gets presented properly. I'm going to bring Marc to kind of discuss this about the current way, how we do the inspection and propose new ways.

MARC HAWKINS: Mr. Mayor. Commissioner. So, the vacancy inspection, um, it was here prior to me getting here in 2004, so I don't know when they started it. Um, the history that I was told was that

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

Georgia Power required inspections. Uh, at the power had been off for so long. The way the city ordinance is written, basically anytime the water is turned off. So, if you were on a cut off list today, the way the ordinance was written, the city can go inspect it tomorrow before it turns back on. So, what the city did was just kind of got on page with Georgia Power and went with the six-month deal. Um, as the city manager said, this is not a state requirement. Um, so what we what we've looked at and what we've proposed is to get away from the city doing inspections and just have the owner of the building. This will cover commercial, residential, um, have the owner come up. They would do an affidavit saying that they're hiring a plumber, electrician, Trishan contractor and a mechanical guy to come in and look at it, make sure it's up to code. They would also submit an affidavit saying that it's up to code. And when we get that, then we turn the water and power on. It takes the liability off the city, and it puts the liability back on the owner and the contractor. So, it will be a third-party contractor because we have some property owners that they have, you know, building a building license or plumbing their state license to do all the trades. So, in those situations, the third party, so they couldn't just inspect their own, their own property. Um, so that's what we're proposing. And again, it would get the city out of it. Um, the owner would sign the affidavit saying that they're going to abide by this and they're taking all liability, um, from this. And then the contractors would submit the affidavits saying that they went in, inspected that trade, and it met code compliance. So, and then once we got those, then the water and power would be turned on.

MAYOR: So do we need. And I know this is your report. Do we need a resolution of some sort to actually go along with this, or would this be an ordinance change?

CITY MANAGER: It'll be I think it'll be ordinance change. Yeah, but right now I just want to present it to the commission because, um, there are some pros and cons to this. Um, so. And in the perfect world, everybody would do the right thing. Get the licensed professionals to do the work, not do the work themselves. And they will follow all the procedures as outlined in the code book and electrician and all those things, engineer stuff and everything will work out. But then there's a chance that they might not do that, and they might do the stuff on their own and all those. Um, but this is why I want everybody to kind of this is why Mark is so hard on his inspections. Um, and I do go back behind the team sometimes to make sure that I understand why we do what we do sometimes. I think I told a story of my first two months here, when I fell through the floor, and when somebody was trying to tell me the floor was stable And, um, so it's very important because right now I need everybody to understand that the city owns a liability. If we just pass certain things. Um, I understand that everybody's trying to save money, and we're not trying. Well, yeah, trying to save money and make money. Um, and we do have a housing shortage. All those things are inputs to this problem. But overall, it's a city that ultimately bears the responsibility when things are not done properly. And that's the main reason that we do the inspections. Um, the other part of this, um, we'll still be asking that if you're going to purchase a home here in Waycross, that you simply stop by, um, the third floor and eventually we'll be online. You can just kind of just go online and do this, but definitely need to understand because as I've learned and I want to thank the family that came up yesterday, um, because we haven't been in conversations, a lot of times, they don't know what's in the code book and it can be confusing. I want to say that the electrical part in here is about 80 pages of stuff. Eight. 800 pages. So, you know, um, now some people can understand that stuff and then some can't. So, you know, it is an education piece in here that we still need to occur. Um, and I hope that, um, if we do make this change, the commission makes this change, we will facilitate the education piece because we want people to come here and be at homes. You know, we have some folks come here and they do it in 30 days. You know, they have a team, they come in and there's no problems, you know, um, but I stand by my team. Um, um, there is no racism involved. There's no malice involved. That's not the intent. We don't have time to go out here and pick and choose. That's not how it works. And I stand by that with anybody. Um, do we get everything right all the time? No. Um, but there's, like I say, there's a reason behind some of the some of the stuff because we're trying to work with people sometimes. And I've been working with people for two years now. Just be honest. You know, and I think if we make this decision to pivot a little bit, we will get ourselves not only I'm not trying to run for the liability, but we don't. We don't want to be in front of their own timelines. We

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

don't want to be in for anything that makes them think we're trying to deter them from making money, saving money, or providing homes. I think to the commission, uh, and he was still working out some of the legalities behind this. But I think right now this will probably be the best course of action. And again, this is just for vacancy inspections. Everything else is state law. We can't get away from that. That's state law. So um, do bills and add on.

MARC HAWKINS: Additions, new builds, remodels, stuff like that. Those are mandated by DCA, and they have to follow the codes. Um, the codes are the bare minimum that we you have to enforce those, and you have to go by those. You can't, you can add to them, but you can't take away from them. So, you can make it tougher, but you can't make it less stringent. But that goes for anytime they're doing any plumbing, electrical, mechanical or any type of building. Um, those are mandated by the state. But as far as vacancies to get water and power turned on, um, that was a city ordinance that came in sometime. Um, and again, it was kind of getting on par with Georgia Power to do that. Um, and because Georgia Power was requiring the city at the time to do that. So, this would still kind of get that, that because they're going to still want the city to approve, you know, descending the power. Um, so with these affidavits, it takes it off the city and we just send it in.

CITY MANAGER: And like I said, we think it's a I feel like it's the best course of action now, now, the last piece of this and I will try to pull up. We go ahead and try to pull up the briefing. Like I said, once we get the systems fully automated, uh, some of this will be streamlined and it'll be even better process for all the inspections, because residents can simply go online, and it'll be a step-by-step process of what they need to do when buying. When buying a home or fixing a home, it won't be any confusion anymore about when I do this and when I do that, or how that works. Um, so and this is a few months away and we'll probably start implementing that, uh, probably August, September time frame. So, it's coming. It's coming kind of fast. Um, so again, we're excited about that because this is a this will add another level of transparency and communications for us for our citizens. So, they can understand the process too. Because again, and I want to overtalk this, I think our biggest problem is the lack of understanding about the requirement. I mean, and, you know, everybody wants to go do it themselves. And in some cases, you just can't, you know, you got to have a licensed professional to do it. So, I'm going to let that chime up and we'll watch a few minutes of Mr. Mayor, and I'll wait for your comments after that. And then, like I said, I'll circle back with this discussion, um, probably in the month of June, to give the commission a little bit of time to assess it. And if the Commission has any, um, additions they want to add. I just ask you over the next couple weeks, go ahead and let me know and we'll do that as well.

PRESENTATION AUDIO: We'll click on apply here. The system is going to ask if we're a collaborator. That's just our way of saying is you a homeowner contractor developer somebody that needs to pull a permit? If you are, you can create an account. All that we ask for is a name and email and a password. So, it takes about 30s to get that set up. I'm already logged in, so I'll just switch tabs here. Once they log in, that application will pull up right on the screen for them. They can change that project title on their end if they want to. And then our first step here is just to find our location. So, as we start typing, we're going to get a drop down to select from. This will be based on your location right here. So, they're not going to see any addresses or properties that you guys don't work with. Once we select our location this section here will tell the applicant about anything else they have going on at that property. So, we'll see any other active permits or licensed projects as well as any historic data here. Your credentials are going to be your contractor licensing or contractor registration side of things. So, with your permit projects right now, are you guys tracking any sort of contractor, licensing, electrical, plumbing, anything of that sort? Or what does that look like? Yeah, we do track all of that. And do you guys at the city level issue those or are those state issued licenses? What's that situation? What was it like? Okay. So, your credential manager would give your contractors the access to take their state licenses that they have, upload it into their account here. You guys would only have to verify them on that original upload to make sure everything looks how it's supposed to. Once those are attached to their account and approved, then we will keep track of their expiration dates for them. Then we'll send them automated renewal

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

notices, so they know when they're about to expire. And anytime somebody applies, their license will be attached directly to that application. So, they won't have to find their info to put it back in. You guys won't have to manually verify every single time an application comes in. Just helps streamline that process a little bit. There is a restriction. We'll just go ahead and say we're doing some electrical work, and then your requirement is whatever you want to request from the applicant. So, you can have text boxes here. File uploads, picture uploads, yes or no questions. Anything you guys might need to request. While this application is open for your fees, you can attach those at any step.

CITY MANAGER: I want to go to I don't know if y'all already seen this, but we're going to put it online for everybody else. The key point there was, and I forgot to mention this earlier, um, we will still be a part of the process because in some cases, um, I know. it might be somebody that says state certified or authorized and they got to be certified. So, by doing this, this database of plumbers, electricians, we'll still be involved with that so that the citizens can know who is state certified, because we do have people out here who are not certified doing work, and they got labels and offices and everything. Um, so that would be part of it too. But once we get this database, um, fully established, you know, anybody can come up there and just, you know, House 5 or 8 Rayford Street. Everything should come up on the past history of Rayford Street. Um, setbacks, all those things, um, failed inspections, all that stuff, um, everything. So that potential buyer could know, then. Okay, this is what I'm getting into, you know? And how much, um, do I want to invest into this property? Um, and that goes back to the communication education piece that we really got to work on with our citizens, especially the ones that are local, um, because some of them are kind of bought in to just whatever they heard somewhere else. So, this is going to pay a dividend. I know everybody can't see it right now because it just screens kind of small. Don't lie and everything. But, um, once it goes live and we invite some citizens up to kind of just kind of mess with so they can understand, hopefully they'll spread it out so everybody can see. So, uh, that's the gist of my report, Mr. Mayor. And I'm going to pause the questions if I can take any questions. But right now, this will just aim to address the concern yesterday and again, um, this was not coming to that family. Um, they spoke yesterday because like they said, uh, there are many citizens that are in the same boat, um, with the main thing being the lack of communication between us on how, you know, how stuff is done. The clarity on how much needs to be done. And then, um, just some, some, some general need to know, like if you have electricity, they need to be certified because, uh, it's a certain practice they have to follow. And, um, we did go around and look at about ten houses a day. Um, which I'm going to start showing citizens that this is proper electrical work, and this is not. And the problem with that right now, if somebody was to get shot and killed and we signed off on it, then we would be liable. You know, so I hear that citizens hope citizens would adhere to that too and be concerned about the people that buy or rent from them in the future. And I apologize for calling Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: So, it sounds like Carfax.

CITY MANAGER: Something like that. Yeah.

MAYOR: Commissioner, did you have anything to say to you on that?

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Yeah. I have a question. Um, and I understand the codes and everything, but, uh, and I do understand electricity because, you know, electricity can kill somebody. Yes. But as far as the water part of it, I mean, you know, I don't think water kill anybody. You know, something like you got to have a permit to, uh, change the toilet and stuff like that. I mean.

CITY MANAGER: So, commission like this is a chance right now. If y'all want to change that, then let's do it. Like I said, there's no state requirement. That was just something we got started at some point in time. So, I'll get with the team on this. If that's something we need to remove some kind of way that we can do that, we will. Um, but that's how the commission wants to vote on that. Uh, I see your point on that. Uh, only thing I would say, you know, if the water does leak in the house and, you know, it's two stories, it's things that can happen. So that's why we want to make sure all the fittings are done

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

properly. And all those things, you know, needing a proper plumber to come in there. But whatever y'all want to do. Commission. Um, right now we're just trying to if we do pivot from the current operations, um, we'll make sure we get everything done the correct way. Um, so.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Thank you, Sir.

CITY MANAGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That concludes my report.

MAYOR: At this time as the mayor, I have a report. My report is just a little bit about what's going on in the community. One of the things that I want to make mention of is that we will have the state of the city. It will be this Thursday. It will be at noon at the City Auditorium at six five Fulton Street. And you can start going in about 1130. There will be some featured guests coming from various places to come in and be a part of the service or the address, and then there will be a meal served thereafter. Along with that, we do have an announcement. Love Feeds Incorporated has Juneteenth parade. It will be on in Waycross on Saturday, June 14th, 2025, and it will be at 12 p.m. There's also a Juneteenth Freedom Celebration on Thursday, June 19th. This will be held at Bayly Street Park from 12 to 6, and you can come and join and celebrate the Day of Freedom and vendors and welcome. No fees, no food vendors, free food and drinks, live entertainment, music and dance, fun games pre-produced seniors. And this is from our contact with us, Sean Taylor, and she leads her telephone number. Now on this you can also there's a QR code. You can take your phone and put it to it. I believe there may be some in the hallway just in case you're looking for an opportunity to go with that. I want to say Happy Mother's Day to mothers coming up this weekend. Thank you so very much for your lives and what you do to help make our lives better. And with that, we look to our city's clerk with our consideration.

CITY CLERK: Approval of minutes Waycross City Commission meeting Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, at 5 p.m. Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session Monday, March 31st, 2025, at 5 p.m. Waycross City Commission Meeting Tuesday, April 1st, 2025, at 5 p.m. Waycross City Commission Planning and Information Session Monday, April 14th, 2025, at 5 p.m. Waycross City Commission Meeting Tuesday, April 15th, 2025 at 5 p.m. There are no ordinances, second readings, no privileged license at this time. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you have heard the consent calendar read by our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Move. Approval of a motion for approval by Commissioner Nelson. Is there a second? Second? Second by Mayor Pro Tem Commissioner Bennett. Moving to vote. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Consent. Calendar. Council passes.

CITY CLERK: Privilege license. We have Wawa P. Valentino, 1810 South Georgia Parkway, Waycross, Georgia. Beer and wine package sales only. Poor decisions Beverage Company, Inc. doing business as Edd's package store H sweat junior, 608 South Georgia Parkway, Waycross, Georgia. Beer, wine and liquor package sales only. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you have heard the privilege licenses that have been read by our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Move for Approval. We have a motion for approval. Our commissioner second by Commissioner Bennett. All in favor? Aye, aye. All opposed? No motion carries privilege. License pass. Madam. Clerk.

MAMIE JACKSON: Good evening, Mr. Mayor. Pakistan has three items before you this evening. The first one is for surplus items from the fire department. The fire department has three, two vehicles. I'm sorry. And one trailer that they are taking out of service because they have. They have become a safety and liability issue. It is a 2006 Chevy Impala. 2007 for surety safety trailer and a 2006 Spartan Crimson fire truck. We are asking that these items be surplus so that we can sell them on gov deals.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

MAYOR: Thank you, Miss Jackson. Commissioner, you have heard the recommendation. Miss Jackson to surplus these vehicles. What is your pleasure? Move for Approval. We have a motion for approval from our mayor Pro Tem Bennett. We have a second. Second? Second from Commissioner Nelson. We can move into voting if there is no discussion. Hearing none, we'll move into voting. All in favor? Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries.

MAMIE JACKSON: The next item before the commission is another set of surplus vehicles from the Public Works Department. There were four vehicles that they have taken out of service. They have since in the process of replacing them. Uh, they are a 1996 Ford F-150, a 2006 GMC 8500 dump truck, a 1997 Ford 6640 tractor, and a 1999 Chevy 1500. We are asking that these items also be declared surplus so that we can sell them on goalzz.com.

MAYOR: Thank you, Mr. Jackson. Commissioner, you've heard Miss Jackson make a presentation of the surplus items for public works. What is your pleasure? You have a motion for approval by our mayor Pro Tem Bennett. Is there a second? Second by Commissioner Felder. Any discussion? Hearing none. We'll move into voting. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carried.

MAMIE JACKSON: Last item before the commission is a request to amend our contract with Tyler Technologies. It is for a new set of modules called My go to that will replace our community development modules that we currently have our permits and inspections, business license code enforcement, GIS mapping, Credential manager, electronic plan Review and work orders, and the citizen and the citizen portal. Uh, these items will basically be an even swap, so they will not be a cost to an additional cost to the contract, with the exception of the fixed assets module that was not a part of the original contract. That total implementation fee will be 1189 \$1,189, and the annual fee will be an additional \$4,044. We are asking that the Commission approve this so that we can update any of the newest software for tablet technologies for the Community Improvement Department.

MAYOR: Commissioner, you have heard Miss Jackson's presentation of the Tyler Technologies amendment to the cost to the contract. We were thinking through this, and she mentioned that the initial fee was \$1,189, while the module per year would be 4044. To amend this contract, the question is what is your vision of a motion for approval by Commissioner Nelson? Is there a second, second, second, second by Commissioner Roberts and Bennett? Any discussion on this? Hearing none. We're moving the voting. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carried. This passes. Thank you, Madam President.

CITY CLERK: Mr. mayor, we do not have any ordinances at this time. We do have seven resolutions. A resolution of the city of Waycross, Georgia, to declare two city owned fire department vehicles and one fire safety trailer to be surplus property to provide for sale on gov deals.com and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the City Commission would declare as surplus property two city owned fire department vehicles and one safety trailer, which are no longer usable to be sold on gov deals to the highest bidder. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you have heard the resolution read by our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Motion for approval by our city's mayor pro tem. Is there a second, second, second by our Commissioner Roberts? Any discussion on this resolution hearing? None. All in favor? Aye, aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. And this resolution passes. Madam clerk.

CITY CLERK: A resolution of the city of Waycross, Georgia, to declare four city owned public works vehicles to be surplus property to provide for sale on gov deals and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the City Commission would declare as surplus property for city owned public works vehicles which are no longer usable to be sold on gov deals to the highest bidder. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you've heard the resolution read by our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Have a motion for approval by our Commissioner Nelson. And it was seconded by our mayor pro tem. Ben, we're moving to voting if there's no discussion. Hearing none. Moving to voting. All in favor? Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Resolution passes. Madam clerk.

CITY CLERK: A resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to approve a contract amendment with Tyler Technologies to add a fixed asset module for the city's finance software, which has not which was not part of the original contract for necessary upgrades and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the City Commission will approve a contract amendment for Tyler Technologies for upgrades to the city's finance software to include a module for fixed assets, which was not part of the original contract to coincide with other modules for permits, inspections, business licenses, code enforcement, GIS mapping, Credential manager, electronic plan review, work orders, and citizen portal. Porter. The implementation fee for the fixed asset module will be \$1,189, and the annual fee will be \$4,044 for all modules to be paid for from the city's general fund. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you've heard the resolution read by our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Move for Approval. We have a motion for approval to receive the resolution. And this is from our mayor Pro Tem Bennett. Is there a second? Second. Have a second from Commissioner Roberts. Nelson. Any discussion? Hearing none. All in favor? Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Resolution passes. Madam clerk.

CITY CLERK: A resolution of the city of Waycross, Georgia, to approve purchase of a new mosquito sprayer for the Public Works Department and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the City Commission will approve a contract award to Ada. PA, LLC, doing business as a zealous Agricultural and environmental solutions of Waycross, Georgia, for the purchase of a Guardian 194 fixed floor fixed flow sprayer for a purchase price of \$15,300 for use by the Waycross Public Works Department to exterminate mosquitoes in the city of Waycross, Georgia. To be paid for from public works equipment. Line. Item. Budget. Back to you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you heard the resolution and its details from our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Move for approval. Have a motion for approval from our city's mayor Pro tem. Is there a second? Second? We have a second from our commissioner. Nelson. Any discussion on this resolution hearing? None. We'll move into voting. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Resolution passes. Madam clerk.

CITY CLERK: A resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to approve purchase of a new equipment trailer for public works and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the city Commission will approve a contract award to Harvey Equipment Company, LLC of Waycross, Georgia, for the purchase of a 2024 DP Platinum Mass Platinum Star 26-foot bumper pool deck over for a purchase price of \$14,900 for the use by the Waycross Public Works Department to be paid for from public Works. Equipment. Line. Item. Budget. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you have heard from our award-winning city clerk a resolution. What is your pleasure? I move for approval. I have a motion for approval from our mayor Pro Tem Bennett. Is there a second? Second. You have a second from Commissioner Roberts. Any discussion concerning this resolution? Hearing? None. We'll move into voting. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Resolution passes. Madam clerk.

CITY CLERK: A resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to approve fireworks display agreement with Prieto Pyrotechnic Co, Inc. for the 4th of July 2025 fireworks exhibition and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the City Commission will approve a contract for the fireworks display for the 4th of July celebration in the city of Waycross with Prieto Technical Fireworks, Inc., which includes

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

furnishing, delivering, and exhibiting fireworks on July 4th, 2025, in the city of Waycross, Georgia, for the contract price of \$22,500. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner, you have heard the resolution read by our city clerk regarding the fireworks. What is your pleasure? We have a motion for approval from our Commissioner Nelson. Is there a second? Second? Second from our Commissioner Bennett. Any questions or concerns concerning this resolution hearing? None. We'll move into voting. All in favor? Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Resolution passes. Madam clerk.

CITY CLERK: A resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, to approve a contract with Seas Community Partners, Inc. to provide grant writing services for the City of Waycross, Georgia, and for other purposes. By adopting this resolution, the City Commission will approve a management consulting agreement by Seas Community Partners, Inc. to provide grant writing services for the city of Waycross, Georgia, to include writing high quality, persuasive applications that meet the specific requirements of each funding opportunity for the City of Waycross from federal, state foundation and corporate funding sources. The cost for the said grant writing services shall be \$50,000 for the full term of the contract for one year. Final approval of this agreement is contingent upon final review and approval by the Waycross City Attorney. Attorney. To make sure that all negotiated provisions are outlined in the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Commissioner. You've heard the resolution read by our city clerk. What is your pleasure? Approval. Motion for approval from our Commissioner Nelson. A second from our Commissioner Bennett. We'll move into voting. There's no discussion. Hearing none. Moving to voting. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All opposed? No. Motion carries. Resolution passes. Thank you. Madam. We have read some information. As we move to our last call. If we don't have, we don't have an executive session. So, we will start with district one.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I'd like to thank everyone for coming out tonight. Thank you for your support and your patience for everybody to be safe and have a good night.

MAYOR: District two

COMMISSIONER BENNETT: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. Um, I want to thank everybody for coming out. All of those that received, um, the employee of the month and the sergeant, uh, Kenny Kennedy, I Sanders, outstanding citizen achievement awards. Congratulations. And also, happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and but those that not a mother, which would be me. I am an auntie. I'm a fur baby mother. So, all of you that have pets. Happy Mother's Day to you all.

MAYOR: And so, our district three commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: I appreciate everyone for coming out tonight. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your unwavering support to the City of Waycross. With all the changes that have been implemented, we appreciate and admonish your input from our citizens because we do truly value you and what you have to contribute to our community. Back to you, mayor.

MAYOR: Thank you, Commissioner, and district five.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Happy Mother's Day.

MAYOR: We're grateful for all who have come tonight. Thank you so much, Pastor Hattaway, for. Well, I say, pastor, as a man of God for giving us our prayers today. And I obviously said something that shocked everyone on that seat. But I thank you so very much for being here and for each of the staff members and workers in ministry here. And I say it's ministry because it's a service to our

*****DISCUSSION NOTES*****

05/06/2025

CM

community. And that's the word ministry means service and that's what we're here for, to provide the best service that can be given from our community. And we are appreciative for every one of our department heads. Most especially, we're thankful to our city manager for the work that he's doing and continuing to do to keep us updated and educated on these events and activities that are going on in our community to our city Attorney. Thank you so very much for keeping us out of harm's way. We appreciate that. And to this award-winning city. Clerk who works very hard on a daily basis to keep us smiling. And she can cook, by the way. And along with that, I thank these great commissioners who have done a phenomenal job in keeping these meetings going. And we look to our city and say, thank you so much for all you do. And with that, Happy Mother's Day. Remember these announcements? I hope to see everyone on this Thursday at noon at the state of the city, where we talk about the great things that are going on, some things we can work on, and some future ideas to come to the city of Waycross. Looking forward to seeing you there. With that, I'll entertain a motion for adjournment.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: So, moved.