



## AGENDA

### LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL

#### Work Session

May 5th, 2026, at 6:45 pm Rosewood Center-

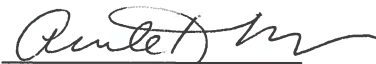
419 E Main St. Liberty, SC 29657

#### TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Welcome & Call to Order - Mayor Andrea Wagner  
**TIME: 6:46 PM**
- 26/27 Fiscal Year Budget
  - Forensic Audit\*
    - Discussion regarding a forensic audit covering approximately 4–8 years
    - Mention of 3 forensic audit items
    - PARD Grant noted as due/processed by the 10th of each month
    - Transfer discussion involving: Brownfields
  - Legal Review and Codification of Ordinances\*\*
    - Legal review involving approximately 56 ordinances
    - Goal is a full review of ordinances
    - Ordinances should become a “living document”
    - Plan to review approximately chapters per month
    - Annexation orders discussed
    - Temporary section setup discussed:
    - Approximately 2 items per month for a year
    - “Top 10” list for Mary that are most important
  - Hospitality 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration (HTax Fund Balance)
    - Discussion surrounding:
    - New Year’s Eve plans
    - Sponsorship opportunities for the 150th Celebration
  - Discussion of mini excavator

- Water Department Updates
  - No Shut List for Medical/Essential Businesses
  - Internal Policy Change: Disconnects
    - Proposal to split disconnects over 2 days
    - Discussion about whether an ordinance amendment is needed  
Mention of: "No shut off" amendment
- Speed Bumps on Alta Vista Ct/Dr
  - Study completed regarding:
  - Speed bumps near Tractor Supply traffic area
  - Tentative timing: September
  - Rubber speed bumps could potentially be moved
  - Mention of month-to-month/half schedule and signage
- Discussion and possible action to promote budget transparency by establishing a council-approved amount that requires individual line-item(s).
  - Discussion about budget transparency initiative
  - Approximate amount referenced: \$1,000
- Updates on Lakewood Heights Tennis Court Repairs
  - Need for: 3 contractor bids
  - Asphalt work discussed involving: Tennis courts, Pickleball courts  
Basketball courts
  - Estimated cost range: Approximately \$20,000
- Updates on Sarlin Park Courtyard Flower Bed
  - Project discussed in 4 stages
  - Cleanup portion already completed
  - Reached out to 3 companies: Only 1 provided a full breakdown
  - Goal to keep area open during work
  - Estimated: 3-4-day job around \$7,600
  - Discussion about sealing: Below or at foundation level
- Adjournment  
@TIME: 8:30 PM

Date Approved: 6/9/26

Mayor, Andrea Wagner: 

## **Forensic Audit\***

- The primary purpose of a forensic audit for a municipality is to detect, investigate, and document evidence of fraud, misconduct, or illegal activities—such as embezzlement, bribery, or asset misappropriation—to support potential legal proceedings and ensure financial integrity.

## **Legal Review and Codification of Ordinances\*\***

-The legal review and recodification of ordinances is a systematic process where experienced attorneys and editorial staff review a municipality's laws to remove obsolete provisions, resolve inconsistencies, and ensure compliance with state statutes. This process typically involves organizing ordinances into a logical structure of chapters and sections, followed by drafting, reviewing, and publishing an updated code for adoption by the governing body.



# AGENDA

LIBERTY CITY COUNCIL

## **SPECIAL SESSION FOLLOWED BY** **WORK SESSION**

June 2nd, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Rosewood Center- 419 E Main St. Liberty, SC 29657

Special Session: @ TIME: 6:33 PM

**All Council Members Present**

- Call to Order - Mayor, Andrea Wagner
- Motion to Enter Executive Session

**Motion: Council Member Massie**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Council Member Whitaker**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: 7-0**

- Pursuant to SC Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2)
  - For the purpose of discussing potential negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, proposed sale or purchase of real property, and the receipt of legal advice regarding same.
  - Executive session is for discussion of, negotiation regarding, and receipt of legal advice concerning contracts with three professional service providers to the City.

*(After returning to regular session, Council may or may not vote or take action on the matter discussed in executive session.)*

○ Motion to Exit Executive

**Motion: Council Member Cantley**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Council Member Whitaker**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: 7-0**

Work Session:

- Potential Land Sale Discussion: Parcel ID # 4097-05-18-8953
  - The City owns a small strip of property located at 19 Anderson Drive, near the intersection of Highway 93 and Highway 178, between the Poncho's and the church. The City has recently been approached by an individual interested in purchasing the property. The property is 632 square feet.
- 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Operating Budget
  - Mayor Wagner and Deputy Administrator Sizemore want to add \$1,200 PPE or safety budget for each of the departments.
  - Council discussed questions regarding the EPA Brownfields budget and clarified that the listed expenses are for Phase Assessments and consultant costs covered through grant funding, not taxpayer dollars. It was also noted that Councilwoman Cantley has been working on gaining access to the middle section behind the parking lot owned by the City (next to Dollar Tree). Positive progress has reportedly been made with the property owner, and the hope is to include the area in ongoing assessments and move the project forward.

- Council discussed adding a new budget line item for promotional materials for the Administration, Police, and Parks & Recreation departments, with an estimated budget of \$1,500–\$2,000. Officials noted the amount is intentionally budgeted high as a starting point and may not all be spent. Deputy Administrator Sizemore explained that the City’s current promotional inventory is extremely limited, with only a small number of pens, stress balls, and stuffed animals remaining from a large order placed several years ago. The materials are intended to help departments better engage with the public during events and community outreach efforts. Council Member Wilson also discussed exploring grant opportunities that may allow promotional or educational materials tied to environmental programs, recycling, or related initiatives to be funded through grant dollars rather than solely through the City budget.
- Council discussed adding \$5,000 to the Parks & Recreation maintenance facilities line item after realizing the previous draft budget showed \$0 allocated. Mayor Wagner and Deputy Administrator Sizemore explained that many larger projects had already been completed this year, but keeping a maintenance line item in the budget is important for unexpected facility repairs and upkeep. There was also discussion regarding HVAC concerns at one of the City facilities, including questions about whether one unit is currently carrying out the workload for the building and if future replacement costs may need to be considered. Council also talked about the long-term need to budget for maintenance and capital improvements across
- City buildings and facilities, including playgrounds and other infrastructure. Council agreed to move forward with the proposed \$5,000 maintenance allocation.
- Council supported renaming the “Community Development Project” budget line item to “Community Development Projects and Partnerships.” The change would merge the existing Concerts on Commerce funding into the new line

item by transferring the \$2,500 allocation into the current \$12,000 budget, creating a combined total of \$14,500.

Council agreed the updated title better reflects the City's increasing partnerships with downtown businesses and organizations that are working with the City to host events and community initiatives.

- Mayor Wagner proposed a New Year's Eve event to close out Liberty's 150th Anniversary celebration. The concept included a family-friendly portion earlier in the evening and a larger nighttime celebration featuring a drone show at midnight. Mayor Wagner explained the event has not yet been marketed because it has not been approved of in the budget. Council discussed the proposal and expressed mixed opinions regarding the estimated \$75,000 cost, competition with surrounding communities, and the use of Hospitality Tax funds for a one-night event. Some members supported the idea as a unique way to celebrate the City's 150th year, while others questioned the long-term impact and return on investment.
- Council discussed several budget-related updates, including corrections to the trash rate information and plans to provide additional documentation and explanations regarding proposed increases during the budget review process. Mayor Wagner noted that fraud protection measures are currently being added to City accounts and that some financial safeguards had not previously been implemented. A discussion took place regarding a proposed water rate increase tied to the City's future transition to Pickens Regional Joint Water System. Mayor Wagner and Deputy Administrator Sizemore explained the increase had originally been suggested by the City engineer as a way to gradually prepare for future costs and build reserves for long-term infrastructure needs. Council expressed concerns about raising rates before it is necessary, especially given prior public discussions about affordability and reducing financial burdens on residents. Council members emphasized the importance of long-term planning for water infrastructure, capital replacement, and future system costs, while also stressing the need for community meetings and public education regarding any future

rate increases. At this time, there appeared to be little support for implementing the proposed water rate increase in the upcoming budget.

- Council discussed the City's procurement policy and whether certain recent purchases and projects should have been brought before Council for approval under the current \$2,500 threshold policy. Administration explained that legal guidance had been sought regarding purchases made through state contract pricing and previously budgeted funds. Several council members emphasized the importance of either following the current policy consistently or formally updating it moving forward. Additional updates were provided on several ongoing projects, including the downtown wall and drainage improvements, tennis court work, and vehicle purchases. Staff noted that some project costs had changed as work progressed and explained adjustments being made to address drainage, accessibility, and waterproofing concerns.

○ Adjournment @**TIME: 9:12 pm**

Date Approved: 4/9/26

Mayor, Andrea Wagner: 