

July/August 2025 City/Financial Report

City Hall:

- Following the completion of our Comprehensive Plan, we have moved directly into updating the Zoning Ordinance. Due to the time it has taken to complete this process, we've decided to delay the start of the Strategic Plan until the Zoning Ordinance is finalized. With the upcoming election, we anticipate beginning the Strategic Plan in January or February of 2026.
- We are still in the interview process for the Administrative Coordinator position. To clarify, this position is not an assistant to me. It is primarily responsible for overseeing events and economic development. While the role is based in City Hall, the person selected will also be cross-trained in the Water Department and Business License Department, as all City Hall staff are. We are still actively interviewing for this position.
- We currently have one open position in Public Works. We will shift our focus to filling that role once the Administrative Coordinator position has been finalized.
- We have gone live with both the new website and the new business license/hospitality tax processing software. Both still require maintenance and will take a little time to reach 100%.
- The business license software will be fully operational by the 2026–2027 business license renewal season. The new software allows business owners to make payments online. City Hall is no longer accepting cash payments for business licenses...check or card only. A total of 26 business owners still have not paid their renewals. Currently a penalty of 30% and a \$25 filing fee applies to these businesses. Additional delinquency notices were sent out during the last week of July.
- The new website is up and running and comes with a new app that is completely free to download. Check out the Facebook page to learn about all of the features available to our citizens.
- We have released three newsletters so far and expect the next one to go out at the end of August. Katie has not received any input from constituents about what they would like to see more of in the newsletters, so she has been working with Mayor Woods to highlight different things happening in Liberty. This next issue will cover April, May, June, and July. It's important to note that newsletters may sometimes cover more or less than three months, depending on the amount of information included and when some information becomes available. There is no set timeline of when these will be published.
- We hired four new employees in total.
Two joined the Recreation Department: Ashley Baker, Athletic Coordinator, and Thomas Riddle, Facility Maintenance and Parks & Recreation Assistant.

Two certified officers—Benjamin Perry and Sean Smith—joined the Liberty Police Department on June 16, 2025. Both are experienced law enforcement professionals and, after completing the department's field training program, are now assigned to uniform patrol.

- Update on the Maplecroft paving project. We put bids out, and we received no bids. At the time, the previous city administrator had reached out to the County. They had consented to do the work. Since then, they have pulled out and are only focusing on their projects. We will be reopening these bids at a later date at the discretion of our City Engineer.
- Update on our EPA Grant. We have our first Steering Committee meeting in September. We have 10 committee members.

Recreation:

- 1) Football Cheer Registrations (50)
- 2) Tackle Football Registrations (56)
- 3) 6U Flag Football Registrations (31)
- 4) Fall Volleyball Registrations (44)
- 5) Fall T-ball, Baseball and Softball Registrations (45)
- 6) New/Renewed Sponsorship (1)
- 7) Maintain all Parks and Recreation grounds and facilities.
- 8) Rental of city stadium for this month (0)
- 9) Rental of Rosewood center / parking lot Animal Vet 2 times per month.
- 10) Rental of Mills Ave (2)
- 11) Rental of City Gym (2)
- 12) Rental of Baseball field (2)

Police:

June:

Warnings Issued – 166

Citations Issued – 103

Total Arrested – 6

July:

Warnings Issued – 141

Citations Issued – 153

Total Arrested – 8

Community & Events

4th of July

The Liberty Police Department helped support the City's 4th of July celebration by setting up barricades and traffic cones, directing traffic, assisting with parking, and ensuring everyone's safety during the carnival and evening events.

Water Tag

On July 26th, 2025, officers joined city staff and community members for a Water Tag event. It was a great chance to cool off, have some fun, and connect with the community in a laid-back setting.

Finances:

May 2025 City Finances

- General Fund: Lost \$226,193 in May. So far this year (Jan–May), it's down \$523,323.
- Utility Fund: Made \$85,941 in May. Year-to-date total is \$400,999 – this fund is doing well.
- Hospitality Fund: Made \$11,687 in May. Year-to-date total is \$65,551.
- Victim's Services: Lost \$386 in May. Year-to-date total is a loss of \$2,860.

Bank Balance (end of May): \$2,714,915.48

Overall: The City lost \$128,952 in May 2025.

(10 months into the fiscal year)

- Revenue goal: By now, we'd want only about 16.6% of our budgeted revenue left to collect. We actually have 21% left – about 5% behind schedule.
 - General Fund: 29% of revenue still to collect → behind schedule.
 - Utility Fund: 9.6% left → ahead of schedule.
 - Hospitality Tax: 15% left → on track.
- Spending goal: By now, we'd want 16.6% of the budget still unspent. We have 21.3% left → ahead of schedule.
 - General Fund: 18.5% left → slightly ahead of target.
 - Utility Fund: 23% left → well ahead of target.

Big Picture

- Revenues for the month of May are a bit behind budget, but spending is better than budget.
- Utility Fund is performing **strongly**.

- The City's revenue is seasonal. Some months have low income but high expenses; other months (like when property taxes, license fees, or franchise fees come in) bring in big surpluses.
- Large property tax payments and the MASC insurance tax program (coming in June) should help close the \$300K revenue gap.

City of Liberty – June 2025 Finances

How we did in June:

- **General Fund:** Made \$474,175 in June; still down \$74,042 for the year.
- **Utility Fund:** Made \$87,944 in June; up \$486,633 for the year.
- **Hospitality Fund:** Made \$10,441 in June; up \$75,992 for the year.
- **Victim's Services:** Made \$1,369 in June; still down \$1,535 for the year.

Overall for June:

- The City made \$574,229 in total this month.
- Bank balance at the end of June: **\$3.16 million.**

Budget vs. Actual for the Fiscal Year (2025 is now complete):

- **Revenues:** Overall, we're slightly ahead of budget (more money came in than expected).
 - General Fund: **On target.**
 - Utility Fund: 11% **ahead** of budget.
 - Hospitality Tax: 3% **ahead** of budget.
- **Expenses:** We spent **less** than budgeted (good news).
 - General Fund: Almost exactly on target.
 - Utility Fund: Well under budget.

Big picture:

- We brought in \$166K **more** than expected and spent \$242K **less** than expected this year.
- The Utility Fund had a **strong year** with \$486,633 in net income.
- Our income isn't the same every month—some months are slower, but we make up for it when large payments like property taxes, annual license fees, state programs, and quarterly franchise fees come in. June is one of those "big income" months.