

Mayor's Notes / Actions
Commission Meeting – 8/19/25

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

- 18 Jul – Onsite Visit: 742 2nd Street Project (Discovery of Human Remains)
- 22 Jul – Budget Workshop / Special Commission Meeting (Setting the Preliminary Millage Rate)
- 24 Jul – CRA Workshop
- 12 Aug – Budget Workshop #3
- 16 Aug – Shark Swim

Meetings Held / Actions Taken

- 16 July – 2025 Florida Boater Improvement Program (FBIP) Awardee Onboarding (10:00 am)
 - Contract being written for each awardee. Documentation requirements discussed.
 - FWC-FBIP is not planning to direct RFP as part of the contract for Outer Marina Launch Engineering Design Project. They defer to municipality purchasing and contracting policies.
- 16 July – Florida Commerce discussion on CDBG-DR grant applications (Garnet Nevels, FCCM - Deputy Bureau Chief, Office of Long-Term Resiliency) (3:00 pm)
 - Discussed grant program and potential projects that might be good candidates for CDBG-DR grants. Water department attended and the hardening of Waste Water and Water Treatment Plants seem to be very good candidates for funding.
 - Old City, Marina Modernization were not considered good candidates. Acquisition of property must be for something like storm water management (not just a park)
 - The outside jetty system/wave attenuation devices may be a good candidate for Engineering/ Feasibility study. Need to address Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) restrictions for federal funding.
- 16 Jul – Communication with Levy County School superintendent to discuss flashing lights and signs for school zone
 - County road departments responsibility. County was seen working to fix flashing lights.
- 17 July – Meeting with ReCedarKey, UF professor (Dave Clarke), and FWC Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Acting Manager
 - Presentation on efforts to re-populate native trees and plants in the Cedar Keys. Meeting attended by FWC Acting Refuge Manager, Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge (John Starke). Significant barrier identified to planting on North Key. Significant coordination / permitting needed to plant on Seahorse Key.
 - Conducted Seahorse Key site visit with FWC representative.
- 18 Jul – 742 2nd Street Project – Site Visit (Owner, FL Dept State, Historic Preservation / State Archeologists, Director, Florida Historic Trust, others).
 - Florida Department of State archeologists spent the day excavating site. Found native American artifacts along with remains. Site has been significantly disturbed by earthwork already done. Worked with home owner and state representative to develop way forward strategy. Property owner planning to hire a cultural resource consultant to help through the process.
 - Cedar Key police will assist in sending found remains to appropriate location for analysis, consolidation and later re-internment.

- 18 Jul – Meeting with Tara Barney to discuss ongoing efforts to create an economic development plan
- 22 Jul – High Water Mark Conference Call (USACE) (10:00 am)
 - Met with Silver Jacket Team to discuss status of highwater mark signs. Edits from meeting being incorporated.
- 25 Jul – Street signs and parking assessment
 - Drove the city with Jamie and Edwin to assess street signs that need to be repaired or replaced. We also did a quick assessment of parking downtown and discussed potential locations for additional / modification of marked parking. Public works will be fixing, removing and straightening signs in the weeks ahead.
- 26 Jul – Meeting with Anna Hodges-White about High Water Mark sign
 - Anna previously indicated that she would like to have the High-Water Mark sign on the outer wall of Historic Society building. Anna presented the draft sign to her board and the Historic Society Board said that they did not want to have the sign on their wall.
 - The sign in question will be placed on the “Old Tony’s” building across the street.
- 29 Jul – Meeting with City of Cedar Key IT support (Paul)
 - Discussed the status of the City IT/computer assets. Most/many of the city computers are older and in need of upgrading. Some computers are incapable of being upgraded past Microsoft 10. Requested a list of all assets and the recommended priority for replacement based on health of each computer.
 - Need to include computer replacement/upgrades as a standing budget item.
- 30 Jul – Summer Youth Program After Action meeting (10:00 am)
 - Met with Telicia and Jon Lewis (Levy Prevention Coalition) to review after action for Youth Summer Program. All considered the program a great success. Telicia pitch the idea that next year’s theme should be “History of Cedar Key”. She already has many great ideas.
 - Telicia did a GREAT job organizing and running the program!
- 31 Jul – Interview with NBC News reporters
 - Discussed recovery efforts in Cedar Key post Hurricane Helene. This is for an online written article.
- 31 Jul – Meeting with Fred Meinke (1Print)
 - Discussed Marina Modernization (specifically, the building of a jetty/Attenuation System for Cedar Key). He is very familiar with Cedar Key and very supportive of the concept. Discussed long term strategy necessary to make something like this a reality. 1Print is a 3D concrete company with significant experience building artificial reefs, wave attenuation devices, and jetty systems.
- 31 Jul – Meeting with Matthew Dews (North Regional Coordinator for Senator Ashley Moody) and Cydney Bonner (Regional Coordinator for Senator Rick Scott)
 - Met separately for a basic meet and greet with each coordinator. Discussed Cedar Key’s recovery efforts. Both coordinators asked about the status of the Post Office and expressed concern and frustration that it still wasn’t opened yet. They both said that they would look into seeing if there is anything they can do to speed up the process.
- 02 Aug – Meeting with Mike Allen (UF IFAS)
 - Discussed the importance of continued UF academic support for future Cedar Key resiliency.
 - Discussed the Marina Modernization concept which seemed to be well received.
 - Requested contact information for someone in UF Aquatic Engineering field to explore innovative/ storm resilient floating dock technologies (e.g., submersible floating docks, etc.)

- 5 Aug – Meeting with Harry Henderson (Anchor Consulting).
 - Working to finalize the initial draft strategy for Cedar Key Recovery. Concept to be presented by the Mayor to the commission and public at the 19 Aug Commission Meeting.
- 8 Aug – Meeting with Jon Wallace (North Florida Refuge Complex) and Pat Bonish (ReCedarKey)
 - Discussed how to get permitting completed to allow for emergency planting of the islands (including the wilderness designated islands). ReCedarKey will provide written description of the native plants we're planning to plant with their benefits. Jon is working on the permitting.
- 8 Aug – Meeting with CFEC (Jim Beauchum) about removing unused wires from 2nd Street

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		

“Big Dock” Repair Status

- 4 Aug – Requested status from Levy County Parks & Recreation, Dir (phone): He had no update and indicated that FDEM was leading the project
- 5 Aug – Requested status of “Big Dock Repair” from County Manager (email)
- 6 Aug – Received response County that the date is unknown (no additional information provided)
- 7 Aug – Requested that Savinacious contractor use their contacts at FDEM to see if they could get an update on when the steps and ramp would be installed on the Big Dock.
- 8 Aug – FDEM indicated that they asked Levy Emergency Manager (Leatha Keane) to contact the Cedar Key Mayor and provide an update. Received a call from Levy BoCC Chairperson informing me that the repairs to the Big Dock would not be completed until Late October. Also informed that the project has expanded from \$500,000 to \$1,200,000 project. I requested a breakdown of what was included as part of these additional expenditures. Nothing received to date.
- 12 Aug – Call made to Levy Emergency Manager asking her to expedite just the ramp to the dock so that people can get access while we wait for the rest of the repairs. No response to date.
- 15 Aug – Received information (not from County or FDEM) that the ramp and stairs are planned to be delivered for installation by the end of August. I have not been able to confirm this with County / FDEM yet.

**City of Cedar Key
2025-26 Budget Development Status**

Budget Status (as of 8/19/25)

	(CRA not Incl) <u>As of 6/24/25</u>	<u>As of 8/19/25</u>
2025-26 City Budget Revenue:	\$2,142,910.00	\$2,360,191.00 (Incl \$95,800 in CRA funds)
<u>2025-26 City Budget Expenditures:</u>	<u>\$2,338,518.88</u>	<u>\$2,339,943.41</u> (incl \$95,800 in CRA expenses)
2025-26 Net Income:	-\$195,608.88 (Deficit)	\$20,247.59 (Surplus)

Budget Timeline:

20 Jun: Department Head Budget Submissions Completed

24 Jun: Budget Workshop – 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 – 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.

26 or 28 Aug – Next Budget Workshop #4