

MINUTES
WAYCROSS CITY COMMISSION PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 14, 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, July 14, 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 (in at 5:03), and Mayor Pro Temp, Sheinita Bennett

A. Invocation: Commissioner Nelson

Invocation led by Commissioner Alvin Nelson

B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. GUESTS:

Mr. Stanley Evans, 1404 Roosevelt Street, Waycross- talked on his issues with the way the process of increases should be.

III. TRAVEL/TRAINING SCHEDULE AND REQUESTS

IV. PLANNING & INFORMATION SESSION

A. Discussion Items: *****SEE DISCUSSION NOTES*****

1. Vacation Time Rollover Discussion
2. Water Leak Procedure
3. Infrastructure Update
4. Blighted Property Assessment Timeline

C. Privilege Licenses Renewals: n/a

D. Privilege Licenses: n/a

E. Proposed Ordinances:

F. Proposed Resolutions:

G. City Attorney Report:

Section 6.00.02 –Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The ADA prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with a disability. The City will provide reasonable accommodation to qualified applicants and employees when necessary to permit them to perform the essential functions of their jobs.

H. City Managers Report:

I. Last Call

J. Adjourn to Executive Session

Commissioner Nelson made a motion to go into executive session for personnel, seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The meeting was adjourned to go into executive session at 5:41pm.

K. Adjournment

CITY OF WAYCROSS

BY:

+ Michael-Angelo James

MICHAEL-ANGELO JAMES, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Powell
JACQUALINE POWELL, City Clerk



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MAYOR: Before we call for a guest, I want you to make some just quick remarks, one of which happens to be regarding decorum for our meetings and decorum, although not read at work sessions, is still applicable for the work session as well. Just want to commission to remember that anytime we're doing last call, our last call is basically on birthdays, celebrations, condolences, those kinds of things, any kind of speech outside of that, if you will call point of order, we can correct those things. If you see something that is not correct, please correct it by saying point of order. You want to make certain that the commission not only know, but then the city's attorney, the city clerk, as well as the city manager have the right to call for an order. When you see something that is not going along the lines of our decorum. So just wanted to make that reminder, and I'll now look to our city clerk and see if we have any guest for tonight.

ASST CITY CLERK: Yes, Mr. Mayor, we have one Mr. Stanley Evans, mayor podium. Mr. Evans is here to speak on pay wages. Mr. Evans, if you would state your name and. Address for the record. And three minutes, Mr. Evans.

GUEST: Stanley Evans, 14 zero four Roosevelt Street, Waycross, Georgia, 31503. So, I come today. As a model employee for the city of Waycross since April 6th, 2006. To 20 13th January I took on the task as crew leader and from 20 13th January, up until about two weeks ago, I was receiving Laborer's pay and there were people coming in with two years or less are making 3 or 4 more dollars more than me. I went through protocol, I went through my supervisor, I went through my superintendent, I went to my director, and I even went to the city manager. Me and the city manager met on several occasions to attempt to rectify this. And I'd like to commend the city manager for looking into this situation. And he found my not accusation. He found my findings to be accurate. I was underpaid. I had a labor of file in human resources as well as recruiting the file again, he searched diligently to attempt to rectify this. I met with him a few weeks ago and we shared some things with me, and he recommended me to come here. And this is why I'm here. And from 2013 to the present, with my salary being unpaid and with my crew leader, that I'm responsible for seven people. And yet there are other cruelties in department. I only have one person there responsible for them, but yet they were making way more than me. However, two weeks ago I received an increase for the years. But understand the increase that I received does not take away the 12 years of me working and being underpaid. I've been loyal, I've been faithful, and I never let my unfairness changed me from my job performance. I gave 100 with me 19 years and three months here at the city. I'm on what you call the one-yard line. This has affected my GMAC as well as my Social Security. And again, I commend the city manager for looking into that. And Mr. Evans, I agree with you. What you're saying was unfair and you haven't been paid, right? And I know it's kind of strange to be standing here, but I'm tired of giving 110 when I see others come in with a year or less time in, and they make 3 or 4 more dollars an hour to me with one person working with them, and I'm responsible for seven. And if you look around the city, if you look at the parks and the yards, I'm a part of making sure that pleases not only the city manager, but you all as well. And I give them I don't do anything halfheartedly. I give my best. But I feel, I don't feel, I know I've been taken advantage of when it comes to wages. I really have become. The city manager told me he I commend him. He looked into it. We sit down and we look. But his biggest found out that my finest. The way I felt was absolutely right. He had the documentation to support that. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your patience. And I'm still employed here. And probably this won't damage me, but I've had enough of seeing others come in and step up and to be in a department and people boast about what they're getting, and you've been here too long to get peanuts and they're making cashews. I desire your prayers to pray for my grandson,

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and we lost on last Thursday, and thank you for your time and your strength. God bless you and I pray that God touch you all heart to work with the City Manager. I don't want nothing that I haven't earned but what's been due to me. I feel like with the commissioner and the city manager you all need. He asked me. He said what? You want us to rent your activity? Yes, I do. I gave that labor, but I didn't receive the wages for the labor. Thank you.

MAYOR: Thank you. Condolences to you and the family. Yes, sir. We give our condolences to you and your family as well. Mr. Clerk, do we have any other guests?

ASST CITY CLERK: No Sir mayor,

MAYOR: At this time, we turn this portion of our planning and information session over to our city manager, Mr. Rayford.

CITY MANAGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. At this time, we have no travel and training schedule request. I will provide the final official travel from the GMA during my city manager's report tomorrow at the commission meeting. with that, Mr. Mayor, we'll go ahead and move into the planning information session. it's going to be a short night. We only have one agenda item being the infrastructure update. Mr. Mayor, the vision. The mission has not changed. The parties have not changed. Broken down further, we did go ahead and added the blighted properties to make it standalone. Mr. mayor, as we recognize, this is the next big task the Commission wants to rectify over the next few years. So, I highlighted that there it was, embedded within the canals and alleyways as far as general maintenance. But I want to go ahead and let it stand for itself moving forward. As we discussed in the last meeting, we'll start adding a further breakdown of each Friday over the next several weeks. We discussed the canals and the alleyways here, and I'll touch on this real fast. We had this topic up, -, just for clarity, with our citizens and anybody else who might have questions. So, uh, you know, based on last year's, um, back-to-back storms and a few other things, we did bring the Corps engineers in. We did some surveys and other studies and, doing that, sharing, learning. Uh, we discovered that we had, uh, a lot of, uh, points in the canal, uh, nine being exact, that are critically important to the canal working. And I did, and I briefed the commissioner a year ago about this, if I recall, about wanting to pivot making sure we actually fix the canal, uh, versus esthetics., so we've been trying to really, uh, do that. Uh, as you know, the weather has really been, um, it's been difficult already this year for us, and I really fear that it will be a long summer. as you recall, the hurricanes really start in August and September of last year. so, we're really trying to get ahead of this. And I know the citizens because each of them is not touched, um, by stuff they can't see. Um, but I hope they can understand how important it is, how important it is that we fix the canal to the best of our abilities. So, I understand the frustration of seeing high weeds. But some people have lost homes, um, properties and other things, and it's important everybody gets this. Um, so it's not just the canals, um, the parts that we're doing for that water sets and I'm just going over top of this, but that water also pushes back under the ground causing sinkholes. So, it's a very complex problem. That's why we're trying to fix it. I know in the past what we've done is, you know, we would call the team and go cut this and go cut that. Um, which led to my benchmarking because I didn't want to. The workforce around. Which is what we're doing. you probably heard that in Mr. Evans voice. Um, so let me try to get to the benchmarking. I'm thankful this year for the workforce. Definitely knows. gentlemen outside doing the yard maintenance and all those things. this is for me the first time that I quit at this point in time. Long time in the summer because of the heat has the force is gone. And then we start to know what we're training, and then we get even farther back. So, I just asked, um, that

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citizens understand that, um, it's hot out there, and I'm really asking them to do something that has not been done a long time as far as the maintenance, uh, because it is a priority. Um, and I know it's don't touch everybody, but it touches enough. And if we don't do it properly this year, I'm just kind of really worried, uh, that we can have some devastating effects. Especially right now, even this weekend. Um, the water table is already high down there with the river all the walls coming down from North Carolina. So, if it rains, we can probably expect some adverse situations. So, uh, we're really trying to work on our communications plan, um, for everybody to kind of get this. So, uh, I don't want to go out and say it, but somebody's got to start getting this, um, right now, I think we're at. And I'll cover later on. I think we got like four more areas to come out that we have to clean out. And once that's done, we'll come back around to doing the regular maintenance. I apologize. Any questions on that slide? No questions on that slide.

MAYOR: Okay. If they do, we'll let you know. Okay.

CITY MANAGER: Next slide, Mister mayor, we need to add the properties. Like I said, each meeting we're going to add, um, a further definition of what we're trying to do. And I discussed the property situation. You discussed that over the last several years. Um, right now we're trying to build that collaboration together of key individuals to start doing the work. I do we do research on this as well. I've called for other cities. Uh, and again, nobody has really figured this out. Um, um, that I can find. Um, now, there's some things that have been done, uh, to lessen the burden. And we're going to try to do that as well. As I mentioned, we're going to exhaust all measures possible that we have on the books currently. Um, some of that starts with, though, um, inventory kind of prioritizing what we're going to fix. Uh, I have spoken to some of the team and just looking at, uh, some of the areas. I know often we try to use air quality as a, as a means for doing stuff. Uh, but I think probably really, we got to figure out a certain space in the city and focus on that, and we'll try to keep jumping around like we're doing. We're never going to get anything done because nobody's really going to see it, you know? Uh, I'll use that. The Canyon as an example. There are 42 properties over there alone. Along the old town is where the most overgrowth. So, we do prioritize. We probably got to look at it that way versus just every district get a spot because that has not proven to work. Um, but I'll follow with that later on. Um, once we get some, some data together. And then of course, we'll look at best practices that probably changes in collaboration. Uh, that collaboration, meaning really working, um, uh, with the county on the tax piece of this, that's another piece we have not really focused on. And, um, so hopefully they buy into what we're trying to do and kind of go from there. Mr. mayor.

MAYOR: Commissioners, do you have any questions or thoughts?

CITY MANAGER: Thank you, Mr. Mayor city planning remains the same, Mr. Mayor. Continue playing. Of course, we're in the mid-term. They're doing great things. I will cover on this real fast that although, uh, we had some slip ups on the, uh, Modifications about software. As far as the finance department, it went very well. Now and pretty soon citizens will really be able to see all the new visitors they get with the new software. So hopefully they can appreciate that. Uh, the team did a great job, uh, led by Director Simmons, uh, and Director Smith, um, working together on that. Um, their, their, their departments, um, really displayed teamwork. Um, throughout that whole process, uh, there were a lot of there was a lot of angry people coming. Um, when we sit there and watch them explain the process. And again, uh, once the citizens understood the process, the anger went away. And that goes again to the great collaboration and leadership by those two directors, uh, making that change move next into the

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codes department, which is finally going to be another, uh, I won't say, difficult changeover. It's going to be a new experience for the citizens because everything's going to be online, and they'll have quicker access to things. Um, so, um, we look forward to doing that. That's going to happen probably next month. Mr. mayor, this is all a presentation. Just yesterday. We got no bids. Uh, this is the infrastructure update, and I touched on this a little bit more in depth, and we have a little more time. Uh, the wastewater treatment plant, uh, we're still kind of in phase one. Everything's going well. Uh, Trey and team did come down. We did change the contract out down there. You know, it's been an ongoing project, uh, for about five years now, but it does look like now it's back on schedule to be completed by mid-2026. Uh, Sweat Street is ongoing as well. We already used the funds to cover half that cost. Um, Charlie came down last week. They were going to. Still going to bid that out. Um, but they should be starting. They'll start work already on it. Uh, they should be done like August, late August. Water main street. Uh, this is another issue that we're trying to find the best solution possible to fix it. I know the quick solution would have been a little dirt. Do a few other things. We know that doesn't work long term. We did talk with the property owner who bought the property adjoining that street side there, and he has agreed to help us out with a long-term fix and a much cheaper fix. So, what we're going to do, we're going to probably bring him to the next working session to kind of explain that, um, what he's doing, working with Mark and the engineers. And I think it's really going to fix that problem, as well as some other problems as far as drainage. So, I really appreciate that property owner helping us out. Uh, dirt road. So, um, update this, we did find two more dirt roads that we're going to minute. So, we now have the dirt roads. Um, that doesn't really change the projected cost of 2.5 million. And of course, that's come out of splash. Um, 2023 what we're going to do is finish off the current list of dirt roads with all the faithful from the 2014 And then going to bid these out. And the goal is to just take the next set of monies coming in from the spots and works on all the roles. I don't have a time of completion. Um, looking at the past when we finished the dirt roads, um, because they won't need utilities as much and depend on the weather, we should be done with all these roads, probably mid to late next year. Uh, but that will align with the commission's, um, decision a few years ago about fixing all dirt roads. So, we're excited about that. Um, I know the citizens are looking at the feedback from dirt roads we're all doing. Um, so that's going to be some really added, some value added, uh, stuff for our citizens. And like I said, we did go back and look at every dirt road, look at the ones that had building on it and just made the decision. We just paid off to pay the bills as well. It's about four rows, um, that we just get billing because they have a street paved road in front of them. That's the access point. Six out of nine canal trouble spots that we're still mitigating. The parks are all scheduled for completion around late August. We have a problem with Georgia Power. Um, not bringing power out there to get some things done. I think it's been rectified. I should know tomorrow. Um, but they should be completed in time for the commission to use those that have splash pads. That should get some of those splash pads. Um, same for those that have softball fields and football fields that you can use out of those. And then of course, everybody's asking about the restrooms. So um, it should be done as well. So, we're just kind of kind of ahead of schedule on that. So, we're excited about that too. We want to thank the commission for their vision, uh, and getting the parks the way, they want them. And, um, it's just another win for the city and the citizens.

Uh, water leak mitigation. So, I'm trying to make sure everybody understands our priorities. The one week I got a copy of the warrants themselves. They change from day to day. So, every time we send it to y'all in the morning and then we post it, the water leak, Seward Park down there in the special project at the bottom. That does change. Um, they try to put down what they're going to address for the week. Um, but a lot of times they add stuff to it as they get

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done. Um, of course, it's every day for citizens that we're concerned about those leaks. Um, and these are the leaks they have right now. Um, some of these got done, most of these got done today. So, some of this will change tomorrow when they add the other leaks. Um, but I'll read some of these off for those who can't see it and being honest. So, 516 fourth Street. High speed street 331. Pine view 450 Isaac Davis 608 London 1624 Marsh Creek Road 36 Pine View 1405, the sixth Street Bridge. Okay. It's, uh, 1202 1718 Monroe Street and 229 Augusta Avenue. And like I said, it's changed daily. I do want to commend, uh, the new program managers for, uh, down there at, uh, he has done a great job coming in. Uh, he goes around assisted by the public works director, and then reassess all our streets. Uh, as far as, uh, sinkholes and potholes, and they're trying to look at better ways to improve them. We did change our bonding agent for the potholes. Uh, that's been working really well. Um, Matt Rodden did some research and found a better bonding agent for just the potholes. And like I said, the team is really coming together on the overall patching. Uh, the Infomart team. Um, you came down as well. And they walked the streets with us for a few hours just to look at what, With um, I deem, um, incomplete work. And then they had a conversation with the team down there. I've seen nothing but improvement since that time, so, um, I'm glad you came down with that stuff like that. So, um, those are the leaks, and, um, there's going to be getting worked on. miss anything? Mr. mayor. Oh, so for the roads themselves, um, we'll say paved roads, the striping, um, start this week. Those are for the roads we got already done right now. Um, what we have right now, we're going to bid out hopefully, um, in the coming weeks. It's going to be Stripper Street, as y'all recall, just over the street because of the cost initially. Um, but then we had a lot of we saved some money from the other streets, so we would like to get street done. Um, g street and probably I think it's Norwood. Um, so we're going to bid those out, see what that cost, and that should be able to finish off those monies we had, um, for those streets. And once we do that, like I said, we'll go back into the funding. And the first the first part of the funding will go for the dirt roads. And once that's done, we're looking at 2.5 million that remain two. 2 million will look to put on the dirt road, the paved roads. Um, so not sure how many payrolls we'll get with 2 million. But as you move down the list of roads, the price should cut down, because once again, we'll get to our worst roads first, and then the lesser roads should not cost as much. So. And with that, uh, I did, uh, give you the dirt roads list, I think, um, I got some feedback from one of the commissioners, so I'm going to go ahead and post the dirt roads list on the website so everyone can see it, as well as the next 100 roads. As far as the pay list that we voted on, uh, last year, just so everybody can be aware of the roads, the roads also always be in the priorities as far as being updated when they're being done. So, um, if citizens can just check the daily their priorities. Go on the website for updates so y'all know what these goals are going to be done in the near future, and also where they rank on the party's list. And again, it'll just be 100 the first with the next 100 roads. We have close to 500 roads on the total list. So, I didn't want to throw them all on there at the same time, because the next 100 roads we're talking about a couple years to get that done, a couple of years to get that done. So, they didn't make any as far, just too much information to put that whole list out there. But if anybody has questions about the list, of course they can come up here and we can sit down and discuss the list if need be.

And with that, Mr. Mayor, that completes the infrastructure update. And I'll just pause there for any questions or recommendations by the Commission.

MAYOR: Just wanted to start out by commending you on getting these roads paved. It seems that we have nine already paved and one has been paid at the dirt road at the top here noticing. And then, of course, the curb and gutter has been down for a while. The alley, East Hamilton,

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and Greenwood streets. And thank you for looking into all these things for us and providing the information for the public to see. And I know it's good for public consumption to see exactly what's actually happening with their funding. It's easier to be happy about knowing where your funding is going. You made mention of something earlier and that was Screven Avenue. I believe it is. And a couple other streets. The funding that you're utilizing for those streets, I know the 2023 is for the dirt roads. And you made mention the other funding, what funding was.

CITY MANAGER: So, we're still using. 2014 and 18. SPLOST Okay. Um, and also miss, I did forget, I did omit. So, when they look at that that payroll list, it's the next 100 streets. But they're also going to see The last 16 have been done over the last couple of years. So that'll be kind of shaded out. That just means those streets have already been done and this is the next street going down. So um, if anybody gets confused with that. And that's also the same way for dirt roads, you'll see what's been done already. Um, uh, what's been bid out, what's currently being worked and what's being remaining. So, it's like a color code to it, but they'll see that at the bottom of the, of the chart. So it shouldn't be that hard to understand. But again, if they got questions, they could just call up here and we can explain it if need be.

MAYOR: So, at this time, if there's no more commentary, what I'll do, I look to the commission, and I'll give them opportunity to ask any questions they may have for clarity for their districts. And I'll start with district one. Did you have any questions or comments regarding anything that was made regarding the infrastructure update?

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: Um no sir. I would just like to say thank you for the help in District 1 for, you know, picking up the trash and everything for all the city workers. Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mayor.

CITY MANAGER: Can I ask you that, Mr. Mayor? I just want to. This is a point of information for the citizens. Just to go again, I have to keep stressing this. The app is going to be the fastest way to get that done. Um, that works without us being at work. So, if you see a pothole on Saturday, you put the pothole. It's going to it's going to come through the I'm going to get a text in about probably like five minutes. It'll go through the system there Monday morning. Uh, my team will go out and address it versus trying to maybe call me or call Matt. And then, you know, it takes a little bit longer that way. And not just that. I just even with the large bulk items I should have mentioned before, uh, we're all looking to put, uh, those receptacles out, um, once a month. Um, Matt has worked it out where there will be more cost efficient for us because, as you know, every time and its Commissioner Robinson mentioned you had a lot of illegal dumping now, and we're hoping that we got to pay for everybody that goes. Um, so we're hoping that this will take the opportunity to just either call it in because everything can be picked up. I mean, except for painting tires, but, uh, just calling in because just dumping to the side, just making it worse on everybody. And, um, so we'll try to get one more option, um, to use the services they already pay for to a certain degree as far as the bulk items. But we're going to try to put those, um, those big bands out a little more than every quarter to help us cut down on all the dumping. And then again, when you do call the services in, you don't put your stuff out until the day before, um, leaving out the whole week. That just makes everything, you know, look unkept. And then that forces the interaction with the code department to be that way. Just call it in on that Tuesday or Thursday. We'll come the next Tuesday, the next, the next day.

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MAYOR: So do want to appreciate Commissioner Roberts making that comment because I noticed that I used my Waycross app and what I did, I took a picture of something that was happening on Plain Avenue. I think I took the picture on a Sunday, uploaded it Monday. By the end of the day, it was already done, and it was a large area that had to be covered. And they did that. And the same for the Waller Genoa Street area. There were a couple of potholes that were handled after the picture was taken one day, and sent up by my Waycross app. It was handled, and I really appreciate how quickly the app is generating the responses, so I concur that it is necessary to do the Synod of District two.

COMMISSIONER BENNETT: Thank you. Mayor. City manager, I want to thank you for elaborating on the canals. I know there has been a big issue, and, um, this way the citizens would know exactly what you were doing. And also, um, piggyback on what Mr. Roberts, Commissioner Robertson and the mayor said. I did receive a phone call about. There was some sofas and a canal. I haven't gone out to look at it yet to come back and tell you where it's actually located at. But I just want to say thank you. And I hope the citizens take heed to everything that you're saying. Um, about the canals. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Thank you. Commissioner. Commissioner Felder.?

Yes.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Thank you, Mayor. Mr. City Manager You mentioned That there are 38 dirt roads that will be completed using the splash 2023. Okay. You also said that there's not a time for completion, but then you also mentioned that there were four roads that just get milling because they have paved roads that they got in access for. Correct. What are those four roads?

CITY MANAGER: I don't have one right now. Um, Commissioner, I can send it to the commission.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Okay. Could you also explain to the citizens why is it that these are dirt roads that need to be paved, and because they have an access point to a paved road, that they don't fall into the category of getting paid when as a commission. And the voters voted on this past 2023 tax being used to pave all their road. So why are these four roads being excluded?

CITY MANAGER: Because they have a paved road to their front, and they have driveway access from that paved road? In these cases, they have created their own road, or, um, somebody's created their own road and using it as a driveway. So, it's a little different between having no access and only just a dirt road like the other 36 have, and having a paved road in front of you, you can just use that paved road. I know they might have issue with parking because they want to park behind the house. It's a whole different conversation. And, um, I mean, ultimately, they have a paved road already. There's no way to get around that because it's a road right in front of their house. So, um, if we get done with the first list of the individuals who don't have a paid role or access is something that folks can go back and music, but I want to make that call right now in case it comes back up. Um, in the future.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Okay. So, um, thank you. And I would like to see that list of the roles. And also knowing the area that these roles are located in. Also, um, the canals, you said

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there are four more areas of canals. Then you'll get back to the regular schedule. Um, I appreciate you explaining that. My question is, when will you get back to the regular schedule?

CITY MANAGER: It's hard to say. Commissioner, the cleaning of these canals takes. It can take a month in some locations. Um, I'll use a huge tree as a huge tree as an example. That's what those two homes got flooded at. Um, between us, in some cases, getting easements, um, to get access to the property and then taking off cranes to clean everything out. As you know, we're talking about removing large Trees from the roots, clean stuff out so in some cases it took a month. So, and again, these are the areas that are holding the water still the rest of the canals. We did go check all those as well. They still move water. So, the main purpose of the canal is to move water. That's the main function of the canal. All those other areas, they move the water. We have no problem with that. We didn't understand it. Maybe some grass and high grass there. But the canal is functioning. These nine areas that we've been looking at, they do not move the water and they stop the water. That's been causing problems for years here. Um, and we can't see all the time. So, um, like I said, I'm trying to explain to everybody, I don't know. I mean, like I said, I know some people are not affected by it, so they don't see this as a problem. But like I said, the canals are connected to all our all of our stormwater drainage, everything. So, when they're backed up, the water is just not sitting in the canal. It's sitting underneath the sidewalk in the roads as well. So, you got to kind of see the total picture and see, you know, when it sits for maybe it's an hour or two a day after rain. But over time, because of the city, it moves to dirt, and the sand and the soil underneath there caused the sinkhole. So, everything is truly connected. That's why it's just this is the moment right now that we need to really fix the canals, because it's evident what's going on in other places of the country. In our last year, having back-to-back hurricanes and storms already, we cannot afford not to be canal first. So again, hope everybody can understand that and they can't understand that as well. Um, but we got to prioritize at some point in time what we're trying to do as far as the city and again, with the city workforce, I don't want to, you know, overwork them. They're doing a great job right now. Again, normally it's the time of year where they quit on us. And when we train everybody and we get way behind, I don't see that right now. That's why I feel comfortable saying, not the canal out. And once that's completely done, those trouble areas will come back and fix the rest of the stuff at that point.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Also, if you would please get back with me on the canal line that I sent to you in an email inquiring about it. And my last question is you mentioned in your infrastructure update, the water leak mitigation and you named off the streets. Why isn't Alpha Street and Crawford Street on that list? Well, there's a constant issue of water leak on those two streets.

CITY MANAGER: Yeah. So, they reassessed all of the streets. And this is the part that uses, like I said, this list changes. So tomorrow will be different. They will add other streets. They got a total list. But they can only do so many streets during the daytime. So, during the day period. So, if you follow the list we sent out in the past, you will see that change that this change over the next couple of days if they fix issues. And again in some cases, I mean, I don't know about every street, but if it's a situation where, you know, it's a soul to soul or it's the it's the bonding agent or it's utilities, then that might push back down the list because it requires additional mitigation, and then we'll move on to the fastest fixes, get them out of the way while they figure out how they're going to fix that. Like I said, there's no one stop fix. Every single, every pothole, every situation requires a different mitigation. So, much like the canals, we're all trying to get done what we can get done because it is affected by additional rainwater. So, I

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would just ask that the commission and citizens just monitor the list, and you'll see the streets in the sinkholes, sinkholes and potholes. And the mitigation come up from day to day to day to day, week to week.

COMMISSIONER FELDER: Thank you. I just appreciate the follow up on those two streets once they're evaluated. Thank you, mayor.

MAYOR: And district five, Commissioner Nelson. Mr. mayor.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: In reference to canals, I received a phone call from a constituent. He has a backyard, and I explained to him how that's. how the priority works with us now. Um, when we met with the Corps of Engineers themselves, I was enlightened as to the severity of our problems. Come in. It's like a tub of water with one outlet, and that outlet is clogged. And we have to expand those areas of our arteries to get the water out. And there's water coming in from Douglas that's heading our way as well. So, when it rains in this area, and we have the water that's currently pouring into Waycross and water coming in from Douglas. So that water is basically coming in from Douglas clogging that from getting out in that area. So that's why you have to expand the other areas to get the water out. And once I explained to him about that, then it was like, oh thank you, I appreciate that. So, thank you for sharing it with us. Appreciate you.

CITY MANAGER: Thank you. I've got to mention like in some cases, like some of the boxes in the culverts need to be increased. We're doing that as well. Um, so that's another mitigation strategy that we find out. And then the final action will be to go down to the mouth of the river in the access point, because I think y'all got that. The briefing to email about it kind of blocked up, blocked his way down there. And that's a small entry point as far as the river. So, we got to figure that out as well. And like you said the water is coming from different places when it hits us. So, a lot to do. Like I said again, like the team is really, uh, really appreciate our team right now. They're doing a great job of figuring this out. Uh, couple of cases. We probably did one area soon and it caused another problem. But, you know, you live, and you learn. But I think now we really figured out what we got to do now. So, uh, and hopefully, like nothing happens this year as far as hurricanes, none of this matters. But it does. I want to say, at least we tried everything possible to be prepared this time.

MAYOR: Thank you, Commissioner. So, listening to the conversation and you made mention of the boxes that we probably have, well, actually we changed. Some of them will have to be larger than they are in order to accommodate the flow of the water that's coming through. Is there any other conversation you need to add to this?

CITY MANAGER: Not this time, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR: Okay. Hearing none, we'll move forward. Okay.

CITY MANAGER: Mr. mayor. Um, we have no license renewals, no licenses, no ordinances, and no proposed resolutions. And I will turn it over to the city attorney for their report if they have one.

HUEY SPEARMAN: No report from the city attorneys.

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CITY MANAGER: Mr. Mayor, I'd like to say for the city manager's report, I will, um, upon tomorrow, provide the final update as far as the travel and training for Savannah and that final, um, uh, letter to talk about what we'll do the training. Uh, and with that, Mr. Mayor, um, just got a I think we do have an executive session tonight for personnel, based off of earlier comment, just to make sure everybody's understanding the context of that situation.

MAYOR: Yes, sir. Sir. So, I'll entertain a motion to go into executive session.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: So, moved.

MAYOR:" I need a second.

COMMISSIONER ROBERTS: I'll second.

MAYOR: You have a motion from our Commissioner Nilsson. A second from our Commissioner Roberts. All in favor? Aye. Aye. All in favor? Aye. Aye. Alright. Thank you everyone. So, we are going to go into executive session. Everyone for coming tonight. And as we do, we also want to send our condolences to the Martin and Nelson and any other families that are. Going to our meeting. Thank you.