

AGENDA

Mayor & Council Meeting 5pm Tuesday, July ¹⁰8, 2025

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—June 10, 2025 Regular Meeting
7. Clerk's Report
8. Department Reports
9. Mayor's Report
10. Council Members Questions/Comments
11. Old Business
12. New Business
 - A. Resolution to Adopt the Hancock County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Official Plan of Hancock County & the City of Sparta
 - B. Approval of the Lead Service Line Inventory Lowest Bid Submitted by Mark Turner Grading, Inc. of Hampton, GA
 - C. Approval of Waste Disposal Rate Adjustments That Will Be Discussed During Work Session
 - D. Approval of Application to Obtain GEFA Funds for Replacing the Water Main Line on Parkway Drive
13. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Tuesday, August 12, 2025
14. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, August 12, 2025
15. Historic Preservation Commission Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, July 10, 2025 in City Hall Council Chambers
16. Citizens' Input
17. Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters
18. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Rescheduled Mayor & Council Monthly Meeting
5pm Thursday, July 10, 2025

Due to the personal schedule conflicts of two Council members, there was a failure to have a quorum of Council members present for the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2025. Therefore, Mayor Haywood suggested to Council members present on July 8th that the regular monthly meeting be rescheduled for July 10th. Both Council members present agreed and the meeting was rescheduled for July 10th.

Elected officials present on July 10th were Mayor R. Allen, Mayor ProTem Rav Yisrael, Councilmembers Brandon Nolley, Tom Roberts, and Sandra Sherrod.

City Clerk Virginia Webb was present. City attorney John Hitchcock was not present.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor ProTem Yisrael at 5 PM followed by The Lord's Prayer, a moment of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adopt Agenda

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt the agenda; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Adoption of Minutes - June 10, 2025 Regular Minutes

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt the minutes; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Clerk's Report

1. The City's annual Employee Appreciation event is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 1, 2025, at 12:30 PM in the Council Chambers. The event will be sponsored by Heidelberg Materials. Lunch will be provided to all attendees, and awards will be presented to recognize outstanding employee service.
2. Candidate qualifying for the upcoming November 4, 2025, municipal election will be held from Monday, August 18 through Wednesday, August 20, in the City Council Chambers. Qualifying hours will be from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day. This election will be for two City Council positions. The current terms held by Councilman Nolley and Councilman Yisrael will be up for re-election.
3. The earliest day to apply for an absentee ballot is August 18, 2025. The deadline to register to vote for the November 4th election is October 6, 2025. Absentee ballots may begin being issued on October 14, 2025. Early and advanced voting will also begin on October 14 and continue through October 31, 2025. Early voting will be held Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Saturday voting will be available on October 18 and October 25 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. On Election Day, November 4,

2025, the polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. All election information will be published in The *Sparta Ishmaelite* newspaper and posted on the City of Sparta website at cityofsparta.org.

4. The total amount of court citations collected for the month of May 2025 was \$17,179.00. Of that amount, \$6,345.21 was paid out to cover software fees, mandatory distributions to the Hancock County Board of Commissioners, and contributions to the Fines & Fees account as well as the Peace Officers Fund.
5. The city continues to operate Flock Safety cameras positioned throughout the community at a monthly cost of approximately \$1,850.00.
6. As of July 1, 2025, the city has collected a total of \$219,208.77 in 2024 property taxes, representing 88% of the total billed amount of \$247,668.95.
7. The City Clerk also reported that staff is currently seeking quotes for purchasing bulk ice as a means of reducing expenses. Additionally, the City is researching fuel alternatives in an effort to identify more cost-effective energy solutions for City operations.

Departmental Reports (See pages 5-1⁷6)

Police host a back-to-school event August 4, asking men to help cheer on students back to school.

Mayor Report

1. The City has received notice that it will be awarded \$29,694.83 through the 2026 Georgia DOT's Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program for street repairs. In order to receive the funds, the City will be required to provide a 10% match as part of the grant agreement.
2. The City's GIRMA insurance premium has increased this year to \$84,159.00. This covers all City-owned property and material goods. About five years ago, the City was paying around \$50,000.00. The rise is mainly due to industry-wide rate changes after Hurricane Helene.
3. ANESCO, an AT&T utility contractor company working in the area, struck a City gas line twice on State Highway 15, approximately 7 miles south of Sparta. The City is currently working to recover the cost of those damages.
4. The City is moving forward with plans to clear property in the industrial park for the installation of a 250,000-gallon water tank. The City received two bids for the clearing work—one for approximately \$18,000, and the other for approximately \$22,000. Although two additional contractors visited the site, they did not submit bids. Public Works Superintendent Donald Ingram is currently reviewing the proposals and assisting in the evaluation process.

Council Member Questions/Comments

There were no comments.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A. Resolution to Adopt the Hancock County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan as the Official Plan of Hancock County & the City of Sparta

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt the resolution; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Councilwoman Sherrod did not vote. Vote 3 to 1. Motion passed.

B. Approval of the Lead Service Line Inventory Lowest Bid Submitted by Mark Turner Grading, Inc. of Hampton, GA

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve the bid; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Councilwoman Sherrod did not vote. Vote 3 to 1. Motion passed.

C. Approval of Solid Waste Disposal Rate Adjustment Due to Ryland's 4.5% Commercial & Residential Rate Increases (Effective July 1, 2025)

Mayor Haywood explained that Ryland's contract with the City allows for rate adjustments every two years to meet industry inflation.

Councilman Roberts motioned to adopt adjusted rate increases for commercial customers, but to revisit residential increases after seeking other quotes; Councilman Nolley seconded. Council members Yisrael and Sherrod did not vote (The City recognizes standard Roberts Rules of Order that count any failure to cast a vote as a vote in opposition to the motion at hand), therefore Council members' Yisrael's and Sherrod's non action resulted in opposition to the motion. The tally was a tie vote 2-2, so Mayor Haywood broke the tie with a vote cast in support of the motion.

D. Approval of Application to Obtain GEFA Funds for Replacing the Water Main Line on Parkway Drive

Councilman Roberts motioned to approve application; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Councilwoman Sherrod did not vote. Vote 3 to 1. Motion passed.

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5 pm Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Historic Preservation Commission Meeting 5:30 pm Thursday, July 10, 2025 in City Hall Council Chambers

Citizens' Input

1. Kiana Moss, a resident of the city, inquired about lead replacement services and having someone test the pipes.
2. Joann Jackson, a resident of the city, asked about stagnant water around the city.

Executive Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to go into executive session; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

Back To Regular Session

Councilman Roberts motioned to go back to Regular session; Councilman Nolley seconded. No discussion. Motion passed. Vote unanimous.

Executive Session discussions did not result in a motion for action.

Adjournment

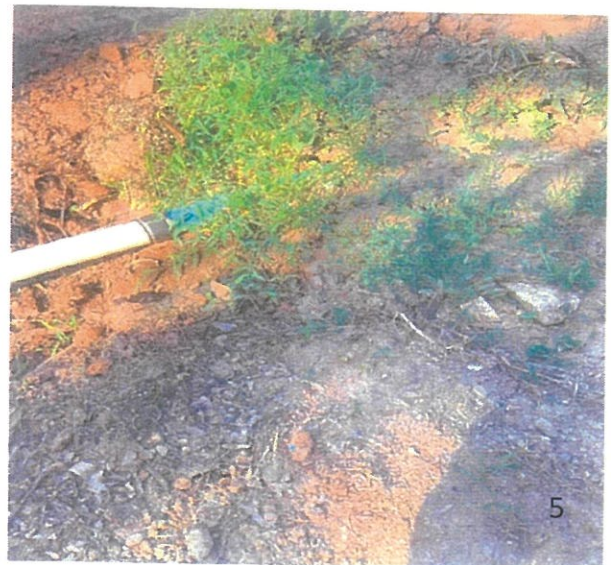
Councilman Nolley motioned to adjourn the meeting; Councilman Roberts seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

CITY OF SPARTA – MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING JULY 8, 2025

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

1. 9532 Jones St – Now in compliance. Both grey water pipes have been replaced with new pipes.
2. 230 Jones St – Now in compliance. The septic tank and rainwater in the hole were drained, new pipes were installed, and the hole was backfilled with adequate fill dirt. The home remains unoccupied.
3. 8664 E. Broad St – Demolition site cleanup is showing progress.
4. 12511 Broad St – One pile of construction debris has been removed from the property. The compliance deadline has been extended to Wednesday, July 30, 2025, due to visible progress.
5. 516 Court St – A certified NOTICE OF VIOLATION has been sent to Jones Wingfield c/o Minnie Bolton at 2506 Tyler Way, Decatur, GA 30032, regarding mobile home dilapidation.
6. 305 Adams St – A certified NOTICE OF VIOLATION will be sent to The Goshen Community at 12777 Broad St., in response to a violation of the Historic Ordinance of Sparta, GA.
7. 5 Adams St – The property was visited at 8:45 AM and again at 11:00 AM on Saturday, July 5, 2025. No response at the door. No dogs observed on the premises. Contact information for the animal owner was obtained. A voicemail was left explaining the role within City government and advising that no further warnings will be issued concerning roaming animals. Citations will be issued for all confirmed cases moving forward.
8. On the Way Laundry & 530 Jones St – Photos of completed repairs have been attached.



**CITY OF SPARTA – MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING JULY 8, 2025
CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**





Tommie Walker, Jr.
Chief of Police

Maj. Kalvin Johnson
Field Operations

Inv. Timothy Legette
Investigations

Lt. Lakiesha Baker
Admin. Assistant,
TAC, Chief Dispatcher

JULY 2025

DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

911 CALLS – 186

CITATIONS – 110

EXPIRED REGISTRATION – 38

SPEEDING – 14

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA – 1

OTHER TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS – 25

ARRESTS – 2

STATE WARRANTS – 3

City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Water Treatment Plant Report

- Operators continued daily operations, including routine monitoring, chemical dosing, equipment checks, and regulatory compliance sampling.
- In June, the treatment plant withdrew 31.8 million gallons of water from Lake Sinclair, averaging 1.05 million gallons per day. A total of 30.9 million gallons, an average of 1.0 million gallons per day, was delivered to the distribution system.
- The front gate has begun to malfunction and intermittently fails to open. Repair quotes have ranged from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Temporary fixes have been made, but permanent repairs will need to be scheduled in the coming months.
 - The front gate and fencing are regulated by Homeland Security, making their proper operation essential for maintaining facility security, preventing unauthorized access, and ensuring compliance with federal infrastructure protection standards.
- The filter pump and chlorine booster pump failed during the month. ME Sacks replaced the units after new equipment was ordered, as the original pumps could not be repaired due to design limitations and the unavailability of parts from the manufacturer.
- The chlorine analyzer produced abnormally high readings. DWL Instruments initially recalibrated the unit, but the issue persisted. Invictus Prime later determined the calibration had been performed incorrectly. As a result, we will be transitioning to a new calibration vendor moving forward.
- Annual backflow prevention testing and certification was completed by Calibration, Controls, and Automation.
 - Backflow devices prevent contaminants from flowing backward into the public water supply. Annual testing ensures these devices are functioning properly, helping to keep the drinking water safe.
- There were no violations reported for the month of June.
- Staff successfully renewed their licenses, and all operators are now certified through 2027.



Discipline Chart	
Water Disciplines	Wastewater Disciplines
Water Treatment Class I, II, III & IV	Wastewater Treatment Class I, II, III & IV
Water Lab	Wastewater Lab
Water Distribution	Wastewater Collection
	Industrial Wastewater

Course Approval Designation	
Water	W
Wastewater	WW
Both Water & Wastewater	W-WW
Management	MS
Safety	MS

Renewal Period Cycles are Every 2 Years Ending on June 30th of Odd Years.
The Current renewal cycle began on July 1, 2023 and will end on June 30, 2025

City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Water Distribution & Sewer Collection Report

- A total of 29 work orders were completed in June 2025, including 12 leak-related repairs.
 - Service capabilities were significantly affected by fleet downtime and staffing shortages.
 - Both the department's F-250 and F-150 were out of service for nearly two weeks.
 - A new F-150 was purchased to replace the aging unit, which had over 260,000 miles and persistent mechanical issues.
 - Due to limited vehicle availability, staff redirected efforts to non-leak tasks such as hydrant flushing, lift station maintenance, and organizing facilities which are not included in the work order system.



- A 2" water line coming off a 10" water line at 264 Cody Johnson Road, not listed on city maps, was damaged twice during a septic tank installation. At the property owner's request, the line is scheduled for full removal as it cuts directly across his property.
- At the Gilbert Lift Station, a major power issue caused by Georgia Power line cycling led to a complete outage. A bypass pump was used for 21 days during repairs, and an insurance claim has been filed. A minor sewage spill occurred and was reported to EPD.
- At 22 Woods Station, abnormal pump amperage led to the replacement of the check valve, suction pump, and related components. A large clog was suspected. Days later, a significant obstruction composed of towels, bedsheets, and grease caused a downstream backup, resulting in a sewage spill.



- The Lead and Copper Unknown Inventory was placed for bid in June. Mark Turner Grading, based in Hampton, GA, was awarded the contract with a bid of \$40,180 to locate and identify all unknown service lines.

- Staff continued preparations for a Hazard Mitigation, including coordination with Georgia Power to prioritize City

City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

utility infrastructure during outage events, rebuilt one of the portable generators, and worked on Hazard Mitigation Grant prep to get another portable generator and dedicated generators in the future.

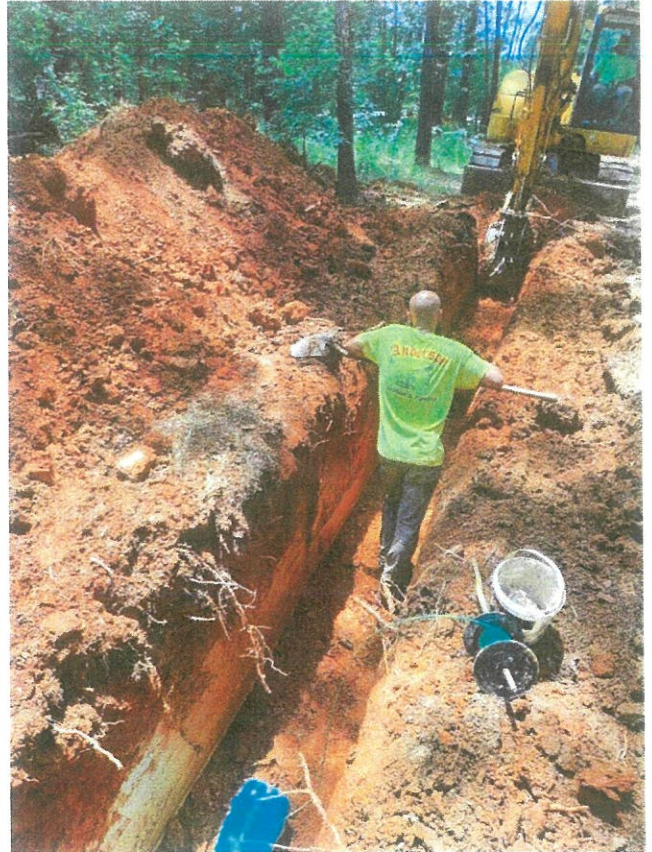
- In collaboration with EMI and Smith & Loveless, staff evaluated the City's lift stations, compiled a list of necessary upgrades, and began preparations to re-bid the lift station project to allow for expanded repair scope.
- Staff also began to obtain quotes for the full replacement of the 6" asbestos concrete water main along Parkway Drive. The existing line will be abandoned in place as part of the proposed project.
- Johnny Lee Dye resigned after two weeks with the City of Sparta Water and Sewer Department.



City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Wastewater Reclamation Plant Report

- Wastewater staff continued normal operations, including daily monitoring, sampling, equipment maintenance, pond and land management, and compliance reporting to ensure uninterrupted treatment and regulatory adherence.
- The rear exhaust hanger on the Ford Ranger broke. Employees temporarily rehung the exhaust pipe until the replacement part arrives. During this time, the oil and brake pads were also replaced.
- The Ford Ranger received an oil change and new brake pads. Additionally, the Animal Shelter's Frontier truck had its oil changed.
- Field 1 was operating at a higher-than-expected flow, though still within permitted limits. An inspection revealed two damaged spray heads, which were replaced using functional parts salvaged from four broken units.
- A spray head in Field 5 blew off, prompting a temporary shutdown of the pump. The head was repaired and the pump was restarted without further issues.
- Seasonal wildlife removal has begun, as deer and other animals are frequently found in the aerator and storage ponds this time of year.
- The prison experienced two water line breaks this month. After an initial repair on June 12th, the line failed again on June 23rd. A new line was installed and tied into the existing system from Pinkston Creek to the city's valve. The project was completed on June 26th, including reseeding and strawing the affected area.
- Overgrowth around Pond 1 was cleared to maintain vehicle access. Plants were also removed from the pond liner near the influent.
- Synagro removed approximately 265.5 tons of sludge from Aeration Pond 1 during the month of June.
- Staff are still finalizing the June DMR. Recent well sampling has shown significantly different results compared to prior data collected from the previously malfunctioning wells. Additional sampling over the coming months will be necessary to establish a new baseline and determine what operational adjustments may be required. Staff have already adjusted Sprayfield run times.
- Staff successfully renewed their licenses, and all operators are now certified through 2027.



City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Natural Gas Report

- Staff sanded and painted multiple meter set and facility locations to prevent corrosion and maintain visibility, including the Hwy 15 take station, tank odorization station, Cody Johnson Road, Sandersville Highway, Hancock State Prison, seven high-pressure farm taps along Hwy 15, and the Hancock County Industrial Park.
- New signage—including “No Trespassing,” “No Smoking,” and “City of Sparta Natural Gas”—was installed at each farm tap to improve visibility and promote safety awareness.
- Additional GA811 and “No Trespassing” signage was installed at the Cody Johnson and Sandersville Hwy 15 meter set sites, as well as at three sewage lift stations along Hwy 22 to increase public awareness and meet PAP requirements.
- Crews cleared vegetation and debris around the fencing at the Cody Johnson and Sandersville Hwy 15 meter sets and performed minor fence repairs.
- Downtown vent stacks were painted to prevent corrosion and improve visibility, with natural gas safety signage added.
- Cleanup was completed around the steel rectifiers at the intersections of Boland Street, Hancock Street, and Faye Street.
- Bobby continued his advanced natural gas training through the Georgia Gas Authority, successfully completing the following modules:
 - 0301: Open and Close Valves Manually
 - 0701: Join Pipe Using Bottom-Out Compression Couplings
 - 0681: Join Plastic Pipe Using Stab Fittings
 - 1161: Install Residential and Small Commercial Meters and Regulators



City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report



- A 2018 long body Ford F-350 with 94,000 miles was acquired for \$32,370, including a two-year warranty, to improve transportation and operational efficiency for natural gas emergencies.
- New polyethylene and steel squeeze-off tools were purchased to enhance service capabilities and emergency response readiness. A new CPV-4 device was also acquired to assist in taking cathodic protection readings for the steel gas system in town.
- Bobby Gunter successfully completed his probationary period and officially assumed the role of Natural Gas Superintendent.
- Amanda, Bobby, CJ, and Tony attended a locate training course hosted by the Georgia Gas Authority in Louisville.
- Staff continued to prep for the Natural Gas Inspection to be held on July 7-9, 2025.
- Utility locates were performed at 22 locations in June, with a total of 60 services marked, including water, sewer, and gas lines.

City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Animal Shelter Report

- Staff performed daily kennel cleaning and sanitation procedures, including bleaching, rinsing, and odor control. Dogs received daily enrichment through regular walks and structured playtime. All animals were provided with consistent feeding, fresh water, and daily treats. Comprehensive documentation was maintained, including daily logs, shelter activity records, and detailed medication administration logs with dosages and treatment schedules. Staff also monitored and responded to all shelter-related communications, including emails and coordination requests.



- A total of 11 dogs were housed at the shelter during June. One adult female dog and her three puppies were accepted as new intakes.
- The shelter received a half pallet of donated dog food from Tractor Supply (estimated value: \$500) and an additional 20 bags of dog food from Nancy McNair and Paw Prints Rescue (estimated value: \$300).
- KONG donated a box of assorted rubber dog toys, valued at approximately \$200.
- Staff responded to a reported dog bite incident. The case was referred to and officially turned over to the Hancock County Department of Health for further investigation.

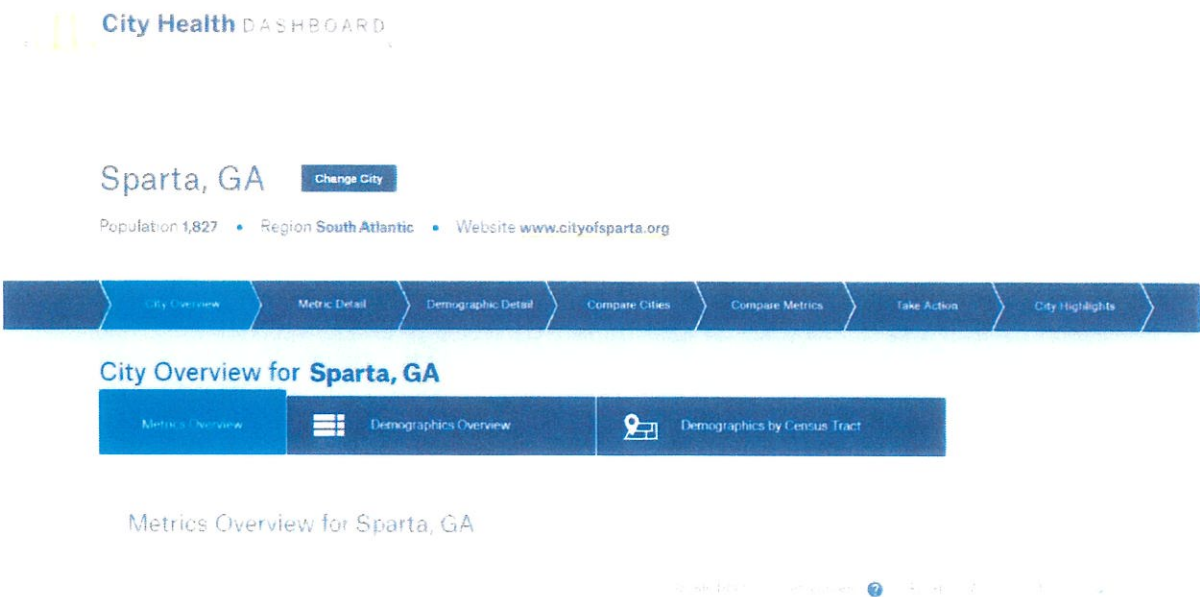


- Staff assisted with the rescue and return of two lost dogs to their owners.
- Additional cameras were installed at the Animal Shelter after an attempted break in.
- The Georgia EPD conducted an inspection on the old landfill attached to the shelter in early June and identified three issues: bare spots on the berms requiring reseeding, tree overgrowth around the runoff pond needing removal, and scattered trash along the woodline.

City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Administrative Report

- Submitted an application for the FEMA SAFER Grant to fund three full-time firefighters for three years (\$405,000), addressing critical staffing needs across local fire departments. Staff also applied for the Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program to obtain fire hoses (\$10,000).
- Staff applied for \$160,000 in funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program to develop a comprehensive Action Plan for Sparta’s roadways and sidewalks. This plan is a prerequisite for future federal infrastructure grants and would include a full road and sidewalk audit, crash and risk analysis, ADA compliance mapping, community data collection, project prioritization by area, cost analysis, a draft action plan, and projected contingency costs.
- Continued work on FEMA and GIRMA documentation related to Hurricane Helene, with efforts focused on finalizing remaining requirements and documentation.
- Developed and updated staff policies and job descriptions to address identified gaps in departmental procedures and responsibilities.
- Submitted legal documentation to the City Attorney, including final notice paperwork for the collection of dogs on Maiden Lane and the formal denial of ANSCO’s claim involving two gas line strikes on Highway 15.
- The City of Sparta’s Health Dashboard is now live, providing city-specific data to help guide health equity initiatives. Notable metrics include:
 - Income Inequality Score (2022): -55.8 (vs. Dashboard average of 1.7)
 - Rent Burden (2023): 75.2% of households (vs. Dashboard average of 51.2%)
 - Lead Exposure Risk (2023): 10 out of 10 (vs. Dashboard average of 5.5)
 - Walkability Score (2024): 9.6 out of 100 (vs. Dashboard average of 39.5)



City of Sparta – July 8, 2025 Council Meeting Report

- Established the City's GPAs (Georgia Preconstruction Application System) account through GDOT and began the permitting process for upcoming transportation and infrastructure projects.
- The Back-to-School event was shortened from six hours to three hours after supplies were fully distributed. Over 346 residents were served, including:
 - 64 free eye exams and prescription glasses worth an estimated value of \$33,984
 - One individual received a sight-saving emergency surgery for free (\$8,000 value)
 - Approximately \$12,500 worth of backpacks and school supplies were distributed
 - Additional services included free fire alarms, nutrition resources, and educational materials
 - In total, more than \$50,000 in services were provided in just three hours
- Heidelberg Materials has generously agreed to sponsor the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for August 1, 2025. Community members are encouraged to submit letters of appreciation to city staff in recognition of their daily commitment to serving the public, often under difficult conditions.
- Staff are scheduled to attend the Southeastern FOG Alliance Conference from August 12–14, where they have been invited to lead two seminars focused on sewage management and grease trap compliance.
- Staff established the City's GovDeals Surplus Inventory account and will begin auctioning off outdated or unneeded equipment to generate additional revenue and support the budget. Staff expect to begin this process in July and continue throughout the year.



Street Dept Report

July 8, 2025

- Rebuilt road on Britt Street due to washing out from heavy rain. Hauled several loads of dirt and gravel
- Reworked road leading to Gilbert Road lift Station due to washing out from rain
- Repaired 2 lawns on Parkway Drive after water main break was completed
- Met with County Administration to assist with moving debris from site for clearing lot on Industrial Park for new Water Tower site
- Had dangerous Pine Tree removed from Lake Intake that was in danger of damaging pumping equipment & possibly shutting off water supply to Filter Plant
- Reached out to several fuel companies for quotes on purchasing bulk fuel
- Performed routine maintenance on Dodge Ram, Ford F250 & Ford F150
- Performed regular scheduled grass cutting & chipping throughout the city