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**City Council Weekly Update - June 2, 2025**

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**Date** Mon 6/2/2025 10:59 PM  
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📎 2 attachments (1 MB)

June 2025- waterbill newsletter.pdf; Civic Forward Strategies Activity Report May 2025.pdf;

## Greetings Mayor and Council!

Happy June to everyone. A LOT of people on the island this past weekend as we transition into peak summer.

They're all coming to the beach, of course. The fact that our small community has the burden of maintaining this resource for all to enjoy is the point Mayor West and I have been making to Chatham leaders while lobbying for increased beach funding through the proposed SPLOST 8, scheduled for this November's ballot.

We met with County Commission Chairman Ellis and County Manager Kaigler on Friday in an attempt to ensure beach funding remains a Priority 1 SPLOST project, and that the County includes \$2 million in its budget to be voted on this month for the 2026 renourishment.

This follows a meeting earlier last week that Finance Director Jen Amerell and I attended involving Chatham County officials, City Managers and Finance Directors to discuss SPLOST formulas, finalize priority projects, and agree upon a revenue estimate for the six-year collection period. We heard from Michael Toma, the Georgia Southern University Professor of Economics, who developed a detailed model (which, among other things, factored in the financial impact of expected hurricanes on the County) to predict sales tax collections. In the end, the Managers agreed to a SPLOST revenue estimate of \$700 million, which is up from the forecasted SPLOST 7 collection of \$630 million.

Following both the group meeting and the smaller meeting with the County, there remains support for Tybee's proposal to allocate \$8 million in SPLOST for 2032 beach renourishment, dune reconstruction outside the federally authorized renourishment area, and Tybee's share of a required study for the next 50-year authorization period. The \$8 million beach allocation would be one of eight "Priority 1" projects totaling \$200 million that have countywide benefit. The remaining \$500 million in expected revenue would be allocated to the jurisdictions on a pro-rata basis. Based on Tybee's population, which is 1.05 percent of the overall County population, we would receive an additional \$5.3 million, for a total of \$13.3 million.

This is less than the original \$6 million pro-rata allocation we had originally discussed during workshop, so we will have to make adjustments to our proposed list, which as it stands is the following:

PROJECT	ALLOCATION
Beach Projects (Priority 1)	\$8,000,000
Resiliency Projects	\$3,000,000
14 <sup>th</sup> Street Drainage Grant Match	\$2,000,000
Memorial Park	\$1,000,000

One of the options we'll discuss at Workshop next week is allocating some portion of our pro-rata SPLOST share to help service anticipated debt associated with the new fire station.

## **Safe Shelter Grant Recommendation**

Speaking of the Fire Station, Chief McMillian and I sat down with Alan Robertson last week to develop a recommendation for Council on whether to move forward with a safe shelter project in conjunction with development of a new fire station.

As you know, in March 2020 we applied for a grant through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), administered through GEMA, to fund construction of a safe shelter, intended to provide a safe room for the public in the event of an emergency such as a tornado. In May 2023 we were awarded a grant totaling \$2,180,250, which required a 20 percent local match totaling \$726,750. An additional \$136,898.00 in Project Management costs were 100% paid by FEMA.

At the time the grant was approved, the project deadline was extended from October 2023 to October 2025. In July 2024 the grant was again extended two years, to October 2027. It cannot be extended further.

When we originally applied for the grant, Tybee was not actively contemplating replacement of the Fire Station. Today, a new Fire Station is among the City's top priorities. We have explored developing the safe shelter in conjunction with a new Fire Station development, but have concluded that is not the best solution, as FEMA rules require the safe shelter to be a stand-alone structure. As we are now looking to shift the location of both the Fire Station and safe shelter out of Memorial Park, that would also require Tybee to re-submit plans to FEMA for compliance and environmental approval, which will be an extensive process.

As a result, the team recommends notifying GEMA that we will return the safe shelter grant funding. Doing so will allow Tybee to re-allocate the \$726,750 local match to help service debt on a new Fire Station. It will also save us time and money that would be required to revise the scope of work for the grant to reflect a new safe shelter location.

Alan spoke with the GEMA Risk Reduction Specialist managing our grant, who assured him there would be no adverse consequences for returning the grant. Further, this opens up an opportunity for Tybee to seek funding through the same Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for priority resiliency projects identified in our Natural Infrastructure Master Plan and Stormwater Management Plan. GEMA is actively seeking grant submissions.

We have spoken with representatives from the offices of Congressman Carter and Sen. Ossoff, and they have pledged support for such a grant application from Tybee.

## **Tybee Submits Clean Consumer Confidence Report**

I am happy to report that we have successfully submitted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division our 2025 Consumer Confidence Report for Tybee's drinking water.

The report is a snapshot of water quality for 2024. It shows that our drinking water is safe to consume and cook with, and meets all Safe Drinking Water Act standards. No violations were detected.

The report has been posted to the City's website, and can be located here: [CCR Report](#)

Special thanks to Water and Sewer Division Director Daryl McCorkle and Water Operator Glenn Conway for pulling the data together and submitting the Consumer Confidence Report well ahead of the July 1 deadline.

## **Orange Crush Permit Appeal**

As you know, two weeks ago I denied a special event permit application for George "Mikey" Turner for an Orange Crush Festival event on the beach in April 2026. Mr. Turner has since notified us that he will appeal this decision to City Council. According to timelines set out in Ordinance, that appeal would need to be heard by the end of this week.

Last Friday we proposed that Mr. Turner withdraw his appeal, and resubmit his application in October after we can evaluate the impact of the hurricane season on the beach. We also requested that promoter Steven

Smalls also withdraw his separate application and re-apply in October. We would then evaluate both applications simultaneously.

Mr. Smalls has agreed to this. Mr Turner has made a number of demands we have not agreed to, and as of Monday night it was unclear whether he would move forward with his appeal. If so, we are targeting a special meeting for Friday to hear the appeal. City Clerk Fabian Mann will poll Council tomorrow to see who is available, and then advertise the special meeting.

### **Nuisance Letter Sent to 1514 Miller Avenue**

On Monday the City sent a letter to the Virginia-based owner of 1514 Miller Avenue, a rental property that burned in December. Since then, the property has sat overgrown and unsecured. It is a public safety hazard and attracting vermin.

Under our Nuisance Abatement Ordinance, the City places the property owner on notice, and provides a date (in this case, June 13) to bring the property into compliance. If no action is taken, the City will take action to bring the property into compliance and bill the owner for the work done.

### **June Council Workshops**

A reminder that during June and July, as has been tradition, Tybee will only have one Council Meeting and one Workshop per month (to be held June 11 and 12, and July 9 and 10).

Our Workshop topics on June 11 will be:

- New Fire Department Finance Plan
- Overview of Parking System
- Skidaway Institute of Oceanography – Beach and Dune Monitoring

### **Communications and Outreach Weekly in Review**

#### **Lost Telecommunications**

City Hall lost phone service, Internet service, access to share drives and use of networked printers on Tuesday due to water damage in the network server room in City Hall. We notified the public and kept City Hall open for walk-in customers. Staff used their cell phones to work or focused on tasks that didn't require network access. The water damage was likely caused by faulty air conditioning equipment. Staff worked with Infinity and Public Works to protect the remaining equipment, address water leaks and restore telecommunications. Luckily, Comcast has been installing fiber equipment in City facilities and Infinity was able to rewire us to that new equipment in City Hall. Two servers (pictured below) were damaged beyond repair, but communications are restored to normal.



#### **Other Updates:**

- Coordinated with GDOT to schedule second community meeting on U.S. 80/Butler project. Their preliminary dates are June 24 and 25 at the Guardhouse
- Created social media content for Memorial Day with information about beach rules, and other safety tips including messaging to have a designated driver
- Prepared Water Bill newsletter (see attached)
- Made [CCR Report](#) available on the website and publicized availability to residents. Making this report readily available demonstrates to EPA that Tybee is a transparent government and gains us points toward a Gold Award.

## Tybee in the News

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=tybee+island+news&mid=74163D6E577B24D906E574163D6E577B24D906E5&FORM=VIRE>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/possible-american-oystercatcher-nest-spotted-on-tybee-island-sandbar/ar-AA1FswGq?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/article/possible-american-oystercatcher-nest-spotted-on-tybee-island-sandbar/ar-AA1FswGq?ocid=BingNewsVerp>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/tybee-island-police-urge-safe-driving-to-protect-wildlife/ar-AA1Fswxq?ocid=BingNewsVerp>

[https://travel.usnews.com/Savannah\\_GA/Things\\_To\\_Do/Tybee\\_Island\\_63173/](https://travel.usnews.com/Savannah_GA/Things_To_Do/Tybee_Island_63173/)

## Code Compliance This Week

### Citations

Smoking on the Beach	7	
Pets on the Beach	5	
Glass on the Beach	1	
Dog at Large	1	
Sandbar Violation	2	
Pier Jumping	2	
Disturbing Dune Veg.	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>

### Warnings

Glass on beach	2
Pier Jumping	1

**Cart Inspections** 25

**Wheelchair Checkouts** 10

### Additional Activity:

- Assisted Ocean Rescue and Police in looking for a missing 6-year-old child on the beach in the area of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The child was located and reunited with his family.
- Assisted Ocean Rescue in looking for a missing child on the beach in the area of 9th Street. The child was located and reunited with his family.
- Assisted Fire with traffic control while they launched their jet ski from Alley 3 for a recovery mission. Three people were safely brought to shore.
- Assisted Fire and EMS with a medical call on the beach near the pier. Assistance was provided by giving transportation to personnel and by providing traffic control for EMS as they departed from the scene.
- Code Compliance received notification from the Community Development Office that there was possibly unpermitted work being done at 4 Center Terrace. Code responded to investigate and did see where work had been done. The City Marshal was informed, and he spoke with the homeowner who was going to get the situation corrected.
- Received complaint concerning possible illegal dumping taking place on Jones Avenue. Caller advised witnessing a white in color Chevrolet Silverado dump what appeared to be dirt and landscaping materials into a vacant lot in the 1000 block of Jones Avenue. The officer then patrolled the area and observed several trucks and occupants matching the description in the general area of the complaint. Photos were taken and sent to City Marshal. The illegal dumper was contacted, issued a warning, and required to clean up the dump site. An officer stood by while the site was cleaned.
- While watching the monitors the on-duty CC Officer observed a family trying to take shelter under the awning of the South Annex during the strong, dangerous storm that passed through. The Officer allowed them to wait in the lobby and loaned them a poncho so that they could go retrieve their car to pick up the rest of the family.
- Dispatched to 2 Railwood Ave for a report of unpermitted work being done. When the officer arrived no one was on scene, but the officer did observe work that appeared to need a permit, but no permit was visible. The officer issued a Stop Work Order.

- Dispatched to Fisherman’s Walk for people jumping from the pier. Officer responded and found three people jumping from the pier. Two were issued citation and third subject was issued a verbal warning due to the subject being a juvenile.
- Received a request from the Community Development Director to issue a Stop Work Order at 18 Pulaski for working being done outside the scope of the permit. An officer responded and issued the Stop Work Order.
- Issued a Stop Work Order at 1 6<sup>th</sup> Street at the request of the Community Development Office after unpermitted work had been observed at the location.
- Issued a Stop Work Order at 42 Van Horn at the request of the Community Development Office after unpermitted work had been observed at the location.

### **Parking Revenue Year to Date Comparison**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>GAIN/LOSS</b>
JULY	\$1,070,704	\$1,200,607	-\$129,903
AUG	\$679,586	\$701,020	-\$21,434
SEPT	\$447,400	\$630,213	-\$182,813
OCT	\$376,017	\$416,828	-\$40,811
NOV	\$200,387	\$210,757	-\$10,370
DEC	\$22,345	\$77,354	-\$55,009
JAN	\$152,287	\$146,744	\$5,543
FEB	\$286,795	\$238,367	\$48,428
MARCH	\$542,160	\$546,818	-\$4,659
APRIL	\$863,706	\$685,106	\$178,601
MAY	\$976,406	\$976,524	-\$119
<b>TOTAL THRU MAY</b>	<b>\$5,617,792</b>	<b>\$5,830,338</b>	<b>-\$212,546</b>
JUNE	#	\$1,165,611	#

### **The Week in Infrastructure**

#### **DPW**

- Performed repairs and maintenance on beach crossovers.
- Emptied beach trash cans and picked up beach trash
- Emptied street trash cans and picked up street trash
- Completed new disc golf tee pads at Jaycee Park
- Mounted signs to new wooden box for south end sand bar
- Performed speed hump repairs on South Campbell Avenue
- Performed storm outfall maintenance
- Performed ditch maintenance on Solomon Avenue behind Huc-a-poo’s and at McKenzie Avenue
- Removed American flags on Butler Avenue
- Pressure-washed foot showers and basketball court at Jaycee Park
- Cut and trimmed grass on U.S. 80
- Cut and trimmed Memorial Park
- Cut and trimmed Jaycee Park
- Blew parking lots from 14<sup>th</sup> Street to 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleaned and supplied public restrooms daily
- Cleaned City-owned facilities
- Performed three tree assessments
- Issued seven tree permits

## **Recycling/Dump**

- Picked up and emptied recycling trailers from Memorial Park and Polk Street
- Baled cardboard
- Picked up litter on Bay Street
- Picked up recycling from South Annex Building and City Hall
- Picked up recycling from food pantry
- Called in trash containers and yard waste containers in DPW Yard
- Assisted residents in unloading trash, yard debris, and recycling brought to DPW yard
- Emptied aluminum can roll-offs for business pilot recycling program

## **Fleet**

- Replaced tires on PD 194 and PD199
- Replaced the drive belt for Code Enforcement mule.
- Installed A/C belt on mobile info hut vehicle
- Began replacing steering apparatus on FD345

## **Water and Sewer**

- Performed routine maintenance on WWTP equipment
- Performed routine maintenance on the water wells and lift stations
- Performed weekly sampling and testing
- Continued utility locates for Live Oak Fiber installation
- Exercised 33 water valves
- Installed new lock on Fort Screven Water Tower
- Located and replaced broken manhole cover at 14<sup>th</sup> and Miller Avenue
- Mowed, trimmed, and weeded the WWTP
- Cleaned the clarifier
- Repaired pump on the Grit King
- Worked with DPW to address sinkhole that developed over storm line in driveway at 6 18<sup>th</sup> Street and 20 Meddin Drive
- Investigated and filled in sink hole at 1 18<sup>th</sup> Street
- Performed maintenance of backup pumps
- Measured chlorine levels on dead end water lines
- Read meters for monthly water bills
- Worked on high consumption list
- Worked on meter inventory
- Continued to work on year-end inventory for financial report

## **AWR Monthly Report - May**

Below is the monthly report from Alan Robertson of AWR.

### **Accomplished:**

- Responded to FEMA Request for Information on 14th Street Drainage Grant application – a positive sign that our grant application for \$10 million is being actively considered.
- Rep. Buddy Carter's office submitted a Congressional Directed Spending request for \$6 million to help fund new Fire Station. This is in addition to Sen. Ossoff's request of the same.
- Clark Alexander of Skidaway to present beach and dune monitoring update at June 11th Council Workshop.

### **Next Steps:**

- Develop project schedule for 15th Street Stormwater improvement, expected this fall in FY2026 budget.
- Develop Jaycee Park drainage restoration plan for execution this fall.
- Work with DNR to obtain LOP for North Dune project.
- Work with DNR to obtain LOP for Jaycee Park restoration.
- Develop project schedule for NFWF Back River Design and Permit project.

### **Projects Management:**

- Safe Shelter – on hold pending review and new Fire Station plan
- EPA 15th Street Drainage – \$2.6 million grant finalized, designing project schedule.
- GEMA 14th Street Drainage – awaiting \$10 million grant approval from FEMA.

- NFWF Back River Design & Permit – launched April 15.
- USACE Nearshore Placement – given budget constraints, deferred to fall 2026 for consideration. Given beach nourishment, doubtful of 2026 execution.
- USACE Beach Nourishment – still on schedule, planning for late 2026 execution.
- Skidaway Dune Monitoring – ongoing quarterly reviews. April survey sent to USACE for hurricane season baseline.
- North Dune Project – working with GHD on design of project, DNR on permitting, Legal on homeowner permissions.
- USACE Study – USACE to develop preliminary schedule of project and timing of funding.

- **Civic Forward Strategies Monthly Report - May**

Attached is the May report from our State Legislative Lobbyist, Tom Gehl of Civic Forward Strategies.

The post-session, post-signing/veto period lull has begun.

- **The Week with Police**

**Accidents:**

This Week: 4 accidents, 0 injury  
 2025 YTD: 43 accidents, 3 injuries  
 2024 YTD: 43 accidents, 11 injuries  
 2024 TOTAL: 104 accidents, 18 injuries

- **Arrests:**

This Week: 12 total – 8 DUIs / 1 Felony  
 2025 YTD: 177 arrests  
 2024 YTD: 267 arrests  
 2024 TOTAL: 504 arrests

**Calls For Service:**

This week: 526  
 2025 YTD: 6,427  
 2024 YTD: 6,754  
 2024 TOTAL: 14,588

**Citations:**

This week: 52  
 YTD: 646  
 2024 YTD: 1,079  
 2024 TOTAL: 1,792

Part 1 Crimes									
-	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Arson	Motor Vehicle Theft	Total Part 1
<b>2025</b>	1	0	0	1	1	13	0	0	<b>15</b>
<b>2024</b>	0	3	0	10	3	51	0	0	<b>67</b>
<b>2023</b>	0	0	3	8	2	37	0	0	<b>50</b>
<b>2022</b>	0	0	0	2	1	17	2	1	<b>23</b>

- **Daily Information:**

**05/22:** For those of you who may remember Alva “Casey” Jones, who was employed with the City several years ago for many, many years, he passed away in his sleep at home on 05/22. Casey was employed as a jailer for the Police Department.

**05/24:** Officer Huber was cleared by workers' compensation to return to full duty after an on-duty injury.

**Staffing:**

We are down three officers. We now have three cadets who recently started with the police department. They will attend the police academy beginning July 7. Until then, they will train at the police department. The police department currently has no open officer positions to advertise. Communications is down one position. This opening is due to the communications officer transitioning to a police cadet.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**06/02:** Rocky and Captain Randolph are scheduled to make an appearance at Camp Grace on Wilmington Island on Monday, June 2. We did this last year, and the campers and staff liked it so much that they invited us back.

**06/05:** Police is developing an awareness presentation about various scams for older adults on Tybee. This presentation will be given at the YMCA on Thursday, June 5. This is particularly timely considering the \$150,000 that was reportedly lost to a scammer a couple of days ago.

**06/04, 06/18, 07/09:** Last summer Fresh Air Home asked us to take part in a series of presentations to the children in attendance. We had officers talk to campers about patrol, what they do on a daily basis and let the kids take a look inside of our patrol cars. They have reached out again, and we plan make a Drone Unit demonstration during the event.

**06/12, 07/03, 08/28:** Next dates for Golf Cart Education and Enforcement.

**\*\*\*\*Please let Chief Hayes know if you have anyone interested in the summer camp below. This camp is put on through the Georgia FBI NAA and is great for college resumes!**

### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

JULY 13TH – 18TH

Georgia Military College

Nominations can be made through your law enforcement agency now.

Requirements:

- Sophomore, Junior or Senior in High School at the time of the academy
- Your department vets the applicant. This program is for future leaders. This person represents YOUR agency.
- Applicant wants to attend; not sent because of punishment or only because their parents want them to attend.
- Cost: The nominating agency agrees to pay the \$1,000 fee to sponsor the applicant

### **The Week with Fire**

During the week of May 24 to May 30, 2025, Tybee Island Fire Rescue responded to a total of 19 incidents. Below is a summary of the calls:

#### **May 24, 2025**

- Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 11 17[,]th Street
- Search for person in water – Alley 3
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 1600 Strand Avenue
- Medical assist, assist EMS crew – US Hwy 80

#### **May 25, 2025**

- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 1213 US HWY 80
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 37 Meddin Drive
- Arcing, shorted electrical equipment – 1509 Miller Ave
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 26 Van Horne Avenue

#### **May 26, 2025**

- Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 1213 Hwy 80
- Dispatched and cancelled en route – Tybrisa

#### **May 27, 2025**

- Lock-out – 1401 Butler Avenue
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 20 Ocean View Court
- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 404 Butler Avenue

#### **May 28, 2025**

- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 33 Meddin Drive
- Public service – 1600 Strand Ave

#### **May 29, 2025**

- EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury – 7 Rosewood Avenue

- Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 26 Van Horne

### **May 30, 2025**

- Medical assist, assist EMS crew – 1409 Butler
- Assist invalid – 7 11th Ter

All incidents were closed with a 100% completion status.

### **Additional Updates**

- Lieutenant Brandon Kaupp has been appointed to oversee training for TIFR and has already begun making significant progress. This week, he attended a regional training meeting at Pooler Fire, establishing valuable connections with regional partners. We look forward to collaborating with these partners to advance our training program. Organizations and personnel in attendance included:
  - 165th Airlift Wing Fire: Chief Garrett Boddaford
  - Bloomingdale Fire: Training Coordinator Eric Holmes
  - Chatham County Fire: Chief Joshua Anderson (via phone)
  - Ft. Stewart/Hunter Fire: Chief Don Townley
  - Garden City Fire: Lieutenant Mike Gordon
  - Hardeeville Fire: Chief Woody Childs
  - Jesup Fire: Captain Alex Mason
  - Liberty County Fire: Lieutenant Charles Helton
  - Pooler Fire: Chief Ian Schulte, Captain Corey Monroe, Lieutenant Jackie Howell
  - Port Wentworth Fire: Captain Dusty Holden
  - Rincon Fire: Chief Lou Reed
  - Savannah Fire: Chief Marcus Wilson, Captain Damon Driggers, Captain Brian Coyne
  - Screven County Fire: Chief Harvey Cryder
  - Statesboro Fire: Captain Parker Johnson
  - Tybee Island Fire: Lieutenant Brandon Kaupp
  - Swainsboro Fire: Chief Alima Mims
- The State Office of EMS and Trauma conducted its annual inspection of our responding apparatus and medical equipment this week. I am pleased to report that we passed with flying colors.
- We are now at full staffing on the beach. Ocean Rescue Manager Jen Bishop is addressing recent issues with lifeguards grouping in the same areas by implementing a plan to distribute personnel more effectively, ensuring maximum beach coverage. Additionally, Chief McMillian and Sgt. Hattrich met this week to finalize a logistical plan for installing new signs at the South End, which have now all arrived. Installation will begin this coming Monday with assistance from the Department of Public Works (DPW).
- The Junior Guards (JG) initiative is progressing well. JG personnel, in collaboration with TIFR, will conduct joint jet ski training this coming Saturday. The inaugural JG camp on Tybee Beaches already has 12 participants signed up.





Have a great week everyone!



[www.cityoftybee.org](http://www.cityoftybee.org)

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