

AGENDA

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

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Roll Call
5. Adopt Agenda
6. Adoption of Minutes—July 10, 2025 Regular Meeting (7-8-25 rescheduled)
7. Clerk's Report
8. Department Reports
9. Mayor's Report
10. Council Members Questions/Comments
11. Old Business
 - A. Approve Contract for Sales Tax Recovery Venders' Audit
12. New Business
13. FY 2025 City Budget Public Hearing Wednesday, September 27, 2025 (Time TBD)
14. Called Meeting of Mayor & Council to Adopt the FY 2025 Budget
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 (Time TBD)
15. Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30pm Tuesday, September 9, 2025
16. Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, September 9, 2025
17. Called Meeting of Mayor & Council Following Public Hearing to Adopt FY
2025 Millage Rate Wednesday, September 17, 2025 (Time TBD)
18. Historic Preservation Commission Meeting 5:30pm Thursday, August 14,
2025 in City Hall Council Chambers
19. Citizens' Input
20. Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters
21. Adjournment

City of Sparta
Mayor & Council Meeting
5pm Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Elected Officials present were Mayor Allen Haywood, Mayor ProTem Rav Yisrael, Councilmembers Brandon Nolley and Sandra Sherrod. Councilman Tom Roberts was not present.

City Clerk Virigina Webb were present. City Attorney John Hitchcock was not present.

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

Adopt Agenda

Councilman Nolley motioned to adopt agenda; Councilwoman Sherrod seconded. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

Adoption of Minutes – July 10, 2025 Regular Meeting (7-8-25 rescheduled)

Councilwoman motioned to table July 10, 2025 meeting minutes; Councilman Yisrael seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Clerk's Report

1. The Annual Employee Appreciation event was held on August 1, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The event was sponsored by Heidelberg Materials, who provided lunch and raffle items. Certificates of recognition for years of service were presented to employees.
2. Candidate qualifying will be held from Monday, August 18 through Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at the City Council Chambers. Qualifying hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Two council seats are up for reelection, currently held by Councilman Nolley and Councilman Yisrael.
3. Election information for the November 4, 2025, General Election is as follows:
 - The earliest date to apply for an absentee ballot is August 18, 2025.
 - The deadline to register to vote is October 6, 2025.
 - Absentee ballots will begin being issued on October 14, 2025.

- Early and advanced voting begins on October 14 and continues through October 31, 2025.
 - Monday through Friday voting hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - Saturday voting will be available on October 18 and October 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - The last day for advanced voting will be October 31, 2025.
 - The last day to request an absentee ballot will be October 24, 2025.
 - Election Day will be held on November 4, 2025, with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
 - Absentee ballot requests and voter registration are available at the Hancock County Board of Elections, located at 915 East Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia. The Board can be reached at 706-444-5259.
4. Election information will be published in the *Sparta Ishmaelite* and posted on the City of Sparta website at www.cityofsparta.org.
 5. The Intergovernmental Agreement has been prepared and submitted to the Election Board Chairman and the Hancock County Commissioners Office for approval.
 6. A Cleaning and Shredding Day is scheduled at City Hall on Saturday, August 16, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Department Reports – Police, Street, Waste Water, Filter, Animal Shelter

See attached pages for each report

Mayor's Report

1. The Sparta-Hancock Development Authority sold approximately one acre of property in the Industrial Park to the city for \$10 for location of a new water tank to serve the city's system which includes county customers. Quotes to cleanup and clear the property cost approximately \$18,000 to \$21,000. City Public Works Superintendent Donald Ingram suggested renting the proper equipment to clear the property and using city crews to do the work. Ingram, who is skilled in heavy equipment operation, cleared the property with the help of his crew. Labor and equipment rental cost was about \$7,000. The biggest problem clearing the property was removal of several hundred discarded tractor trailer ties and other debris. Tire removal cost the city \$8,900, as the tires had to be hauled to a recycling facility. Signs will be posted on the property indicating \$500 fines

for unauthorized dumping or parking. Parking trailers may be restricted if violations continue.

2. After a 90-days' trial period, the city will contract to continue use of the flock cameras, as they are self-funding by generating citation revenue that includes covering cost of maintaining the cameras. The annual \$21,000 cost for the cameras has been divided into four monthly installments.
3. A proposed increase of \$0.94 per residence for residential trash rates was tabled last session. The proposal will be revisited next month, along with comparisons to other cities and waste management quotes.
4. An application has been submitted to GEFA for emergency funding for Parkway Drive's water main replacement project. These funds, if approved, will be deducted from funds already awarded. The estimated cost to replace the Parkway Drive line is \$220,000 to \$241,000.
5. The Sheppard Center will conduct a blood donation drive, and I ask that everyone please go out and volunteer to give blood. Approximately 7–8 participants typically volunteer. Giving blood could save a life. The bloodmobile will be on Broad Street Wednesday, September 10th from 2pm to 5:30pm.
6. Overall, the city performed well in the FY 2024 preliminary audit. The only finding was that the Public Works Department overspent its budget by \$197,139, primarily due to Hurricane Helene-related expenses from September to December 2024. Street and rainwater sewer damages were responsible for the added expenses. No borrowing was necessary, as reserves covered all additional expenses. For historical context, prior audits, such as FY 2002, had significantly more findings (38), demonstrating massive improvement in fiscal management.
7. Emergency hires and other staffing matters will be addressed as needed. Public hearings and agenda items will be advertised and scheduled accordingly. The final proposed FY 2025 budget, including amendments, will be published in next week's newspaper.

Council Members Questions/Comments

There were no comments or questions.

Old Business

- A. Approve Contract for Sales Tax Recovery Vendors' Audit

Councilman Nolley motioned to approve but there was not a "second". It was suggested to table the contract for Sales Tax Recovery Vendors' Audit by Councilwoman Sherrod until next meeting. Yisrael agreed and the matter was tabled.

New Business

None

FY 2025 City Budget Public Hearing Wednesday, August 27, 2025 @5pm

Called Meeting of Mayor & Council to Adopt the FY 2025 Budget Wednesday, September 3, 2025 @ 5pm

Mayor & Council Work Session at 4:30 pm Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting at 5pm Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Citizens' Input

None

Executive Session Personnel & Legal Matters

Councilman Nolley motioned to go into executive session; Mayor ProTem Yisrael seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod did not vote. No discussion. Motion passed.

Back to Regular Session

Councilman Nolley motioned to go back to regular session; Mayor ProTem Yisrael seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod did not vote. No discussion. Motion passed.

No discussions during executive session required a motion to vote.

Adjournment

Councilman Nolley motioned to adjourn the meeting; Mayor ProTem Yisrael seconded. Councilwoman Sherrod did not to vote. No discussion. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.



CITY OF SPARTA

POLICE

9535 JONES STREET - SPARTA, GEORGIA - 31087
OFFICE: 706-444-5777 / FAX: 706-444-0827

Tommie Walker, Jr.
Chief of Police

Maj. Calvin Johnson
Field Operations

Inv. Timothy Legette
Investigations

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

AUGUST 2025 COUNCIL MEETING

SPARTA POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

(STATS ARE FROM THE MONTH OF JULY 2025)

208 - 911 CALLS

91- WRITTEN CITATIONS

- **37 - SPEEDING**
- **29 - EXPIRED TAGS**
- **4 - NO INSURANCE**
- **1 - SUSPENDED LICENSE**
- **3 - SUSPENDED REGISTRATION**
- **1 - POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA LESS THAN 1oz**
- **16 - OTHER TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

6 - STATE WARRANTS

4 - ARRESTS

City of Sparta – August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Water Distribution & Sewer Collection Report

- The department completed a total of 44 repairs.
- This included repairing 21 leaks, 2 of which were main breaks, and 19 service line leaks.
- Staff installed 2 new water service taps.
- Staff also performed three curb stop repairs or installations.
- Staff cleared 3 sewer line and storm drain blockages, which required jetting.
- An additional 12 miscellaneous repairs were completed during the month.
- Service disconnections were performed for 15 accounts, with nine of those services being reconnected after payment or resolution.
- The bypass pump on Highway 22 required a new starter, which staff installed.
- A priming issue at the Highway 22 Woods lift station was resolved after staff located and cleared a small clog.
- In early July, pumps were reinstalled at the Gilbert Lift Station after being out of service for approximately one month while waiting for repairs to be completed.
- On rainy days, staff worked on servicing equipment and cleaning up the storage areas.
- The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) approved the permit to repair the main water line on the Jones Street bridge. Work is scheduled to begin in September.
- Because existing maps do not accurately show the placement of certain lines, GDOT has issued a temporary permit for any work performed on Highway 22 and will require an inspector to be present during all investigative activities until a full permit is able to be submitted.
- A pre-construction conference was held for the Lead Service Line Inventory in early August.
- Staff continued flushing fire hydrants in compliance with EPD requirements and documented their condition and location to support future grant applications.



City of Sparta – August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Wastewater Reclamation Plant Report

- Wastewater staff continued normal operations, including daily monitoring, water sampling, equipment maintenance, pond and land management, and compliance reporting to ensure uninterrupted treatment and adherence to regulatory requirements.
- The gate at Field 10 was repaired after evidence of tampering was found, and the K-9 unit was notified due to drugs previously found nearby.
- Staff assisted with repairing the 2-inch water line leading to the influent bar screen.
- On rainy days, staff supported City Hall by completing minor repairs.
- It was discovered that a beaver had chewed through the power cable for Aerator 2 while it was out of service during Synagro's dredging operations. A new cable has been ordered, with delivery expected in mid-August.
- Aerators 1, 5, and 6 were placed back in service after dredging activities were completed.
- The power cable for Aerator 4 was found to have snapped and will require replacement.
- Staff used a boat to remove trash from the aerators. This debris accumulation—more than has been observed in years—was expected after restarting the system post-dredging. Approximately 0.5 feet of material remains at the bottom of the pond, most of which is trash that settled over many years.
- Staff used weed trimmers to clear vegetation around equipment in areas that had not been maintained by Public Works.
- Asphalt millings were spread in recurring potholes around the plant to improve driving surfaces and prevent further deterioration.
- Good housekeeping tasks were completed, including emptying trash, removing oil buckets, cleaning the laboratory refrigerator, sweeping, moping, and other miscellaneous tasks.
- Amanda Martin Akins provided training to Mitchell Ray Perritt on running nitrate tests as part of his interest in obtaining a laboratory license.



City of Sparta – August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Report

- Mitchell Ray Perritt provided cross-training to Courtney Johnson on performing pH/DO tests to ensure backup coverage when a licensed operator is unavailable.
- A job posting was issued for a Wastewater Operator Trainee position following the permanent transfer of Michael Heath Graham to the Public Works Department. Interviews were scheduled for late July and early August.
- Contacted the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) regarding the ongoing standstill with the Prison on the sewage use agreement and EPD's request for penalties. A meeting is scheduled for mid-August between EPD, the City, and the Prison to reach a mutually acceptable solution. The existing sewer use agreement, last updated in the 1970s, does not meet EPD's current standards.

City of Sparta – August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Natural Gas Report

- During the month of July, we experienced two incidents involving damaged gas services. One service line was struck by a lawnmower, and the other was damaged by a mini excavator. Both incidents involved service lines only and were addressed promptly. Reports were filed with GUFPA.
- We also responded to a leaking 2" steel service line at the old school on Reese Street. After locating the leak, we excavated the line, performed a squeeze-off, cut the line, and welded a steel cap to safely seal it. The cost for this project was \$3,400.00
- Additionally, we discovered a ¾" steel line resting on top of our 2" steel main, which required further investigation and documentation. This has been noted for future relocating as funds become available.
- Harp and the City of Sparta staff are currently troubleshooting an issue with the cathodic protection system in the Reese Street, Dyer Circle, and Central Avenue areas. We have identified a ground-to-short problem and are actively working to pinpoint and resolve it.
- This month, we have also been locating and attempting to trace our 2" poly pipe that serves the school on Greensboro Highway.
- We also removed two inactive service lines on Boland Street and permanently disconnected a service on Smith Drive.
- In July, Bobby, CJ, and Ray participated in training sessions provided by the Georgia Gas Authority to maintain certification and compliance. Training is scheduled for Amanda, Tony, Donald, and Heath in August.
- The Public Service Commission (PSC) visited to review our DIMP and DIMP IMP plans. Unfortunately, we received two violations due to missing paperwork from 2021-2023 years, resulting in a \$5,000 fine. We are taking steps to ensure all documentation is properly maintained moving forward.
- We received a delivery of 65 gallons of odorant for the natural gas system to maintain proper odorization levels. The invoice for this has not been sent yet.



City of Sparta – August 12, 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.
- Re-in took one dog that had previously been adopted out after the owner could no longer care for the animal.
- Handled a call on July 18, 2025, regarding a stray dog found at the Harmony Court Apartments. The dog was not aggressive, and shelter staff successfully resolved the situation after determining it was a rehoming case.
- Euthanized four dogs that were deemed unadoptable due to severe hereditary skin conditions.
- Continued photographing dogs for adoption listings and maintained updated adoption profiles.
- Worked with local law enforcement regarding problematic or stray dogs.
- Continued work on obtaining quotes to fix fencing at Animal Shelter.



City of Sparta – August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Report

Administrative Report

- A Five-Year Capital Outlay plan template was created and distributed to department heads for completion.
- The 2025 budget was reviewed with Finance to determine any adjustments needed before year-end.
- The City was awarded the Drip Drop Grant for firefighters, with delivery of the dehydration packets expected in late August.
- Met with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to discuss a new grant for Hurricane Disaster Relief and determine eligibility; a second meeting is scheduled for early August to determine project and next steps.
- Staff have been invited to present at the Southeastern Fats, Oils, and Grease Conference in Stockbridge in August. All conference fees have been waived, resulting in no cost to the City, and the presentation will allow the employee to earn the continuing education units (CEUs) required to maintain a wastewater license.
- Scheduled training with the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) for flagger certification, with sessions beginning in September for staff.
- Georgia College & State University's (GCSU) Service Day is scheduled for August 16, 2025. Staff will coordinate with participating students to assist with organizing City Hall and walking dogs at the Animal Shelter. Attendance is expected to be approximately 10 to 20 students.
- The employee appreciation was held on August 1, 2025 and had nearly 30 employees in attendance. All were treated to a catfish luncheon, give raffle prizes, and swag items.
- Staff continued to work with GIRMA seeking funding from damages from Hurricane Helene.
- Staff applied for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Infrastructure Grant for new water tanks. This requires a 25% match which can be used from GEFA.

City of Sparta – August 12, 2025 Council Meeting Report



City of Sparta

City Council Report of Completed Dredging Work



On July 23rd, Synagro removed their equipment from Pond 1.

A crane arrived to lift the dredge out of the pond and load it on a flatbed trailer.

All of the hoses were loaded along with the clamps and remaining hardware.



The belt press was also loaded onto a separate trailer and prepped for transport. Power had been disconnected the week prior when the mixing tank was removed.



On July 28th, Synagro arrived to spread grass seed, hay, and grass mats on the bare spots left by the placement of the equipment. A skid steer loader was delivered by Sunbelt rentals. Robbie Ridley used the loader to perform some minor grading on the lightly damaged ground. He then spread out the seed, hay, and mats. A pump from Sunbelt rentals remains on the premises until they come to pick it up.



Work and Final Numbers Summary

April 22,2025- Synagro began setting up dredging equipment.

July 28,2025- Synagro leaves after the grass application.

Work was performed on Pond 1 for a total of 70 days (not including weekends).

The first load was taken on May 16,2025. The last load was taken on July 11,2025.

A total of 42 loads were removed from Pond 1 for a sum of 595.35 wet tons. After lab testing, the final numbers come to 342.96 tons in dry weight.

Light reseedling was done by city staff using Sludge Rx to speed up the microorganism growth.

Aerators have been placed back in service.

Street Dept Report

August 12, 2025

- Cleared 1 ½ acres on Industrial Drive for Water Tower Project. Hauled trash to area beside main lift station. Silt fence was installed to prevent soil erosion. Used tires were hauled to Recycling Company in Jackson
- Unstopped storm drains behind Bell & Lewis Street ^{leading to} - led better
- Worked on storm drain on Jamie Kennedy Blvd and Britt Street. Jetted both driveway and drainpipe
- Performed regular maintenance on Zero Turn mowers, weed eaters, edgers, Bobcat, John Deere Mini Excavator and Kubota Tractor. Also made repairs to Kubota tractor
- Assisted gas department with locating gas line
- Maintained grass cutting, gas rectifiers and lift stations throughout City. Picked up trash, chipped limbs and sprayed

Street Department August 2025 Meeting

