

Mayor's Notes / Actions
Commission Meeting – 9/16/25

Notes from the Mayor

- Focus: We (city hall) are public servants.... The People Are Our Customers!
- Priority: Get people back in their homes and help business get back on their feet.
- Goal: “Whole of City” operations whenever possible

Public Events Held on the Island

- 27 Aug – CDBG-DR Community Meeting #1
- 28 Aug – W3C Meeting (3:00 PM): Library
- 30 Aug – Opening of “Big Dock”
- 03 Sep – CBDG-DR Community Meeting #2 (5:00 pm)

Meetings Held / Actions Taken

- 12 Aug – Meeting with Anchor Consulting, LLC (Harry Henderson)
 - Meeting with Robert Robinson about federal funding for full time fireman and the potential for funding for new fire station
 - Meeting with Tami Wilkes to discuss the possibility of adding an Urgent Care facility to the island and what her needs would be if we were able to get funding for it.
- 19 Aug – Meeting with CFEC (Mark)
 - Identified telephone lines and cable lines to be removed or tightened up. Mark will be working (over the next 3 days) to survey all the wires that need to be addressed and will submit to applicable companies (AT&T, COMCAST, etc) request for maintenance action
- 20 Aug – Meeting with Next Tower
 - Owner of Next Tower is interested in building/installing a cell tower on the island. He expressed interest in using the area with the water tower compound but I expressed concerns about water department infrastructure underground. We discussed other city owned property to include downtown area, City Hall, school field, and property at the end of Sandra St.
 - FAA has significant restrictions on building towers in the approach corridor to the airport.
 - Requested feasibility studies to determine what is possible prior to exploring any specific ideas.
- 25 Aug - Follow-up with FWC-FBIP Coordinator (Haleigh Jo Morgan)
 - Requested expedited contract preparation for Cedar Key Out Marina Launch Ramp Expansion. Expressed that we would like to get started so that we can be prepared for next year's construction grant request. We received approval move forward (60 days back-dating)
- 26 Aug – Phone Call with Army Corps of Engineers (Rick Butler)
 - Discussed the possible USACE providing Planning Assistance for Inner Marina Revitalization & Modernization. He is looking into whether Cost Share (50/50) can be waived for Cedar Key
- 27 Aug – Meeting with F-ROC Coordinator (Amber Durden)
 - Completed the opt-in process. DRA submission closes October 31, 2025
- 28 Aug - Meeting with Lauren Yeatter (Senior Planner, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council)
 - They have completed modeling of inundation from extreme rainfall for the region and have identified vulnerable areas, including Cedar Key. Their next phase of our project is developing Small Area Plans for stormwater projects. The Plans will include conceptual drawings and renderings, as well as data from our model results. She would like to focus on Cedar Key.
 - Asked her to coordinate her efforts with FIBER.
- 29 Aug - Meeting with UF (Cleary Larkin)
 - Initial coordination meeting with UF who received a small grant to conduct a study. Project will focus on defining “Old Florida” through a study of rural Gulf coastal working waterfronts,

natural and cultural landscapes, and resident narratives of identity and resilience. Case studies will be located along the Big Bend and the Forgotten Coast (particular focus on Cedar Key).

- 29 Aug - Interview with TV20
 - Completion the steps for the “Big Dock” and the importance of the pier for Cedar Key.
- 02 Sep - Interview with Chiefland Citizen Newspaper (Editor, Antoniette Meyer)
 - Discussed the opening of the opening of the Big Dock, status of the business on Dock Street, and the plans for the Seafood Festival.
- 02 Sep - Meeting with Lions Club
 - Coordination meeting to discuss plans for the Seafood Festival. Lion’s Club indicated that there will be more Seafood this year. Activities for kids at the park. Clam Boat Stage for live music in the park. The parade this year will have Williston Band and Shriner’s included.
- 02 Sep - Meeting with Potential Buyers of the “Old Steamers” building
 - Potential buyers in the midst of Due Diligence” period. Exploring all aspect of future repair/renovation of the building.
- 03 Sep - Met with UF-Fiber
 - Discussed status of the study on moving essential city services and businesses to the higher ground around city hall. UF-Fiber presented the initial planning assumptions to Fire and Police to help with the planning process. Expecting completion of study NLT Feb 2026.
- 08 Sep - Meeting with Savinacious
 - Reviewed status of FEMA reimbursements projects from Idelia, Debbie, and Helene. Discussed invoice from Savinacious for administrative support provided. Will begin quarterly draws on on the 5% DAC funds already obligated.
- 09 Sep - Support to the Archeological Dig at 742 2nd Street
 - Participated with privately hired archeologists, state archeologists, and community volunteers to process the site where remains were found during post hurricane excavation.
 - Additional remains recovered and processed. Significant number of historical artifacts found that potentially date back thousands of years.
- 10 Sep – Interview with Bay News 9
 - Conducted interview along with County Commissioners Hodge and Hiers. Discussed the opening of the Big Dock and the overall recovery of the island.

Grant Status

Grant Name	Focus Area	Amount	Date Submitted	Date Expected Results	Date Actual Results	Outcome
FWC - Florida Boater Improvement Grant	Outer Marina Ramp Expansion - Engineering Design and Permitting	\$ 249,999.00	4/7/25	Jul-25	2-Jul-25	Win
Huerricane Loss Mitigation Program (HLMP)	Demolition of Old L&M Building	\$ 250,000.00	4/14/25	?		
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Elevate and repair "Old City Hall"	\$ 750,000.00	5/16/25	?		
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	City Pocket Park Development Project	\$ 750,000.00	5/16/25	?		
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	Housing, Disaster Recovery, and Economic Development Planning Project	\$ 517,500.00	5/16/25	?		
Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) Grant	ETIPP Technical Assistance for Strategic Energy Planning	\$ 50,000.00	7/8/25	Oct-25		
Community Planning Technical Assistance (CPTA) Grant	Cedar Key Marina Resiliency and Shoreline Protection Planning Study	\$ 75,000.00	8/1/25	Sep-25		
Florida Department of Law Enforcement Grant	Grant money to purchase a drone	\$ 25,000.00	8/30/25	Sep-25	3-Sep-25	

Staffing Status

- CRA has approved funding a 4th administrative position for CRA administration, grant writing, blight reduction support, and other (TBD) administrative responsibilities
- Jennifer Sylvester was tendered her resignation as of 30 Sep 25
- New Clerk (Laura Roberts) will begins work on 22 Sep 25
- Mayor will coordinate with the administrative staff on determining the best way to distribute duties based on personnel changes (to include re-distribution of clerk responsibilities back to the new clerk, where appropriate, and explore how to best cover “building department” responsibilities).
- Need to determine duties and minimum qualifications for 4th administrative position. Is this a CRA responsibility or a City Commission responsibility?

City of Cedar Key 2025-26 Budget Development Status

Budget Status (as of 9/16/25)

	(CRA not Incl) <u>As of 6/24/25</u>	(\$95,800 for CRA) <u>As of 8/19/25</u>	(\$102,363 for CRA) <u>As of 9/10/25</u>
2025-26 City Budget Revenue:	\$2,142,910.00	\$2,360,191.00	\$2,381,744.00
2025-26 City Budget Expenditures:	\$2,338,518.88	\$2,339,943.41	\$2,381,744.00
2025-26 Net Income:	-\$195,608.88 (Deficit) Millage: 4.3946	\$20,247.59 (Surplus) Millage: 4.7684	\$0 (Balanced) Millage: 4.7684

(*Note: 2024-25 Final Budget Expenditure/Revenue = \$2,837,664.11 with Millage = 4.3946)

Budget Timeline:

20 Jun: Department Head Budget Submissions Completed

24 Jun: Budget Workshop #1– Budget overview with City Commissioners.

- Identified commissioner concerns and changes. Commissioners tasked with coordinating with department heads and identifying specific changes to revenue and expenditures that they would recommend to create a balanced budget.

22 Jul: Budget Workshop #2– Commission Budget Recommendations and approval of Preliminary Millage Rate

- Commissioners present specific changes to revenue and expenditures that they would recommend to create a balanced budget (see form on next page).
- Commissioners agree to Preliminary Millage Rate

04 Aug: Submitted Preliminary Millage Rate

12 Aug – Budget Workshop #3

- Commissioners made updates the budget and discussed salary and health insurance benefits for city employees. Decision at his workshop was a 2.5% cost of living increase for all employees. An additional 1.5% increase for all Public Works employees (not the Director). Health insurance cost share will be 5% employee paid this year.

28 Aug – Budget Workshop #4

10 Sep – Tentative Final Budget and Millage Rate Hearing

24 Sep – Final Budget and Millage Rate Hearing