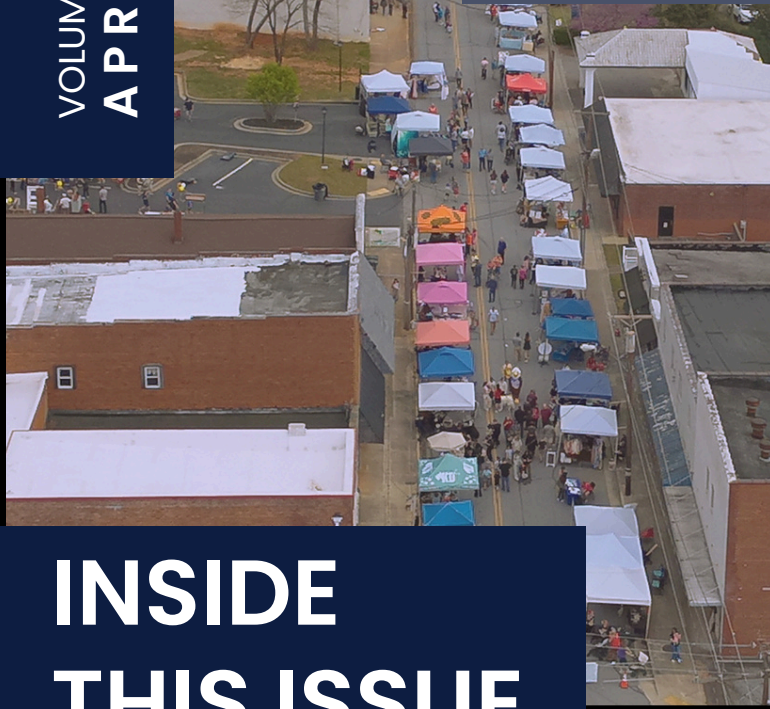




# NEWSLETTER



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### City Staff participates in Community Champions Week And partnered with Pickens County Meals on Wheels

City staff once again took part in Community Champions Week and partnered with Pickens County Meals on Wheels. PCMOW is an organization dedicated to providing nutritious meals and much-needed companionship to homebound seniors and individuals in need. Meals on Wheels serves as a lifeline for so many in our community, ensuring that no one is left hungry or forgotten.



Each year, Liberty staff makes it a priority to participate, showing up not just to deliver meals but to connect with those we serve as a community. This year was no different, Mayor Erica Woods, Vic Tetter, Sara Howard, Josh Black, and Tim "Tooter" Moore took on three delivery routes, bringing warm meals to citizens doors and making connections with residents across Pickens County.



Some staff and Council Members went above and beyond, pictured on the bottom left is council member Robbie Shoenleben —helping pack meals alongside Mayor Halfacre (Clemson) and Councilwoman Judy Shaw (Six Mile) before heading out to deliver meals himself! Sergeant Freeman & Thomas as well as Officers Rogers, and Borrico also stepped up to serve, proving once again that community service is at the heart of Liberty's mission.



The City of Liberty is honored to take part in this initiative year after year, and we look forward to continuing our commitment to making a difference.





# City Council Updates Water Billing Ordinance

At the February 10, 2025, meeting, City Council approved updates to the Water Billing Ordinance (Chapter 53, Article II, Section 53-38) to help keep things consistent and transparent for residents regarding utility billing.

A key change is that water connection fees will now be set in the annual city budget, ensuring they stay up to date. If no new rate is specified, the previous year's fees will carry over.

Water meters will continue to be read monthly, and bills will still be due by the 20th of each month. If a bill isn't paid by the 25th, a late penalty will apply. Any unpaid balances after the 28th could lead to service disconnection, so it's important to stay current to avoid disruptions.



These updates are designed to streamline billing, maintain financial accountability, and keep city services running smoothly. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to City Hall!

## Liberty Vs. Easley Alumni Game



On Friday, March 7th, alumni from the Easley and Liberty recreation departments came together for a basketball game hosted by Neil Lomax and the Liberty Rec Department. More than just a game, many years ago, the event was created to raise funds that help the community children—regardless of financial circumstances—has the opportunity to participate in recreation programs.

Every bit of time, energy, and planning is done with love for Liberty. “I just wanted to invite people who have given this town a piece of their heart and give families a chance to come out and have fun.” said Lomax.

A special thanks to participants Cal Dunlap, Harvey Norris, Neil Lomax, Justin Smith, Brandon Alexander, Michael White, Nikki White, Diangelo Brown, Zack Bryant, Toby Kay, Kris Rice, and Kendrick King and others for making this meaningful night one to remember!



# Community Updates & Milestones

The City of Liberty Council recently addressed several important items. Resolution 2025-01(R) was adopted, updating the City's Procurement Policy. Two proclamations were issued—one recognizing Arts Advocacy Week, which will be observed February 10–14, and another declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Council held the second reading of Ordinance 2025-01(O), which includes amendments to Chapter 53, Article II, Section 53-38 regarding water billing. Discussions also began for the development of the Capital Improvement Plan. Additionally, a Budget Retreat was scheduled to begin planning for the 2025–2026 City Operating Budget. Ordinance 2025-02 was introduced to amend the Business License Ordinance and update the class schedule as required by Act 176 of 2020.



## Rec Department Updates



We're proud to share that Joshua Black, Liberty's Parks and Recreation Director, has earned the Certified Youth Sports Administrator (CYSA) credential through the National Alliance for Youth Sports. This certification highlights Joshua's dedication to creating safe, fun, and positive sports experiences for kids in our community.

### Big Wins for Parks & Rec!

Thanks to a \$42,589 grant from Pickens County, we've made and continue to make some exciting upgrades:

- A new scoreboard for the football stadium
- Two new scoreboards at the City Gym and Mills Avenue Gym
- LED lighting upgrades to the Mills Avenue Gym

Our maintenance crew also resurfaced the court at the City Gym—special thanks to Scott Alexander, Pickens County maintenance, and Enviro Mulch for their generous support!

And a big thank-you to Flat Rock Baptist Church for partnering with us to provide additional gym space for our growing programs.





# Mayor Woods Advocates for Liberty in Washington, D.C.

In March, Mayor Woods made a trip to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the City of Liberty and the Pickens Regional Joint Water System (PRJWS).

She, along with other PRJWS commissioners, met with staff members from Senators Graham's and Scott's offices and had the privilege of speaking with Congresswoman Sheri Biggs. All expressed strong support for this exciting and important project, as well as for our ongoing efforts to ensure the management of a reliable water supply for the City of Liberty and Pickens County residents.



These personal interactions are crucial for building relationships between local leaders and state and federal representatives.

Continuing to nurture these connections can lead to ongoing support and collaboration on this and other projects and issues.

Mayor Woods and our City Council continue to work diligently to help create a brighter and more sustainable future for our community!

## Update on Brownfields Grant

On April 14th, The City of Liberty hosted its first community meeting to discuss the Brownsfields Assessment Grant Program. The City, in partnership with Terracon and The Asiko Group, is working to transform unused spaces and historic buildings into thriving opportunities for growth and development.

Thank you to those that were able to make the meeting and allowed their voices to be heard. We will be hosting more community events so be on the lookout for more information and ways to get involved.

As a reminder, we are still seeking citizens to join our Steering Committee. To apply, please visit the City's brownfields website to download the application form or follow this link. <https://bit.ly/brownfieldepa>



## Welcome to the Team, Asa!

A big warm welcome to our newest Police Officer, A lifelong resident of Liberty, Asa Stewart. Asa has proudly served in the United States Marine Corps for five years, achieving the rank of Corporal. He is stationed out of Fort LAR Fox Company in Columbia and recently got married. Asa was sworn in on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2025.

A fun fact about Asa—he has three dogs! He's excited to serve the City of Liberty, combining his passion for serving his country with his love for his hometown. We're thrilled to have him on board!





# First Annual SC Waffle Fest: A Sweet Success!



Liberty's First Annual SC Waffle Fest was everything we hoped for and more—over 5,000 people came out to celebrate all things waffles with us, and the energy was contagious!

Downtown was packed with over 50 vendors, and every food truck brought at least one waffle-inspired dish (some sweet, some savory, all delicious!). Even our artisan vendors joined in on the fun with waffle-themed goodies, decorations, and giveaways.

From the Waffle Toss and Beard Contest to the Waffle Eating Competition hosted by Dr. David Powers, every contest was a hit. A big shoutout to Paul Family Farms for donating maple syrup for the prizes, and to the US Waffle Company for being our presenting sponsor and providing the waffles that made it all possible.



Live music from the Sweet Potato Pie Kids, David Locke, and The Blues Deluxe Band filled the streets as everyone enjoyed the festivities. The Waffle Wonderland Kid's Zone was a huge hit! With bounce houses, face painting, games, and tons of prizes, we saw nothing but smiling faces. A special thank you to Potters Clay Fellowship for organizing this magical part of the festival. We also want to thank County Councilman Scott Lang and State Representative Davey Hiott for joining in on the festivities.

You might have also spotted Katie Sizemore, our Communications and Business License Manager, on Fox Carolina and WSPA 7NEWS—joined by her dog Frank, who totally stole the show in his chicken-and-waffle bandana (and yes, he showed remarkable restraint not eating the waffles during the interview).



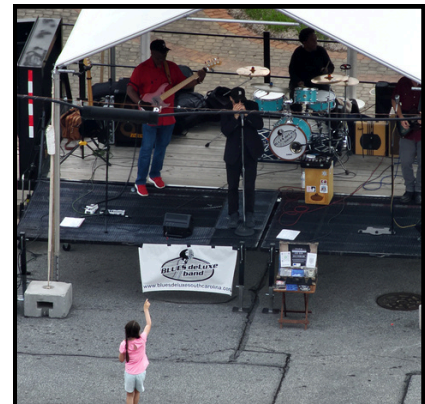
None of this would've been possible without our incredible team. Thank you to Mayor Erica Romo Woods, Liberty City Council, and all of our City staff who went above and beyond to bring this event to life. From early morning setup to late-night cleanup, your hard work didn't go unnoticed. And let's not forget our awesome volunteers! The Interact Club from Liberty High School and our head volunteer, Michelle Bryant, truly kept things running smoothly all day long. We couldn't have done it without you all.



We're already dreaming up what next year's SC Waffle Fest will look like—and trust us, it's going to be even better!



Paul Family Farms  
Since 1865





# Vic Tetter Officially Appointed as Liberty's Police Chief



We're proud to officially announce that Vic Tetter has been appointed as Police Chief for the City of Liberty!

Chief Tetter brings with him over 27 years of law enforcement experience, including 11 years in upper-level leadership. Since joining the Liberty Police Department in 2013, and earning a promotion to Captain in 2017, he has shown dedication to the safety and well-being of our community.

Since stepping into the role of Interim Chief in September 2024, Chief Tetter has made a meaningful impact—enhancing public safety and



community engagement, boosting department morale, and strengthening regional partnerships with surrounding agencies. His steady leadership and deep knowledge of our community have already made a difference.

On the evening of April 14, Chief Tetter was officially sworn in. We're excited for what the future holds under his leadership and are confident he will continue to serve the City of Liberty with the same commitment, integrity, and excellence he's demonstrated for over a decade.

Congratulations, Chief Tetter!



## LOVE MY LIBERTY

COME ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> - JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>



<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">THURSDAY JULY 3<sup>RD</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Carnival</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00PM - 10:00PM CITY STADIUM PARKING LOT <b>Ticket Sales Only</b></p>  	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">FRIDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Carnival</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5:00PM - 10:00PM CITY STADIUM PARKING LOT <b>\$25 Wristbands</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Love my Liberty <b>FREE TO ENTER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 PM - 10:00 PM **ON THE FIELD**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LIVE MUSIC</li> <li>• FOOD TRUCKS</li> <li>• FREE INTERACTIVE GAMES &amp; BOUNCE HOUSES</li> <li>• SPONSORED BY POTTERS CLAY FELLOWSHIP</li> <li>• &amp; MORE</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Fireworks</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9:30PM</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; gap: 20px;">   </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">SATURDAY JULY 5<sup>TH</sup></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Carnival</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:00PM - 10:00PM CITY STADIUM PARKING LOT <b>\$30 Wristbands</b></p>  
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# Third Quarter Budget Update

## Profit & Loss by Fund - Q3 2024/2025

General Fund Net Income (Loss) for Q3 2024/2025 is (\$57,939).

Utility Fund Net Income (Loss) for Q3 2024/2025 is \$134,910.

Hospitality Fund Net Income (Loss) for Q3 2024/2025 is \$15,752.

Victim's Services Net Income (Loss) for Q3 2024/2025 is (\$1,808).

Other Funds Net Income (Loss) showing \$188.

Bank Balance at March 2025 is \$2,433,357.54.

The City had an overall net income(loss) of \$91,102 for Q3 2024/2025.

The City is 9 months into the 2025 fiscal year - a good basis to guide progress is comparing budget to actual results. 25% of budget remaining would be the goal. For budgeted revenue, total budgeted revenue remaining is at 32.94% - 8% behind budget. General fund is behind budget at 42.9% remaining while Utility fund is slightly ahead of budget at 18.96%. Hospitality tax revenue is in line with budget at 24.31% remaining.

For expenditures, total expenditures are on track with 28.05% of budget remaining, on target for the 25% goal. General fund is at 25.52% of budget remaining, right at the 25% goal. Utility fund is at 29.82% of budget remaining, ahead of target of 25%. 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 9 months into FY 2025.

Utility fund, with a year to date net income of , is showing strong thru the first 9 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. We are entering the time of the year where large payments for property taxes are received by the city. Tax Programs from MASC are also typically received in a large lump sum in June. Franchise fees are often received once a quarter.

Through the first 9 months of FY25 we are behind the anticipated revenue budget by \$400K which should be reduced from the MASC insurance tax program received in June. The balance moving forward will need to be responsibly distributed to cover the deficits in the final few months of the fiscal year.



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