
City Council Weekly Update - August 4, 2025

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To #Council <#Council@cityoftybee.org>

Cc #Dept Heads <#DeptHeads@cityoftybee.org>; Brent Levy <blevy@cityoftybee.gov>; Daryl McCorkle <daryl.mccorkle@cityoftybee.org>

Greetings Mayor and Council,

Kids are heading back to school, the calendar has flipped to August, July 4 is a distant memory, and just a bit of the swelter has been removed from our sweltering heat: It's official – we are on the downslope of summer.

If parking demand is any indication – June and July revenue was up over last year – it's been a good one for business.

With the summer silly season slowing down, we're making progress on long-standing projects. During the Aug. 13 City Council Workshop we'll review concepts for Solomon Avenue, for the Polk and Solomon property, and hear the Urban Land Institute's final report on Memorial Park.

More recently we've dusted off the decade-old plans for the long-dormant Marsh Hen Trail. As you will recall, the proposed trail runs about a mile along an abandoned rail bed on the north side of U.S. 80, from Byers to near Lazaretto. Thomas and Hutton completed fully engineered plans for the trail, which includes nearly 2,000 feet of elevated 10-foot-wide boardwalk to navigate sections of the trail prone to coastal flooding, and another 2,000 feet of granite rock trail.

Much of the alignment is quite scenic, adjacent to marsh and creek. Here's a typical section of the trail alignment as it exists today:



The timing feels right to resurrect this project for a few reasons:

1. GDOT will begin construction in 2027/2028 on replacement of the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek bridges. The new bridges are designed to include protected bike/pedestrian lanes. There is the potential for the Lazaretto Creek bike/pedestrian lane to connect with the Marsh Hen Trail.
2. The entire McQueen's Island Trail is now open, following years of repair work. There remains an opportunity to connect this 5-mile-long rail-to-trail resource with the Marsh Hen Trail via the new Lazaretto Creek Bridge.
3. GDOT is contemplating running bike lanes down the length of U.S. 80/Butler on the island, which could also connect.

As you know, we had previously secured a \$329,000 grant for construction of the trail. However, two things caused us to pull the plug:

1. **Funding.** Bid quotes came in around \$1.3 million, more than three times our original cost estimate and far exceeding the grant funding we received.
2. **Access.** Georgia Power's transmission lines run the length of the trail alignment, and the utility uses the right of way to access its poles with its trucks when repairs are needed. Because about half of Marsh Hen Trail will be comprised of an elevated boardwalk, we were faced with having to dismantle sections of the planned boardwalk when Georgia Power needed access.

With Georgia Power planning to replace Tybee's transmission lines next year, and completely replace its pole system, we have formally requested that the utility design the transmission line alignment along this stretch to allow us to move forward with trail construction. Georgia Power officials were receptive (though noncommittal at this point) to this request, and are including the trail request in its planning process. We sent them a full set of design documents last month. We will continue conversations with them over coming months.

In addition, we plan to apply for new grant funding later this month through the Georgia Federal Lands Access Program, which utilizes federal funds to develop trail and other access projects adjacent to federal land (Marsh Hen Trail is adjacent to Fort Pulaski). We have discussed with planners at the CORE MPO, who have said Marsh Hen Trail is the ideal project for Chatham County. Georgia is under a crunch to allocate about \$7 million prior to the end of the year.

I'll keep you up to date as we make progress.

Communications and Outreach Update

Key Updates & Highlights

- Completed grant application through CableCast for access to free programs to improve our digital streaming and cable channel capabilities.
- The City of Tybee Facebook page saw 1.2 Million+ views in the month of July!
- Staff completed filming for Ocean Rescue episode of Tyb.TV. Next step is video editing, with an anticipated publishing by mid-August. Then production will begin on an episode on our water and sewer infrastructure.

Public Information & Media

Savannah Morning News:

- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2025/07/26/updates-to-tybee-island-land-development-code-include-tree-ordinance/85359641007/>
- <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/environment/2025/07/31/tybee-loggerheads-sit-on-the-edge-of-an-eroded-sand-shelf/85427700007/>

WTOC:

- <https://www.wtoc.com/2025/07/28/another-fire-tybee-that-couldve-been-worse-than-it-was-tybee-island-fire-rescue-responds-13th-lane/>

WSAV:

- <https://www.wsav.com/news/interstate-lights-causing-sea-turtle-trouble-experts-say/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/news/local-news/tybee-island-celebrates-national-mutt-day-with-k9foraday-program/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/news/tybee-island-marine-science-center-logs-7th-sea-turtle-nest/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/community/westie-the-sea-turtle-to-make-a-splash-in-the-ocean/>
- <https://www.wsav.com/crime-safety/georgia-power-impersonation-scam-targets-tybee-business>

Social Media & Digital Engagement

Page Insights

- Views: 329,000
- Total followers: 29,000

Top Facebook Posts This Week

- South End Scarping
75,912 views, 821 engagements
- 10th Street Crossover Update
12,938 views, 123 engagements

Website Updates

- Bids/Proposals
- Calendar

Page Insights

- See Attachment
- Link to Email Newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/cityoftybee/august-2025-newsletter-18247382>

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

CLG Grant-Local Historic District Project

Staff is currently compiling a mailing list to notify property owners within the proposed district area (and within 200 feet of the project area) about upcoming public meetings. These meetings will allow residents to provide feedback and contribute to the development of design guidelines.

Main Street Program

- **Shop Local Receipt Program:** On August 1 Main Street launched a Shop Local Receipt Program to encourage local shopping and support Tybee Island businesses. Customers can submit a receipt from any Tybee Island business for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to a Tybee business of their choice, with winners drawn weekly throughout August. To promote the initiative, Maggie distributed over 100 flyers to businesses across the island, and the program will be actively promoted on social media throughout the month. The promotion dates are August 1- August 31, 2025
- **The Kelpie Ribbon Cutting:** Main Street hosted a ribbon cutting for Tybee's newest restaurant, The Kelpie, on Friday, August 1.
- **Streetscape Improvements:** Main Street is collaborating with the Department of Public Works to install new bike racks on the South End and to pressure wash the sidewalks on Butler Avenue, Strand Avenue, and Tybrisa Street.
- **Mobile Visitor Center:** Progress continues on the Mobile Visitors Center. This week, the Department of Public Works installed new tires, and several organizational accessories were added to enhance the vehicle's functionality. The project is steadily moving forward as we prepare to bring visitor resources directly to the community and key island events.

Professional Development: Maggie completed one training session this week: National Alliance for Historic Preservation: Grant Writing Strategies

Facilities & Special Events

Number of events YTD as of August 1:

Special Events:		15
Special Events Vendor Permits:	77	
Beach:		105
Film:		20
Guard House:		58
Memorial Park Screened Pavilion:	50	
Memorial Park Open Air Pavilion:	58	
Jaycee Park Gazebo:	2	
Community Cafeteria:	130	
Community Classroom:	119	
Event Banner Permits:	50	

Event Reservation Website: 489 transactions with a YTD transaction total of \$18,162.30.

Professional Development: Robyn, who coordinates Facilities and Special Events and manages the Recreation Management module offered by our website vendor, Civic Plus, participated in a webinar, *Tips from the Field: How Columbus, NE, Maximizes Reach with Rec Management*. The program was led by the Director of Parks and Recreation in Columbus, Nebraska, who also utilizes Recreation Management. It was

interesting to hear their background as she described their city previously was structured similar to Tybee, where there was no Parks and Recreation Department and all parks-related responsibilities fell under its Maintenance and Public Works Department. She utilized Recreation Management to start the department from the ground up for the city and shared how her department currently leverages the Recreation Management module to gather community input, stay organized, and get the word out with timely updates. The session offered relatable, real-world tips to inspire practical ideas for making the most of our Recreation Management solution.

New Special Event Application Submission on Website: 25 submissions

Special Events Ordinance Amendment: On July 10 City Council approved an amendment to the Special Events Ordinance to establish the earliest timeframe in which applicants may submit a special event application. The online special event application form submission implemented at the start of this year was updated after that meeting to reflect this. Required questions have been added immediately beneath the submission date field so that a selected "No" answer will not be accepted.

premises. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to affect in any way the City's rights, privileges, and immunities as set forth in Georgia Statutes and/or the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

I agree

Today's Date*
mm/dd/yyyy

Is today's date within 6 months of your event date?*
 Yes No

Is today's date at least 60 days prior to your event date?*
 Yes No

**special event applications may be submitted no sooner than six months before the opening of the event to the public*

**special event applications may be submitted no less than 60 days before the opening of the event to the public.*

Also on our website's Special Events page, the August monthly event list and the current list of all upcoming approved special event permit applications:



Special Events Updates:

- Hotel Tybee has submitted a permit application to bring back the **Carnival**, which was a big hit this past April. The next Carnival will occur this Columbus Day Weekend, to coincide with Pirate Fest.
- You will soon see the **Pirate Fest** event alcohol license coming up on the agenda for Council approval. Pirates Fest still plans to remain open to the public with no admission fee moving forward, so Council will not need to activate a control zone as was required for the event prior to the pandemic when there were wristbands, festival entry fees, etc.
- One part of Pirates Fest that has not returned since prior to the pandemic that will be making a comeback this year, the **Petting Zoo!** With Hotel Tybee bringing in amusement rides at its Carnival, Pirates Fest will be able to devote some of the attraction area space to the same petting zoo Pirates Fest used to have. Robyn will be meeting again with Pirate Fest event organizers a couple of times next week and have more updates to come on this year's festival.
- Organizers of the **ICE Car Show** have informed us that they plan to relocate the annual car show from Tybee to Springfield, in Effingham County, where the organization is located. The head of the car show thanked us very much for all the help over the years.

The Week with Code Compliance

Between July 25 and Aug 1, the Tybee Island Code Compliance responded to **20 calls for service**. Below is a breakdown of each response by Type and Location:

Type of Call	Address
Assist disabled motorist	600 Jones Ave
Assist PD	Fisherman's Walk
Assist PD with search for missing juvenile	Beach
Assist Ocean Rescue with search for missing juvenile	Beach
Dog at large	13 th and Butler
Delivered found property to TIPD	TIPD
Responded to disorderly juveniles	Fisherman's Walk
Crowd control for turtle hatch	Beach at 13 th
Assist tenant at STR with questions	3 15 th street
Assist PD with vehicle stuck at Gullick entrance	Gullick street
Located Homeless subject laying on ground	Hwy 80 at Byers
Delivered found property to TIPD	TIPD
Possible rabid racoons (poisoned not rabid)	1610 Second Ave
Civil matter between neighbors	1007/1009 Laurel
Follow up for violation notice	1102 Laurel
Follow up neighborhood complaint	1513 Butler
Follow-up neighborhood complaint	6 Lovell
Rattlesnake call	16 18 th Street
Site inspection	1207 Bay Street
Follow-up site inspection	1601/1603 Chatham Ave

4 citations Issued

- 1 Glass on beach
- 1 Pet on beach
- 1 Fire on beach
- 1 Sandbar restrictions

4 warnings issued

- 1 Dog at large
- 3 Swimming beyond limits

Parking Statistics

- 101 parking citations issued
- 291 parking citations issued this fiscal year

Parking Revenue

MONTH	FY2026	FY2025	GAIN/LOSS
JULY	\$1,135,293	\$1,070,704	\$64,589
AUG	\$0	\$679,586	
SEPT	\$0	\$447,400	
OCT	\$0	\$376,017	
NOV	\$0	\$200,387	
DEC	\$0	\$22,345	
JAN	\$0	\$152,287	
FEB	\$0	\$258,783	
MARCH	\$0	\$542,159	
APRIL	\$0	\$863,706	
MAY	\$0	\$976,406	

JUNE	\$0	\$1,182,473	
TOTALS	\$1,135,293	\$6,772,253	-\$5,636,960

Code Compliance Updates

- Training: Ofc. McLain completed a Wildlife and Rabies course through Humane World for Animals. This was done to determine if this would be beneficial to staff and it was determined to be needed. All staff will receive this.
- First Aid CPR and AED training was scheduled this week for all code staff.
- Two staff members were signed up for GSWCC training this week. It deals with erosion and sedimentation.
- In the months to come staff will receive NIMS/ICS training for emergency preparedness.
- Ordinance review and rewrite: This is underway and has been for some time. Updates will be coming soon.
- New Parking Software - Passport: Passport agreements have been signed and delivered to Passport. We expect implementation to begin in the next few weeks. This will run in parallel to our antiquated software until fully implemented and tested.

The Week with Fire

Fire and EMS Call Summary

A total of **26 calls** for service last week. Below is a breakdown by type and location:

EMS / Medical Assists:

- EMS call – 3 *10th Ct* (In Progress)
- EMS call – 7 *Rosewood* (x2, separate dates)
- Medical assist – 6 *River Oak Lane*
- Medical assist – *Miller Ave & 7th Street*
- EMS call – 37 *Meddin*
- EMS call – *Tybrisa St & Strand Ave*
- EMS call – *Jones Ave & Hwy 80*
- Medical assist – 402 *7th Street*
- Medical assist – 1 *15th Street*
- Medical assist – 1 *Old US Hwy 80*
- Medical assist – 33 *Meddin Drive*
- EMS call – *Beach at 16th Street*
- EMS call – 1417 *Miller*
- Emergency medical service, other – 1600 *Strand*
- Emergency medical service, other – *Fisherman's Walk*

Fire / Hazards / False Alarms:

- Arcing, shorted electrical equipment – 111 *Butler*
- Special outside fire, other – 7 *13th Lane*
- Authorized controlled burn – 116 *Sea Lane*
- Smoke detector malfunction – 1 *Robinson Avenue*
- False alarm – 109 *General George Marshall Blvd*
- False alarm – 1 *Robinson Avenue* (x2, one cancelled en route)

Other:

- Motor vehicle accident (no injuries) – *Butler & 15th Street*
- Dispatched and cancelled en route (EMS) – *Tyler St & Beach*

Notes of Interest:

1. Tanker Truck Repairs

Palmetto Fire was on-site this week for minor mechanical work on our tanker. The repair bill totaled just over \$2,000. This serves as a reminder of the significant cost savings we realize year-round thanks to Sgt. David Pawloski, who handles the bulk of Fire's vehicle maintenance in-house, often during regular duty hours.

2. Community Appreciation

July closed out with over 140 total calls for service, including our recent structure fire. In a touching gesture, the neighbors of the affected home delivered gift baskets and snacks to the station to thank the crew for saving their homes from fire damage. It was a heartfelt show of appreciation that meant a lot to our team.

3. Ocean Rescue Update

Our Ocean Rescue team continues to stay busy, especially with jellyfish stings this week tallying 145. This is just one of the many incidents they've managed as beach activity remains high.

TYBEE ISLAND OCEAN RESCUE
WEEKLY REPORT

Advisements: **2,922**
 Jellyfish Stings: **145**
 Water Assists: **4**
 Water Rescues: **5**
 Animal Assists: **0**
 Public Transports: **4**
 Missing Persons: **5**
 Medicals: **41**
 Medicals Requiring EMS: **2**
 Jet Ski Assists: **0**



JULY 21-27 2025

The Week with Police

Accidents:

This Week: 8 accidents, 2 injuries
 2025 YTD: 76 accidents, 9 injuries
 2024 YTD: 75 accidents, 16 injuries
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

Arrests:

This Week: 13 total – 9 DUIs / 1 Felony
 2025 YTD: 276 arrests
 2024 YTD: 366 arrests
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

Calls For Service:

This week: 358
 2025 YTD: 9,479
 2024 YTD: 9,423
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

Citations:

This week: 36
 YTD: 1,025
 2024 YTD: 1,377
 2024 TOTAL: 1,792

Part 1 Crimes									
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Arson	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Part 1
2025	1	0	0	1	2	19	0	0	23
2024	0	3	0	10	3	51	0	0	67
2023	0	0	3	8	2	37	0	0	50
2022	0	0	0	2	1	17	2	1	23

Daily Information

07/30-31: Chief Hayes, Assistant Chief Whitley, and Lt. White completed course 3 of 5, Conducting Risk Assessment for Critical Community Assets, for FEMA certification in Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Awareness.

07/30: A woman and a young child visiting from Atlanta stopped by the police department to meet real police officers. We talked with the child and sent him on his way with high fives and stickers.

07/31: TIPD hosted our 79th “K9 For A Day” at the police department on Thursday. She was adopted from the Humane Society later that same day.

07/31: Capt. Randolph spoke with Sand Cat Coffee about the possibility of providing “pup cups” (whipped cream in a cup) for participants in K9 For A Day. In exchange, we’ll tag and/or mention their business in our posts. We’ve traditionally used Starbucks, but this will allow us to raise awareness for a small local business.

The police department continues to push out designated driver information on social media.

Back River Enforcement: Enforcement and extra patrols of the Back River continued daily.

Staffing

The Police Department currently has zero vacant Police Officer positions. Communications is down two positions. We currently have one active application. This applicant has prior experience working with a communication center. She has completed her oral interview and is scheduled for her psychological exam.

Upcoming Events

08/14: Next date for Crosswalk Enforcement

08/28: Next date for Golf Cart Education and Enforcement

Municipal Court Monthly Report: July 2025

Year to Date

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Court Fines	\$ 21,180.45	\$ 24,791.45	\$ 19,760.37
Tech Fees	0	0	\$ 436.94
Court Costs	\$ 7,921.23	\$ 8,744.40	\$ 4,221.71
Total	\$ 29,101.68	\$ 33,535.85	\$ 24,419.02

Adjudicated Year to Date

	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Cases	347	322	125
Citations	445	309	173

Zoom Video Arraignment Hearings

	FY 2025	FY 2026
# of Hearings	4	9
# of Defendants	3	4

Caseload

	# of Court Sessions	# of Cases
July FY2024	2	347
July FY2025	2	322
July FY2026	1	125

Citations with Disposition Dates from July 01, 2025 – July 31, 2025

Finding	Count
Bond Forfeiture	18
Bound over to State Court	9
Bound over to Superior Court	5
Dismissed	3
Guilty as Charged	30
Merged	4
Nolo Contendre	4
Nolle Prosequi	16
Pre-Trial Diversion	1
Warning	80
Retired from Docket	1
Voided	0
Total	171

Projects

Adjudication Study – Ongoing

Record Retention – Ongoing

NOTES, TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Staff: We held an internal Lunch & Learn, we reviewed 4 SOPs for accuracy and training.

Clerk: GMCCC - Lunch & Learn - Court Proceedings, GCIC – Meeting with HR about future audits.

Asst. Clerk: GMCCC - Lunch & Learn - Court Proceedings.

The Week in Infrastructure

DPW

- Completed repairs at the 10th Street Crossover
- Removed frame boards from the concrete pad at South Annex
- Installed posts and mounted safety signs at sand bar
- Completed grading down Solomon Ave with backhoe
- Completed outfall and ditch maintenance
- Installed new black history signs
- Emptied trash cans and picked up litter on beach daily
- Picked up loose litter from parking lots, sidewalks and surrounding areas.
- Picked up recycling barrels on beach
- Operated the sweeper to clear debris from roadways
- Concluded repairs on the Mobi Mat at the North Beach center crossover
- Reset and adjusted the Mobi Mats at 19th Street, 3rd Street and Eastgate
- Completed repairs on the toilets at the YMCA
- Repaired the pedestrian crossing sign on Tybrisa
- Pressure washed the foot showers at the North and South end of the island
- Cleaned and organized the supplies and equipment stored at the back of the DPW yard

- Completed repairs to the air conditioning in the detective's room at the Police Department and Room 9 of the YMCA
- Cleaned and maintained all public facilities daily
- Cleaned and maintained all public restrooms daily
- Mowed and trimmed Jaycee and Memorial parks
- Blew debris on Tybrisa, south end parking lots for the sweeper, Jaycee Park and Memorial Park
- Trimmed overgrown brush around Eastgate beach crossover
- Trimmed and mowed around the Police Department
- Issued two tree permits and completed two tree assessments

Recycling/Dump

- Picked up and emptied both cardboard trailers and both green recycle trailers
- Picked up aluminum and oyster shell recyclables from local businesses
- Completed four bales of cardboard
- Picked up recycling from Tybrisa and the beach crossovers
- Sorted cardboard from local businesses
- Called in containers with household trash, construction debris, yard waste and recycling
- Met with and discussed the UBC recycling process with SA Recycling
- Assisted residents in unloading trash and recyclables
- Trained a new employee on all routes and processes of recycling
- Monitored the scale and charged nonresidential customers
- Cleaned up debris off the main yard

Fleet

- Replaced a stud on the new trailer for Building Maintenance
- Ran diagnostics on vehicle # 405 for Water and Sewer and ordered new parts
- Continued work repairing one of the Mules
- Contacted JC Lewis several times regarding the pickup of vehicle # 412 for Water and Sewer
- Replaced the alternator on camera truck # 405 and checked over the charging system for Water and Sewer
- Replaced the battery and installed a shut-off switch on vehicle # 203
- Replaced a tire on equipment #LE87.
- Installed a new USB/charger in the Mobile Visitors Center
- Ran diagnostics on vehicle # 217
- Replaced a tire on one of the mowers
- Completed an oil change on vehicle # 202.
- Changed out a fuse on the bucket truck for Landscaping

Water and Sewer

- Began preparing for the three-year Lead and Copper Monitoring Program, which will include drawing samples from designated locations
- Responded to an emergency water call at 1113 6th avenue.
- Responded to and repaired mechanical failure at Fort Screven well
- Performed utility locates for 811 and Liveoak.
- Performed light maintenance on our backhoe
- Televised 11th Street and 12th Street sewer lines from Butler to Jones
- Televised Lovell Avenue sewer line from 9th Street to 12th Street
- Repaired sewer lateral and water leak at 11 8th Street
- Repaired sewer lateral at 901 9th Street
- Cleaned work vehicles
- Cleaned digester motors
- Sprayed and cleaned the treatment plant fence lines
- Performed maintenance on the UV system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Performed routine sampling at the Treatment Plant
- Cleaned clarifiers, and deep cleaned the UV system.
- Cut off notices were sent out by Water Distribution.

Around the Campground

- 88 Arrivals, 423 Site nights. Occupancy 58.26%, Down 1.15% YoY
- July Revenue = \$235,638; up 1% YoY
- Replaced heating element on staff dryer
- Trimmed palm branches at Sites 30 and 89
- Replaced 30 amp outlet and wiring on Site 7
- Replaced electric meter glass on Site 34 after damage by guest.

July Totals

Site Type	Reservations	Site Nights	Adults	Children	Pets	Local Nights	State Nights	Out of State Nights	Foreign Nights	Average LOS	RMS Rate
CABINS	33	132	81	43	5	17	26	89	0	4.00	86.57
PREF FHU	144	671	328	112	84	64	189	418	0	4.66	87.82
FHU	228	1020	499	190	141	109	266	641	4	4.47	76.30
W/E Tent	26	79	57	37	0	5	34	40	0	3.04	58.99
GROUP PRIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00

PRIM	24	59	51	14	1	0	14	45	0	2.46	35.71
Totals	455	1,961	1,016	396	231	195	529	1,233	4	4.31	75.89
						9.94%	26.98%	62.88%			

*Local is defined as 912 area code

Have a great week everyone!



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