



# NEWSLETTER



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### City Hall Leadership Update

The City Council's decision to hold off on hiring a City Administrator remains in effect. In the meantime, Mayor Woods continues to oversee the city's daily operations. Additionally, Bailee Locke has stepped into the role of Deputy Administrator while also serving as Clerk to Council and managing Human Resources. This leadership structure ensures the continued efficiency and stability of city operations.

### Now Accepting Applications for Chief of Police



The City of Liberty is now accepting applications for the position of Chief of Police. While current officers employed by the City are encouraged to apply, we are also welcoming applications from qualified individuals who meet the necessary requirements. Interested candidates must submit a cover letter, resume, at least five professional references, and salary expectations via email to Mayor@libertysc.com. All application materials must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2025. We look forward to selecting a dedicated leader to serve and protect our community!

### A note from Mayor Erica Romo Woods

Happy New Year, Liberty! As we say goodbye to 2024, we leave it with a sense of accomplishment and gratefulness for the progress we've made and the challenges we continue to overcome.

In the past 3 years we have made major improvements to our infrastructure with upgrading a lift station and installing new water and sewer lines. In 2024 we continued that work as we completed the rehab to our Quarry Road/Old Norris Road lift station. Another big achievement in 2024 is our City of Liberty Comprehensive Plan. This was a long time coming and it took all of us coming together to make this happen. Thank you to our Planning Commission, staff, council, and those who came out from the public to give their input, which helped cast the vision that will guide the City of Liberty toward an exciting future.

I pray the year 2025 brings us closer together as a community as we focus and work together on our common goal of making Liberty the best place to live. God bless you, your families, and Liberty.

FOR THE LOVE OF LIBERTY,  
MAYOR ERICA ROMO WOODS



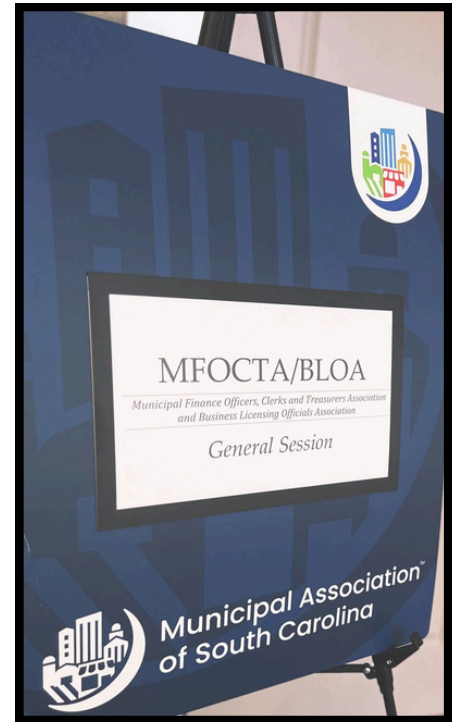


# Enhancing Staff Knowledge

Katie Sizemore, our Communications and Business License Manager, recently attended her second Joint Academy for Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks, Treasurers, and Business Licensing Officials, hosted by the Municipal Association of South Carolina in October 2024.

During the academy, Katie had the opportunity to collaborate with other business license officials, gaining valuable insights into how different municipalities operate and how they handle certain situations. She connected with public servants from across the state, learned from expert speakers, and strengthened her skills in navigating complex challenges within her field.

Reflecting on her growth over the past two years, Katie shared how proud she is of both her professional and personal development. “Being a public servant, especially in a small municipality, has its challenges, but knowing the impact my work has on the community and the general budget makes it all worth it,” she said. She is grateful for the mentors and colleagues who have supported her along the way and looks forward to applying her knowledge to better serve Liberty. We’re excited to see how she continues to grow and represent our city in next year’s academy!



**Friendly reminder:** Business license renewals are due by April 30, 2025. Please note that updates to the business license ordinance will take effect for the 2025-2026 license year.

## TRICK-OR-TREAT ON COMMERCE STREET



This year’s Trick-or-Treat on Commerce Street was a fantastic night filled with candy, costumes, and community fun. We had 30 individuals and businesses sign up to hand out treats, making sure all our little ghosts and goblins left with full buckets and big smiles.

A huge shoutout to the Liberty High School Interact Club for stepping up to volunteer and keeping the energy high with a fun playlist. And of course, a big thank you to our city employees for working hard to make this event happen again this year.

We’re so grateful for everyone who came out and made the night special—we’re already looking forward to making next year’s event even bigger and better.



# Community Updates & Milestones

Exciting things are happening in the City of Liberty! On October 14, 2024, we officially welcomed three annexations at 103, 109, 112, and 113 Greene Forest Circle, expanding our community and bringing in new neighbors. October was also a month of reflection and awareness, as we issued proclamations recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month & Day—a meaningful reminder to support and uplift those affected.

Another significant milestone came on November 11, 2024, with the passage of the 2024-06 Resolution, allowing Councilmembers to join the State Health Insurance plan.

And, in a major step forward for Liberty's future, we officially adopted our Comprehensive Plan on December 9, 2024! This long-term vision will help shape growth and development in our city for years to come. There's so much happening in our community, and we can't wait to share what's next in our next newsletter! Stay tuned.



## Officer Mia Weidman Named Liberty Police Department's 2024 Officer of the Year



On Monday, November 18, first responders gathered for the Pickens County Municipal Association's Annual First Responder Banquet. That evening, Officer Mia Weidman was honored as the 2024 Officer of the Year for the Liberty Police Department, recognizing her dedication to serving our community.

Officer Weidman exemplifies compassion and respect in everything she does, always going the extra mile to lend a helping hand. Her commitment extends far beyond enforcement—this year, the city received numerous compliments from citizens and businesses praising her professionalism and kindness.

We are incredibly proud to have Officer Weidman on our team. She is an invaluable asset to the Liberty Police Department, and our community is fortunate to have her protecting and serving every day.

## Now Accepting Applications for Chief of Police (continued)

For more details about the position and to see the full job description, visit the Employment section on our website at [Libertysc.com](http://Libertysc.com) or click on the job posting image right on our homepage.

We'll be starting interviews the week of March 10, 2025, and we're excited to find a passionate, dedicated leader who will serve and protect our community with integrity.





# Second Annual Shop with a Cop



Thanks to the generosity of our community and the dedication of our local heroes, we were able to provide many children in need with a Christmas they won't forget. In Liberty alone, we made this possible for around 20 local children, giving them an unforgettable holiday. This would not have been possible without community support. Through our bucket drives and local donations, we collectively raised over \$10,000 to make this event happen.

Thank you to The Punishers Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club and other local first responders for playing a part in this year's Shop with a Cop. A special thank you also goes out to Central Walmart (Eighteen Mile Rd) for helping make our 2nd Annual Shop with a Cop & Other Heroes a huge success!

The Shop with a Cop event was introduced to the City of Liberty thanks to the efforts of Interim Chief Vic Tetter. His dedication to the community and its youth is truly admirable.





# HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING



The City of Liberty kicked off the holiday season in with our annual Tree Lighting on December 6th and the Holly Jolly Christmas Parade on December 7th.

The City of Liberty gathered to celebrate the start of the holiday season with the Tree Lighting ceremony. The evening began with an invocation by Pastor Goodjoin from New Hope Baptist Church. Pastor Jackson from Calumet Baptist Church led the crowd in singing Christmas carols and spreading holiday cheer. The church also generously provided hot chocolate and cookies for attendees to enjoy.



A big thank you goes out to the LHS Interact Club for volunteering as Santa's elves and for their continued commitment to serving the Liberty community. And of course, we can't forget Santa himself, who made a special visit to Liberty, bringing joy and excitement to children and families alike.



The holiday festivities continued the following evening with the Holly Jolly Christmas Parade on December 7th. The parade was filled with festive floats, colorful lights, and holiday spirit.

The parade winners were:

- First Place (Tie): Muse Egg Farm & The Elf on the Tricycle
- Second Place: Davis Premier Contractors
- Third Place: Palmetto Pool & Spa



A special thank you to our judges—County Councilman Roy Costner, Neil Lomax, Lifetime Liberty Citizen, Katie Sizemore, Communications & Business License Manager for the City of Liberty, and our Emcee, Justin Ray Williams, Executive Director of the South Carolina Entertainment and Music Hall of Fame, and part of the management team at the Pickens County Performing Arts Center—for generously lending their time.



We are incredibly grateful to all of the parade participants and spectators who made the event so memorable. A special shoutout to Isaac Esuary for capturing the event with his photography and to the hardworking City Hall staff for ensuring everything ran smoothly.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who came out to support the City of Liberty's holiday events. Your presence and enthusiasm made this year's celebrations even more special. We appreciate our staff for the countless hours and hard work that go into making these events a success, and we are proud to serve such a wonderful community.







## 2025 Residential Trash Collection Schedule

Meridian Waste will observe six holidays during the 2025 calendar year that will affect residential trash collection. Holidays that Meridian will observe is as follows: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. No Collection of trash will be done on those holidays and collection will be pushed forward one day for the remainder of that week. If a holiday falls on a non-scheduled collection day, (Saturday or Sunday), there will be no change and collection will be on a regular schedule.

**New Year's Day ..... Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

Monday and Tuesday routes will remain the same

Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day ..... Monday, January 20, 2025**

All routes will be collected on the regular scheduled collection day

**President's Day..... Monday, February 17, 2025**

All routes will be collected on the regular scheduled collection day

**Memorial Day ..... Monday, May 26, 2025**

Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday

Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday

Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday

**Juneteenth..... Thursday, June 19, 2025**

All routes will be collected on the regular scheduled collection day

**Independence Day ..... Friday, July 4, 2025**

Monday through Thursday's routes will remain the same

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday

**Labor Day ..... Monday, September 1, 2025**

Monday's route will be collected on Tuesday

Tuesday's route will be collected on Wednesday

Wednesday's route will be collected on Thursday

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday

**Columbus Day ..... Monday, October 12, 2025**

All routes will be collected on the regular scheduled collection day

**Veterans Day ..... Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

All routes will be collected on the regular scheduled collection day

**Thanksgiving ..... Thursday, November 27, 2025**

Monday through Wednesday routes will remain the same

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday

**Christmas Day ..... Thursday, December 25, 2025**

Monday through Wednesday routes will remain the same

Thursday's route will be collected on Friday

Friday's route will be collected on Saturday



# Second Quarter Budget Update

General Fund Net Income (Loss) for Q2 2024/2025 is (\$194,222).

Utility Fund Net Income (Loss) for Q2 2024/2025 is \$99,538.

Hospitality Fund Net Income (Loss) for Q2 2024/2025 is \$25,299.

Victim's Services Net Income (Loss) for Q2 2024/2025 is (\$516).

Other Funds Net Income (Loss) showing \$0.

Bank Balance at December 2024 is \$1,948,358.55.

The City had an overall net loss of (\$69,900) for Q2 2024/2025.

The City is six months into the 2025 fiscal year - a good basis to guide progress is comparing budget to actual results. 50% of budget remaining would be the goal. For budgeted revenue, total budgeted revenue remaining is at 56% - slightly behind budget as expected. General fund is behind budget at 63.7% while Utility fund is slightly ahead of budget at 44.9%. Hospitality tax revenue and expenditures are both in line with budget at 48.3% and 66.5% respectively.

For expenditures, total expenditures very close to budget with 50.42% of budget remaining, right at the 50% goal. General fund is at 48.8% of budget remaining, just under the 50% goal. Utility fund is at 51.5% of budget, which is on track with the budget goal of 50%. Continue to monitor expenditures and keep spending down as much as possible as this will help to keep spending in line with budget. Overall, revenues and expenditures remaining in line with budget 6 months into FY 2025.

Utility fund, with a year to date net income of \$99.5k, is showing a good trend so far thru 6 months.

City of Liberty, like many municipalities, are subject to a cyclical revenue cycle throughout their fiscal year. During the year there are months where revenues are minimal and not able to cover expenses incurred in that particular month. This is often offset by months of windfalls from property tax, annual licenses, and other periodic services that create a large surplus of income to help offset the less active months. This is a low season for property tax collections as FY 2025 tax invoices typically go out in Oct/Nov time frame by the County. Collections should increase for property taxes November/December/January time frame. Business licenses from MASC are also typically received in a large lump sum in June. Franchisee fees are often received once a quarter.



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# WAFFLE FEST™

**Liberty, SC**

**Presented by:**



***March 29th 2025 10am - 4pm***  
***W. Front St & S. Commerce St***

- **FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS**
- **FREE KIDS ZONE "WAFFLE WONDERLAND"**  
*MADE POSSIBLE BY POTTERS CLAY FELLOWSHIP*
- **FACE PAINTING**
- **TRACKLESS TRAIN RIDES**
- **GAMES & MORE**
- **CONTESTS & MORE**

## LIVE MUSIC



***Email [Events@LibertySC.com](mailto:Events@LibertySC.com)***  
***for more information***





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