

**MINUTES**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025, | 5:00 P.M.**  
**WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS**  
*(417 PENDLETON STREET, WAYCROSS, GA)*

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Waycross City Commission Meeting was called to order on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 5 pm by Mayor James. The meeting was held in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. Present were Commissioners Shawn Roberts, Alvin Nelson, Katrena Felder, and Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett

A. Invocation: Commissioner Felder

Invocation was led by Commissioner Felder

B. Pledge of Allegiance

**II. GUESTS:**

Mr. David White-1419 Marion Street, Waycross- He spoke on the need for traffic lights on or near Garlington area and Blackwell and Corridor Z.

**III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS**

There are none at this time.

**IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION \*\*\*SEE DISCUSSION NOTES\*\*\***

**A. Discussion Items:**

1. Bids:

a. Bid #FY25-08-Fire Dept. Uniforms

2. FLOST Resolution

3. Vacancy Inspection Resolution

4. Meter Pilot

5. TSPLOST 2023 Update

6. Infrastructure Update

**C. Privilege Licenses Renewals: n/a**

**D. Privilege Licenses: n/a**

**E. Proposed Ordinances: n/a**

**F. Proposed Resolutions:**

1. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia Calling for Imposition of a County One Percent Flexible Local Option Sales Tax ("FLOST"); and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda.

2. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia To Award Contract For Annual Fire Department Uniforms To Galls, LLC of Lexington, Kentucky; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda.

3. A Resolution of the City of Waycross, Georgia, To Approve Second Amendment To Restated Agreement For Operations, Maintenance and Management Services Between The City of Waycross, Georgia and Inframark, LLC D/B/A ESG Operations; and for Other Purposes.

There was a consensus to place on Tuesday agenda.

**G. City Attorney Report:**

**H. City Managers Report:**

**I. Last Call**

**J. Adjourn to Executive Session**

There was a motion made to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of personal by Commissioner Nelson. Second by Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Meeting went into executive session at 5:56 pm

**K. Adjournment**

**CITY OF WAYCROSS**

BY:

+ Michael-Angelo James  
MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

Jacqueline Powell  
JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk



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CITY MANAGER: No chance to continue playing, Mr. Mayor. But I will say, as stated a few minutes ago, we are really moving forward in year two. Uh, proposed plan. Um, I think as we move up with the IT software upgrade. So, it'll be a little bit before I say next year, but it'll be this year. So, we're excited about that. And everything else remains the same. We're really moving forward on a lot of stuff, which I'll touch on um, later on during the infrastructure brief. Mr. mayor, the presentation will be myself starting to be financed, the purchasing department. And then I'll finish it up and we'll start with bids with the purchasing manager. Miss Jackson.

MAMIE JACKSON: Mr. mayor. Commissioners, Patterson has one item before you this evening. It is for our annual bid for fire department uniforms. Uh, our previous vendor, Patrick's uniform has gone out of business, and we speak with the department every year to see if they are satisfied with their service. Uh, obviously, because they are. They went out of business. They had to go back out for bid again. We put out a bid. We received four bids. The best and most economical bid came from galls LLC out of Lexington, Lexington. Lexington, Kentucky. Um, and we are asking that the commission review and approve these recommendations so that we can continue our contract with galls. Thank you.

MAYOR: Commissioner, you have heard the request of ours. procurement officer. We want to find out if you are in agreement with the Patrick's Uniform Jacksonville Goals, LLC. Lexington, Kentucky. Okay, so I was going to each individually. District one. Yes, sir. District two. Yes, sir. District two. Do you have a question?

COMMISSIONER BENNETT: I was reading where it said, um. One size doesn't matter. It'll be the same price. But then I see where it says.

Uh, men's station where? Shirt, \$67. Extended price size \$72. So. But I read where it said one price for all sizes.

MAMIE JACKSON: Yes. Um, that was another bid for, uh, that's I believe that's Linda Clay fashions. We specifically asked in our bids for the quote unquote, regular sizes from small to large. And if there was, if they had an additional cost for extended sizes, we asked them to list that. That's where they have two separate ones on each vendor. And for gals, they did not change their price, whether it was a regular size or extended size. Okay.

MAYOR: District three. Yes. And district five. Yes, sir. Do you have consent from all? Thank you, Miss Jackson.

CITY MANAGER: All right, Mr. Mayor, as we move into the second agenda item, which is the floating local option sales tax. This is a provision of House Bill 501 that recently passed. And basically, what's going to do with that 1% is help lower the millage rate. Um, to get this done. We have to sign an agency agreement with the county, um, for that 1%. I'm going to pass this off to the city attorney for any additional information.

CITY ATTORNEY SPEARMAN: Mr. Mayor and commissioners, I received a resolution from the county attorney informing me that the county was preparing to adopt a resolution to impose the, um, the tax. Um, this resolution, um, also incorporates an intergovernmental agreement between the city and the county with regard to receiving the proceeds from this sales tax, which is a 1% sales tax that will be imposed effective January 2026. It will be on the November ballot. November 4th ballot. In terms of whether or not this community wants to approve this, this flat tax and the. The ballot measure has to be finalized 90 days before the actual election. So, we have to get it done within the next month. Well, by no later than August. So, the county attorney tells me that they're moving forward with adopting the resolution to impose this flat tax. We have very similar resolutions that say the same thing that, um, approves imposing the tax and intergovernmental agreement And the. The split with the tax

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is 58% county, 42% city, which is based upon how the Department of Revenue has returned funds back to us in 2024. And so, they're going with that same split. Um, so this measures before you in terms of whether or not you want to have that tax imposed, which will, as the manager said, reduce the burden of taxpayers for tax purposes, it has to be used only for that purpose. It has to be kept in a special account. It can't be mixed with other city funds, and it will be used to take the burden off the taxpayers by lowering the ad valorem taxes. So, the recommendation is really for us to that to lower and to assist the citizenry. Yes. So, I'll bring it before our board. And if the city manager has no further comments.

MAYOR: So, looking at this, and if you have questions on the city manager or the city attorney, feel free to answer those questions. The. I'll go now to the district one to see what the doctor said before district. Yes, sir. Mr.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Yes. I have a question.

MAYOR: And district three has a question along with. Yes.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Attorney, you said that you need to make a decision within 90 days. All this is the latest.

CITY ATTORNEY SPEARMAN: Uh, the, um, intergovernmental agreement and resolution to call for the election has to be done 90 days prior to the election.

Thank you.

MAYOR: Thank you. And Mr. Parker said yes. Yes, yes. So, with that, go ahead. I believe you will need to draw up a resolution of some sort to agree to go ahead and make certain that we and I guess I'll sign off on that. The chairman. Yes, sir.

CITY ATTORNEY SPEARMAN: We have it so that you can vote on it tomorrow night if you'd like to move forward with it. We have the resolution already prepared. Okay.

MAYOR: Sounds good. It sounds like the commission has agreed by consent is just one, two, three. We had a question regarding this. Yes. And just for five minutes with no comment. Okay. Well, we have three.

CITY MANAGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We'll move to the previous discussion. Uh, the vacancy inspection resolution we discussed this last week about, um, changing that, removing that from our code book. Um, coming to you before the commission today to kind of look at the suggested policy change. And we're looking at July 1st. The only situation we have right now is, um, grandfathered recommendation. We want to grandfather anybody in right now. Mark's team is kind of looking at which cases, who should get grandfathered in based on what's going on right now. Um, but I feel like we should give everybody a clean slate in that day, because we'll never figure that out when these inspections start. Um, and I go back when I'm speaking. Mr. mayor, I remember that discussion we had, um, with the current policy and proposed policy. So, um, and we discussed this in detail about two meetings ago, and I think we got a consensus then I was bringing it back to you for a start date, because that was going to be a start date.

MAYOR: So, with this, this just me asking the question. We've already talked about this, right? We've already consented to basically just start putting. So, the question now is do we agree on the start date.

CITY MANAGER: Well, let's don't need to be in order since the ordinance change in ordinance.

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MAYOR: And this is a home rule type of change.

CITY MANAGER: Correct. And you remember this is based off of some of the citizens coming forward and having concerns and complaints about vacancy, especially in itself. This will remove the city, um, from that, um, hindering citizens. But they would have an additional crime on themselves, and they'd be on their own timelines. Um, we would still issue permits based on when that investor or citizen got with the code department.

MAYOR: So, we're going to do here. I'll just open the floor for conversation around the center on the day, because I think we've already consented on the other portion. Now there will be some form of resolution of some sort, or to have the ordinance changed or whatever. It would be an ordinance effecting that change. Okay. So, we'd have to bring an ordinance before the commission to vote on it. Correct. District one, any questions before giving this a second? Okay. And so, do you consent to the ordinance? No, sir. And any questions? No, sir. Yes, sir. Any questions or concerns before?

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Yes, I have a question. Um, with the proposed change in the ordinance. So, just for clarification, um, is stating that basically the responsibility of the utilities, the water, electricity, it falls back on the owner for almost.

CITY MANAGER: All inspection would fall back on the owner. Correct. All liabilities associated with.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Okay. You also mentioned that Mark Hawkins was looking at which cases should be grandfathered in. Approximately how many cases do we have that.

CITY MANAGER: I'm not sure about now? Commissioner, my recommendation would be just to not do that. I mean, I brought that up because we missed, I think somebody asked about it before, but I'm thinking we need to leave that alone. Um, you know, cut off the cutoff date, and any inspection moving forward would be the new the new guidance. And any before that, we'll just I mean, just change the rules, because if we had somebody right now who's what's today? Somebody getting inspected today. Um, at some point it's going to start being a conflict. So, I would just recommend we just cut it off. So, July 1st. Uh, nothing's grandfathered in and everybody goes through the new process. start fresh.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: And so, for those citizens that do fall into this category, will they be notified? Yes. Yes. Thank you.

MAYOR: And you're looking to district five. Like I said, we have all consented.

CITY MANAGER: And we will do some information briefs before July 1st. Of course, to make sure everybody, as much as possible is understanding the new change in policy. So, we're going to do a few by social media, and then we'll post a few just to make sure everybody's tracking, um, recognizing it would be a few hiccups, um, with those ongoing right now. But we should be able to move through that.

CITY ATTORNEY: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And commissioners, just for clarification purposes, the ordinance requires that the property owner sign an affidavit assuming all liability, since they are responsible for making sure that the inspections take place. And then there's a second affidavit that the contractor has to sign saying that the improvements were done according to the code. So, we have a twostep process that removes the city from. This sort of insulates the city, with the property owner accepting liability and with the contractor putting a fourth and putting forth an affidavit saying that they have ensured that the work that they did complies with the code.

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MAYOR: I'm grateful for that because that answers the question that Commissioner Felder asked regarding will they be contacted? Well, they would have to be contacted for the Saturday afternoon. Yes. Yes. That's right.

CITY MANAGER: Yes, yes. We all know it's been an issue for many years now. And this alleviates that concern we had with the vacant inspection moving forward. Next. Mr. mayor, this is kind of I tend to be a pilot update with the current direction. However, this morning I did speak. Mr. Lake, I'm not going to throw money at the bus today, but we did talk about some possible changes that I want to want to look at. I want to give the commission a quick update and I might need to. Come up here and speak on it, but I'll start. So, as you know, we've had a problem with these meters. Um, in some cases we had up to 3300m on it would not read or be non-compliant, uh, for a while. More than that in some cases. Uh, we finally did get that transmitted in probably a couple weeks ago. And they put it on the outside, outside street tower on the tower there, and they reduced the rate in half along right there. It also gave us enforcement ability to look at all the failing repeaters. And it's talking to Tina today. Uh, a lot of our repeaters, some of them are just failing because, um, I guess the, the battery bad repeaters, but in some cases, they need to be a little bit higher. So, um, in many cases, they're on a 12-foot flagpole. It's a 12-foot, 12-foot flagpole, and we're looking to put them up higher, maybe 20-foot, 25 foot, uh, to get in more line of sight. This horse has been working in other places, so probably something we should have caught before we get ready to start diving in on the meters. We kind of miss the main thing there about line of Sight, but we know the whole team down there. It kind of came in and kind of caught. That was great for us because it's going to save us a lot of money if we go a different direction. So, we'd like to do. I had told the commission previously about that. Those costs are going up associated with all the new meters, um, making the season prior to the new budget. But I think right now we should probably do is give Mr. Lake's team, um, about 60 more days for additional assessment. Um, and I think by the time they'll be able to replace those two identified repeaters, we might have other pieces that are fell into now that we know that replace those. Um, and then once we place those, those meetings will work as well. And, um, we might have actually solved a problem that way. So, I don't get in 16 more days, and she'll probably take us around the end of August. Um, right before the October 1st, um, change and changing rates. But I wanted to brief the commission because this is actually a good news story. This is actually going to be cost savings. It's going to be a lot less than if we just replaced everything like we intended to initially. Um, so I'm very thankful that they got out. And this is like a lot of labor associated to this. Um, I mean, getting up on those, those polls and really looking at things and this is going to be even better because it will give us the real reach, four meters in water usage, which will increase revenue, which we can then put back into the water account. It'll benefit all our citizens. So, it's kind of like a quick update of what happened. And Tina spelled it out good enough or okay, then I have a question on that. Or you asked if you got questions.

MAYOR: So, I'll open it up. Commissioner, do you have any questions of the city manager or anything Yes.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Sir? Yes. May I have a question? So, um, you mentioned that you have approximately how many of these meters, um.

CITY MANAGER: It fluctuates. We have about. It can be up to the task like this, right? Each day is different. But right now, with 1300, we don't need.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: 1200 that don't read. Yeah. Um, so out of the 3200 that don't read when a citizen receives a ward Ville, how is their monthly bill determined if these meters aren't reading properly?

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CITY MANAGER: So, we can do manual reads. So manual reading. And then some of it is estimations on their previous known correct usage of water rate. And we got a system behind that, um, that we've been following. Um, but most of the time we come and do a reread, uh, over the last probably 90 days while we're doing the meter pilot, the test pilot, we were swapping out a lot of meetings. So, when people did have issues, we would swap a known good meter and kind of get the proper reading. So and as alluded to, one thing we'll definitely have to do regardless of the direction we go in, once we figure all this out, when we start reading, when they're supposed to read, because a lot of people are using way more water than they think they're using, and we probably have to figure out some type of grace period at that point in time to get them to understand. Again, you can't take, you know, five hours a day. You have to cut down maybe two a day to get your water bill down. But the main thing here, like I said, we we've been going through this for 15 years now back and forth with trying to try to figure out possible solutions. And I think, you know, we're in a good spot regardless because we have identified through that meter pilot some working meters that do work. But at the same time, like I say, the problem might have been all the time. And this transmitter took about a year to get here. Two years. Yeah. So, transmitter took about two years to get in. And that definitely was a problem reducer. Um, so yeah, so we ended up for two years, uh, and that's basically it, Mr. Mayor. I want to answer your question.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Thank you.

MAYOR: The question answer is basically this is more about information and just.

CITY MANAGER: Yeah, just update. I think we'll come back in about 60 days. And, um, like I said, if we replace some of the repeaters, then they'll be even more meters. And then once we get this number down to like, I feel comfortable, like purchasing new meters. Um, maybe we get down definitely under a thousand. They may look at just getting new meters altogether, but some of the meters are just bad because of the batteries and all that stuff. And, you know, we can go that direction. Um, but regardless of all this, this is a good news story because, like I say, just that transmit has been about two weeks now, about two weeks. So, two weeks ago, you know. You know, it doesn't mean anything. So, this is definitely showing us where the problem probably really, really, you know, probably was from the get-go was that I and the media's, um, batteries going out and not working at all. So that was always a problem as well. But I mean, I think we're close to kind of fixing this right now. I just I want to keep the commission kind of updated because we are kind of moving day by day on this. And like if it changes and I feel like it's not going to really do anything a month from now that I come back to the commission.

MAYOR: Okay. Commissioner Nelson may have a question or comment, and then Commissioner Felder has a follow up.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: I just had a comment saying that this has been a problem since 2015, at least before that, because when I was on the event, um, I applaud you for stepping up and bringing this to a conclusion, because this has been a problem with us having to go out there and read them and take them to the averages. That's not a good thing but thank you.

CITY MANAGER: Yeah, and thank you, Commissioner. I think just for the citizens, because I know it's been a headache for them. Um, back to you, Mr. Fells Point. Um, even I guess sometimes it can be difficult to understand, um, the non-working meetings. And this also goes back to the vacancy inspection. We can tie everything together at this point. So once all this is resolved I think that's just another issue gone that you know, we can move on to our remaining issues that we got to fix. So, and it wasn't, uh, it was.



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a, it was a team effort. I think initially, uh, the engineer team kind of did the pilot program, you know, training and being all of them being the new team came in. And, uh, in the meeting, they picked up some a new way of thinking. So, we, you know, it's been a great team effort. Um, some of the engineers upstairs, you know, we got Miss Strickland and Mr. Pope. They kind of looked at it too, from, from this point of view. So, like I said, we're going to come and reassess it in about 60 days. But I feel good about this. Um, just being a radio guy got myself back in the days I promised myself when we started talking about transmitters and repeaters. So, I'm just glad that we finally got a just a, a true problem set now that we know we're trying to fix.

MAYOR: Commissioner Felder has a question.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Thank you. Mayor. What are the costs for these meters?

CITY MANAGER: So, the new meters are. We're talking about how much the new meters were. Do you remember? We're just 200m.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: So, 200 for the meter. And how much are the transponders?

CITY MANAGER: So basically, we went with replacing the. Initially we were talking about placing the 3200m and a new backbone and all that. I think it came in around 385,000. And that's then having a monthly fee with Georgia Power using their backbone. And then we went that direction. This is another problem. Part of that we still would have had we even had certain meetings on Georgia Power's backbone and the other meetings on our system still. So, I think if we if we if this works out this way and we can keep everything in-house, that's just less trouble for us as well. So, and the cost is going to go down. So, you're talking about potentially have we eventually had to do our own network which would have been like 500 something thousand, because we probably would've got tired of paying Georgia Power eventually because their rates would increase every year like their power rates. And it got quite expensive. So, this is probably going to be the most effective way. I feel like we can do some of the media replacement in-house. I mean, it shouldn't be like going to pay for people to put them in with the new media. So, this is probably the most cost-effective way if it works. Um, moving forward.

MAYOR: I think, Commissioner, you have she was partly into her statement.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Okay. Yeah. So, will this be bid out?

CITY MANAGER: Uh, well, if we placed all the meters. Yes, but, like, right now, I just want to see if the replacing the repeaters works and if that works, and then it gets the number down even further, like, we'll have to build out meters. Um, because we get these meters count down, I think we get down like the 500m. Then they won't have to be bid out. That's below the threshold. And as you know, the threshold has changed. Now it has to be bid out, um, at the state level. So.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: You know, I'd just like to, um, know the number of when you come back with that, of how many of the meters that are going to be a part of this pilot study, since they already said approximately about 3200 that need to be replaced. Thank you.

MAYOR: That no 1600 needed to be replaced now?

CITY MANAGER: 1600 meters. But as of right now. But again, once we get these new computers up, that's going to drop even further. So once that's the purpose of this, once we get it down, we won't know until we get everything back. All right. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Uh, next, Mr. mayor, we're moving to the 2023, and I'm bringing this back up again. Uh, having been back and checked with the team, um,



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when I was reading it, I assumed that that, uh, 4.5 million we put in, uh, for streets and roads, uh, could be paved roads, but it actually was put in for just dirt roads. Um, when they got voted on. So, we first have to do all this kind of lines up. We've been talking about. We first have to do all dirt roads first and then the money left over. Then they can go to the paved roads. So, I just want to put that out front right now. Um, because I have been briefing that we will start on the dirt roads with the current Splost, um, 14 and then move into a future date for the new supplies. But the 2023 spots, we got to start with the dirt roads first. So, what we're doing right now, we're going back and kind of recap, um, recalculating dirt roads. So, when I say dirt roads, I mean roads that are unpaved and roads with melanoma. Now there is a formula that we used before about the number of houses, churches and businesses on the roads because certain roads will not qualify if it's just a long driveway or if they have a paved road in front of their houses. So, we're going to put all that together and come back to you at the next meeting, because I want to go ahead and, um, get on top of this right now. Um, understanding that they won't be able to start on these roads, um, because of the upcoming weather. But if we go ahead and, you know, build it out, build it out, then probably mid next year, they year. They can start on dirt roads and then the great thing will be we will get all dirt roads done and we no longer have any dirt roads in the city of Waycross, which is a great thing. I don't foresee well; I know for a fact that 4.5 million will not be used for. I mean, it won't consume all dirt roads, so it will have money left over to go ahead and hit some of the other paved roads as well. So, I want to start there. Um, haven't learned that new information. Uh, next, Mr. Mayor, just the entire thing together. So, I was trying to come back this time about some priorities, um, about utilizing this flash, you know, moving into hurricane season over there right now, as of yesterday. And what we'd like to do, um, with the first purchasing right now, we have about I think it's a little over \$1 million in this account. Uh, 2023. And I would like to go ahead and make the first purchase be that back truck. We only had one back truck right now. As you know, we share that, um, with ESG and we just need two back trucks based off of last year's three storms. That runs about \$500,000 for a new one. We don't necessarily have to get a new one like to get one that's it's new. It's possible. But I would like to go ahead and make that the first purchase that we do. Um, and again, that's for hurricane preparation. That is our priority right now. Um, based off of the last two years, um, and I cover that a little more. I do the infrastructure update. And then as far as community improvement, uh, I want to go ahead and get those trucks replaced. They got two pickup trucks to get replaced. The ones that we replaced, they will go down to public works, and they're going to pretty much cannibalize those engines and try to get a truck out of those two trucks. Um, once they feel like they can do. And then the fire department needs one truck. So that would be the next thing we do, get these trucks ready. And once again, this is tied into some of the hurt not having vehicles available um, for hurricane prep and operational. And then the next one will be the parks funding. I would like to go ahead and ask for \$300,000 in there for parks funding. Go ahead and get that separated as well. That will end up being \$60,000 for each commissioner, I think, and then give the commissioners to go ahead and build their business or what they want to appropriate that money, because it's going to take us about six months to do anything with that. Um, once you tell us what you want to do. So go ahead and get out the way as well. And then the other folk, the other men that's kind of left over. Let's go ahead and start towards completion. So, um, we're currently I think we just started building those, uh, seven dirt roads there on your city report that you got in the packet that we kind of started building. Uh, I think right now, um, like I said, once I count the million and, um, and I'm unpaved roads talking about 24 roads per se that are unpaved or dirt roads that we call them. Uh, I do feel like, because in those situations, you don't have to worry about your clothes as much. It shouldn't cost that much. And, you know, I want to get all that done this year. I feel like by the end of the year, we'll be collecting 2.5 million. By January 1st. And this should cover all of those, those three areas. And we still have a little bit left over to go into the next year with. But I want to go ahead and start here because um, these are probably um, of course the, the back truck and some of our vehicles are going to be operational wise, going to be our big priorities. Um, then with the parks, I just want to go ahead and clear that out the way right now. Um, we're just holding it for a long. I think I put it a couple years down the road. Go ahead and clear it out right now. Um, since it's available and then the dirt road is completion.

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MAYOR: So basically, just informing us of what you're doing at this point or desire to do. So, I heard something there. One thing I heard was 3000 Got 300,000 for parts. And you said per part or all together divided. Out.

CITY MANAGER: Divide it out.

MAYOR: And then the other piece was you said by the end of the year, 2.5 million will be gained. Correct. Hopefully. And then we'll cover seven dirt roads and then seven roads with million. 17 roads with millet. So overall, about 24 roads all together.

Correct?

Yes.

MAYOR: So, what do you need from us tonight? You just need us to give you the go ahead.

CITY MANAGER: Well, I would like, Mr. Mayor, just so we can get started. It's going to be a lot of, um. Like I said, you know, the back truck is important. It's going to take us a little. We've got to build that out right now because it's over \$500,000. Like I said, we can find a used one. I did talk to Infomart ESD, and Miss Jackson has kind of been working on it already. Um, this is a very critical, um, priority because not only because hurricane preparation, but just drainage in general. You know, we know, we struggle right now because we have that one truck. So, we're going to go ahead and get this as fast as possible, like start on it like tomorrow. So, we can kind of get it on, you know, a fine one. And then the other thing is not as big as priority, but because of how we kind of lined up with the overall 2023 spots, um, spots list, we can go ahead and knock these out because the rest of that stuff can be done over time. We'll see the list.

MAYOR: And so, I have another question before I open up to the commission. And that question would be when we did the 2023 spots, did we not already put things in priority?

CITY MANAGER: You didn't put in priorities. You just kind of did a master list.

MAYOR: With that, I'll open up to the commission, and they may have questions and concerns that they may have before your consent. District one. District two. No, sir. District three.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Yes. I have a question. Um, you stated that there were no priorities regarding supplies and that there was just a master list.

CITY MANAGER: Well, it's it's a when they voted on it, it's just certain things you had to use the money for. That's correct. Yeah. But it wasn't like you got to use the money for dirt roads. Mhm. Prior to building money.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: So, correct me if I'm wrong. And this may be a question for Attorney Spearman. When the citizens do vote for Splost than they did, um, what they voted for. That's what the funding should be used for. Correct. So, you cannot deviate outside of that. Am I not correcting in saying so?

CITY ATTORNEY SPEARMAN: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Okay. So, um, for confirmation, what exactly can we use according to what the voters voted on the funding for 23.

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CITY MANAGER: I gave you all a list that had multiple lists on there. So, like I'm not deviating from anything. All this is covered in the Splost?

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Yes. I didn't say you were. I'm just wanting to confirm.

CITY MANAGER: Well, yes. It's equipment, its infrastructure, it's roads. I don't think I didn't realize, like I said again, that it specifically says unpaved roads. So, we got to do all that first before we do any paved roads. And this one, I gave you all this brief. I was saying we do the paved roads first and dirt roads. You see that in the in the in the bullet there part funding. Part funding. Building upgrades on the police station that was in there as well. Uh, demolition funding. I think there was like \$5,000. Mostly it was vehicles, though, mostly vehicles. But we have already purchased a lot of vehicles over the last two years, either the offer or operational money. So that's going to be good because the cost of those vehicles that we projected in here is not going to cover that. So as a reference we've used we bought six police cars already. Um, vehicles and those upgrades, police cars I think in the spots they put in there um, for 12. So, we'll get the other six through that. But that'll be a later period because we already have six new ones. So mainly many vehicles. Building maintenance. Demolition. The demolition will be a separate competition by itself. That I'll fall back on with you at a later date. It's having some concerns about how we appropriate that. Uh, I think I think it was \$300,000. Um, but, as you know, um, when we demolish these buildings, we are creating a bigger problem, um, with the properties. That's the next big thing we have to figure out is what we do with the properties that have liens on them. So, we won't deviate from anything that's already in this class. 2023. Um, everything will be according to what they voted on. Uh, we'll keep everybody abreast of what's going on. And like I say, it just, um, we're ahead of the game a little bit because we did purchase a lot of those vehicles already decided on track. We have two side on trackers now. You can see the across the street. That's been the area we could not cut before because we didn't have the proper siding on board. Um, they about done with it right now. That's going to help out the flooding downtown. Um, a whole bunch. So, you shouldn't see any more flooding downtown because we've opened that capacity on that particular canal. So, and this is a six-year commitment again. So that first year was to do the, uh, overpasses that's already been collected. And then we had to go 10% over. So that's already been collected. They have that money already, um, for the overpass on Ozzie Davis. So, everything that's right now going to these requirements.

MAYOR: I do know that in our budget booklet, there is the notations for 2024 and 2023 spots. And so, when you go to page 98, it does list off what was already prioritized. But we are just I think it was more generality. And now you're being more specific within those terms. Yes. Whether it be for infrastructure or for vehicles or whatever. So, I see what you're doing. I hear what you're saying and good questions. Any further questions, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER FELDER: thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR: And Commissioner Nielsen.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Yes, sir, I concur. I see here from what I was reading last week, and you are staying within the guidelines, but those guidelines it has like infrastructure. And then you can drop down in subsections and like dirt roads and streets, I can see where you're dividing those up as different priorities. So, you are in order. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER: Mr. mayor, thank you, Mr. Mayor. We move to the final topic which is infrastructure update. And we kind of got behind on this. Um, and this is kind of a follow up. I think one commissioner had a question about the, uh, the water waste treatment plant, uh, phase one and phase two, uh, trades team was working on that through a contract. And as you know, we had a lot of issues with that contract. We did meet with the contract owner and resolve some matters. And right

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now, as you see, First phase is supposed to be done pretty much in August, and which is a good thing. And I went down and looked at it myself last week. Um, stay on top of that as well. On a team down there in the next phase is 2026. I'm not sure what the next phase is right now with the actual plant. Um, so I got to me got to get the rest on, but I did want to let the commission know that it is being, uh, fixed. We had stalled for a few years there trying to get here, but it's picked back up. They did hire the appropriate amount of personnel, and that's a good thing. And of course, it's coming out of GFA. And I put that down at the bottom so that I understood what it was. And water sewer. So, they're familiar with the accounts and that money's coming out of those process. Uh, next, Mr. mayor, uh, sweat Street, uh, you know, that was a, a big sinkhole there. Uh, good thing about that. We did go back and find we had some money for that to cut that price down. Uh, it was up to being close to 800,000. We got down there down 300,000 and they should be complete with that as August as well. And then Quarterman and MLK are right now that says 400,000. But I did have a meeting this morning with an investor who bought the property over there, and he's going to work with us. So, I'm about to come back to the commission with the estimated data on that and when it's going to be complete. Um, but just talking to him and initial talks, it's going to be cost free to us. Um, so it's going to be a great thing. Uh, and then once I think we're going to meet out there Thursday, I'll be on site to kind of discuss that, and I'll come back to the commission of the next, next meeting, talk about that. So, we want to do a quick update on those big projects that we had initially. All these projects were over the \$600,000 mark. So those were our big, big projects. I just want to make sure everybody is kind of tracking on those dates. We have some other projects that are a little less than this. I'll come back next meeting on those streets and those sinkholes and explain those and where we're at in those projects. products now part of any questions on that?

MAYOR: Open the floor to the commission. Commissioner, do you have any questions of our city manager? I'll start with district one. No, sir. District two. No, sir. District three.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Yes, mayor Um, you said that you come back next week with, uh, other roads.

CITY MANAGER: Other roads that are less than 500,000.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Are any of those roads in district three?

CITY MANAGER: Yeah, yeah. Throughout the city we have like four more sinkholes. So, I'm just getting the prices on those.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: And I ask the question, um, because there was concern about the possibility of, of the same issue that's happening on Swett Street as well as, I believe, Columbus Street. Yes.

CITY MANAGER: Yes. So, because it goes across the street. So.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Right. And there was a hole that you all patched that we did. Yeah. But it's caving in again.

CITY MANAGER: Yeah. So, once they start on Swett Street that's the primary. Then they'll come through and fix that. But I don't know the cost right now. And as soon as we get this fixed, I'll have a cost on that.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Um, the question is also a follow up to this. Um, will there be funding? Yes. To repair the next streets or the next set of streets? You said you'll get back with us on.

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CITY MANAGER: Yeah. So again, these were the major projects that were over 500,000. And now, because we've cut the cost, we have funding available. But once I get the cost of those streets, I'll come back to the commission. And anytime we do these types of projects, more likely we're going to finance them. So, there'll always be funding for them. Um, but right now, um, because these costs have been cut down because of the work of the team, we may have a little bit of money and maybe in some cases, depending on how much it costs, might not require financing. We might be able to pay it straight up, but I won't know until we reassess everything which will be at the next meeting when I bring to the commission.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Thank you.

MAYOR: I want to commend you on having these acronyms or letters defined versus the G alone, the Only for those persons who are watching. And it gives the understanding when you're looking at each one of the faces and you're seeing the amounts of money and the dates that are given, you can kind of judge what's going on with what. So that's very good. District five. Mr. Nelson. Nelson. Thank you.

CITY CLERK: Um, Mr. Um, Rayford. Um, I have a point of clarification, Mr. mayor, if I may. Um, I got a consensus for the 2023 update from district one and district two. I did not get clarification from district three or district five.

Okay.

MAYOR: So, we need district three. And this was on SPLOST 2022. Okay. Do we have consent for 2023? Yes. District three says yes. And district five. So, we have consent from all four. Thank you. Thank you.

CITY MANAGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That completes the discussion. Items. We have no license renewals, no licenses, no proposed ordinance at this time. And then, of course, the resolution is going to pass this over to the city attorney, who will have some additional resolution tomorrow. But I pass it over to him for this tomorrow.

CITY ATTORNEY SPEARMAN: The first resolution is a resolution of the city of Waycross calling for the imposition of a county, 1% flexible local option sales tax. We talked about that earlier with the county. The county joining in with the city to pass the tax. Secondly, we have a resolution of the city of Waycross to award contract for annual fire department uniforms to galls LLC of Lexington, Kentucky. And the purchasing manager brought that item to your attention, and you gave consensus for that to be on the agenda for tomorrow. And the third resolution is the resolution of the city of Waycross, Georgia, to approve. Second amendment to Restated Agreement for operations, Maintenance and Management Services between the City of Waycross, Georgia and Infomart, LLC, doing business as ESG operations and for other purposes. At the last meeting, the Commission actually adopted a resolution approving the price increase for ESG. Uh, since that time, we received the actual contract, uh, that will implement those price increases. And so, this resolution sets forth the actual base fee with the increase. The other resolution just gave the amount of the increase. Um, but this resolution, um, actually gives what the total amount is going to be as a base fee for ESG as well as, uh, correct. The actual legal name, which is N for Mark LLC doing business as ESG operations.

MAYOR: So, three resolutions. Three resolutions.

CITY ATTORNEY SPEARMAN: No report from the city attorney. Other than what I've already said.

CITY MANAGER: My report, Mr. Mayor. I have it posted up there. I want to highlight a few things. So, as you know, I mentioned earlier, we're in full hurricane prep. And like I said today, if you look

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across the street from here, um, this is one of our lowest areas on downtown Main Street Park, uh, going over to College Street and Duke Street. So right now, in the canal, now walk outside. It's never been cut before. So, we did get it cut this past week, and we're going to try to widen it a little bit more, um, in certain locations, um, so that the water can get through there. It's got uh, the base of it is probably about five feet, and then the top of it is probably about 20ft. We'll make sure it's all about 20ft. Also, the public works team is going around and cutting down the trees they can cut down. Um, they're not on private

property. Um, more of the branches have been cut down on our streets. So, I just want to highlight that with the public works team. Um, they had a good meeting, uh, last month about this. So, they've done a great job of preparing us as much as they can for any inclement weather that might happen. It might be adverse. Uh, next phase, um, for me to go, um, to finish up behind College Street. Um, they did start in that area as well. Um, that's one of the other, um, sticking points. And then underneath Plant Avenue, um, we'll go on the other side and that's another sticking point. Uh, I'm saying this, Mr. Mayor, because I want our us to understand that right now our priority is operational function of the canal and not esthetics. Uh, I recognize some of them have grass in their backyards, or they might see grass and other locations. But right now, um, because we know the devastation that can occur if that could not only fully function. Our priority is going to be functionality. So, we're going to do the areas that we know, um, backs that water up the most. Um, so I hope everybody can appreciate that and understand that, um, this is about safety. Um, once we complete those tasks and we got probably about, I think, seven more areas to do, um, the sticking points, uh, then we'll come back and hit those other areas that are mainly just esthetics. Additionally, uh, there are some to go back to esthetics, um, using that avenue. Um, it's on the railroad right of way. We can't do anything with that. But once again, that canal is fully functional right there. I know they see those tall weeds. Um, but it moves water. Um, so that's not an issue. Uh, just want to, to really understand that. And, um, so over this next month, that's going to be our focus. It's kind of storm prep. Um, and we got those we got the two mowers now doing a great job. Um, and those two individuals doing it as we got four individuals trained to use those more so we can keep going, um, without nonstop at this time. Um, and that's the main focus of my report. I just want to make sure everybody clearly understands that the daily report I did take down, uh, the finance portion of that, um, we had to it was not updated. So, they're going to update it tomorrow and it should reflect, uh, to current month. So, um, current month being end of May, um, which I would be. And once they fix that, it'll be back into that report, and I'll pause there for any questions.

MAYOR: We had a good storm or type of rain last week and there was water, some flooding type words. Did you want to share some thoughts regarding that.

CITY MANAGER: So, the one area that I, we still got to kind of figure out is downtown. Um, not downtown but Memorial that Walmart area. And I'm not sure if it's the Covid out there, what it is right now. Um, the interesting thing that this week, um, I know the areas here on this side of town, the low area on the lower area, like I said, we're really focusing on that. Uh, it did back up, like I said, across the street. We did, you know, we were in the storm, and they back up across the street. But that's been that's been mitigated, so we shouldn't have any issues. Uh, next thing I would say during these storms, we had a lot of people out again, um, I guess trying to help, um, some kind of capacity with pictures and stuff. I just ask the citizens if they don't have to be outside during these rainstorms. Please don't be outside. I know that rain came from nowhere or lasted longer than it should have. Um, but definitely during hurricane season. That was one of our findings. We had a lot of citizens out, um, doing that. That bad weather. Uh, I would recommend this year a stronger curfew. Um, for policy? Uh, definitely. If we, uh, lose power. Um, so just again, about public safety, anything else about public safety? But, uh, I'm feel very confident with the canals. Like even this past storm, we had a lot of rain come down, um, for a short period of time, which is always critical for us. And the ground was already saturated. Um, but the canal did move the water. Um, I'm not sure if all our citizens understand that. You know, it takes

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about 30 minutes for it to, you know, to move in one spot to the other. Um, so it's not going to be intentionally, like, just gone, um, especially in the nighttime or early morning time. Um, but regardless of that, um, we're making progress on those areas that we have. And I just ask all residents, um, hopefully we don't have a hurricane this year, um, or any more flooding. Flooding. Um, but we are working on it. And as soon as we figure out Memorial, we'll let everybody know. Um, at that point, win.

MAYOR: Did we have many compromised trees in these areas?

CITY MANAGER: So, we're going to speak to Georgia Power about we've identified some trees and like I said, those are on private property. It's always a conflict with cutting those trees down. Um, we have some leaning trees in certain locations, and we have some leaning, uh, poles, um, some, some light poles and then some power poles. So, they're aware of those poles that are leaning. And, um, once I talked to them this week, hopefully they'll go ahead and try to address that. Like I said, right now, it's the best time for us to get ready for the storm. Um, versus once it hits, um, but we've identified, you know, everything that needs mitigation. Um, pretty much so right now we're just working on it. And like I said, the team is doing an outstanding job out here, even cleaning the culverts and the drainage. Um, that that vacuum truck, you know, once purchased, is going to really turn the tide in a whole bunch of ways. Uh, as far as getting prepped for any flooding weather. So, uh, hopefully we get that end in as soon as possible. But we are prepped and ready. And like I said, it's evident by this canal over here that's never been cleaned before. It's not clean. And then we'll work our way around to the other trouble spots, and we should be done with all that over the next 2 or 3 weeks.

MAYOR: And I understand we have about 27 miles of canal.

CITY MANAGER: Yes. Yes. And with that, Mr. Mayor, again, like certain locations that we cannot get to, um, based off of proximity, uh, there's no access point. Even with the easement, you can't get to them. Uh, some of them are private, private property. And the commission knows we are trying to work with certain citizens to let us get access to their property, but that's touch and go. Um, but the I that 27 miles we identified about nine. That is critically important. They are clear, you know. So, the water goes. Other ones, like I said, esthetic wise, they can have grass and they can have whatever the water is going to go through. But it's about seven miles where it's got to be cleared out to make sure. And these are our this is the big muscle movers of waters of the canal. It's going to be wider than five feet. So that's our focus right now.

MAYOR: Commissioner, do you have any questions about district one?

District two.

District three, you know. And district four, sir. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Mrs. Mayor, we do have an executive session. Yes, sir.

We have executive session. Personnel.

Personnel?

I need a motion to go into executive session on personnel. So, we have a motion from Commissioner Nelson to go into our executive session on personnel. Is there a second? Second. We have a second from Mayor Pro Tem Bennett and ask for a vote. All in favor? Aye. All opposed? Motion carried. Executive session. Thank you, everyone, for joining us tonight. Have a meeting.



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