



## CITY OF SUMMERVILLE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MAY 23, 2013



**CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Harvey called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL:** Mayor Harry Harvey gave roll call. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle, Council Members David Ford, Dale Housch, Joe Money, Jr., and Zachary Martin were present. Also present was City Manager Russell Thompson and City Attorney Albert Palmour.

**CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Harry Harvey called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Zachary Martin led the pledge of allegiance.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the Special Called Meeting. Mayor Harvey thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that this is the first work session for the upcoming 2013 – 2014 fiscal year budget. Mayor Harvey stated that the second budget work session will be held June 6<sup>th</sup>, the first reading of the budget will be done at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, and the second and final reading done at the June 13, 2013 meeting.

**AGENDA:** Mayor Harvey asked if there are any changes needed to the agenda. There were no changes requested. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the agenda as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**CEMETERY BOARD:** Mayor Harvey stated that Arch Farrar and Earl Rainwater are present on behalf of the Summerville Cemetery Board. Arch Farrar addressed the Mayor and Council giving the history of the Summerville Cemetery. Arch explained that currently the cemetery is a non-profit 501C entity and they are having difficulty sustaining maintenance for the cemetery at the current funding level. Arch stated that years ago the city donated between \$10,000 and \$12,000 annually. Arch explained that he would like for the city to either increase funding for the cemetery, since it represents Summerville, or allow the Summerville Cemetery Board to convey ownership to the City of Summerville. A general discussion rendered that the city will consider ways to offer help but is not interested in accepting ownership. Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Farrar and Mr. Rainwater for coming to the meeting.

**BUDGET REVIEW:** Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Russell Thompson go over the proposed 2013-2014 budget. City Manager Thompson reviewed the proposed budget calendar listing that this is the first work session, second work session on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, first reading on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, final reading and adoption on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

**BALANCED PROPOSED BUDGET:** City Manager Thompson explained that the proposed budget issued to all elected officials is balanced as presented. City Manager Thompson explained that he will go over the entire budget and if there are any questions or suggestions that elected officials have please let him know.

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**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMENDED 2012-2013 BUDGET AND NEW PROPOSED BUDGET:** City Manager Thompson explained that there is a \$740,299.73 difference between the current amended budget and the upcoming proposed budget. City Manager Thompson explained that the number includes the anticipated additional natural gas to be purchased for distribution which gives a bit of confusing picture of the increase.

**PROPOSED SERVICE CHARGE AND FEE SCHEDULE CHANGES**

**SECURITY DEPOSITS:** City Manager Thompson explained that he is proposing a tiered utility deposit requirement that will impact only new customers or those disconnected for non-payment. City Manager Thompson explained that any new customer establishing a utility account paying a security deposit has that deposit applied to their utility account after 12 months of on-time payments. City Manager Thompson reinforced that existing customers with deposits on file at current levels will not be required to upgrade their security deposit unless they are disconnected. City Manager Thompson explained that initial residential natural gas deposit or first disconnection will require a \$150 deposit. If a customer is disconnected involuntarily a second time they will be required to have a \$200.00 gas security deposit. When a customer is disconnected involuntarily the third time they will be required to have a \$250.00 gas security deposit. City Manager Thompson explained that the water security deposit will work on the same principal. City Manager Thompson stated that the water security deposit is listed as \$100, second involuntary disconnection the security deposit requirement goes to \$125, third involuntary disconnection the security deposit requirement goes to \$150.

**GARBAGE FEES:** Mr. Thompson explained that the monthly fee for garbage service will increase \$1.00 except for seniors or the disabled. Seniors and the disabled will not have any increase in their garbage service fee. A general discussion was held concerning picking up limbs. It was determined that the city will continue to pick up limbs at no charge unless there is something unusual.

**ITEMIZED VEHICLE AND FUEL USE REPORT:** A general discussion concerning garbage routes and vehicle use resulted in Council Member Dale Housch requesting a report showing all drive-home vehicles showing miles driven and fuel used. City Manager Thompson made note to have the report prepared.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** A general discussion was held following City Manager Thompson's explanation that participants living inside the city limits will now be required to pay \$10.00 per sport user fee at the Summerville Recreation Department. Participants outside the city limits will be required to pay a \$25 per sport user fee.

**DISTILLED SPIRITS FEE:** City Manager Thompson pointed out that there is a new fee listed for the On-Site Consumption of Distilled Spirits; \$750.

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**WATER RATES CHANGE:** A general discussion was held following City Manager Thompson's explanation that the fee schedule and proposed budget includes a water rate increase that figures out to be \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons of water. City Manager Thompson explained that this increase is necessary due to the loan obligation for the water plant upgrade. City Manager Thompson explained that water service outside the city limits would be 32% higher than the inside city limit rate noting that the City of Summerville is still in the mid range for water rates even with the rate increase.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** A general discussion was held concerning modifications made to the Recreation Department's budgeted line items for umpires/referees/scorers, athletic equipment, and travel/training expense. The final determination is that the cuts are remaining as listed until Recreation Department Director Bo Chamlee comes to the next budget work session to discuss the impact of the listed cuts.

**BUILDING INSPECTION:** A general discussion was held concerning the need for a full time building inspector due to the hours the current part time building inspector is available. It was expressed that a full time building inspector could possibly be part of a joint venture with the county and surrounding communities. The general discussion rendered that the budget is to reflect an additional \$30,000 for the building inspector position to be made into a full time position.

**CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM/LONGEVITY PAY:** City Manager Thompson explained that the classification system has a 1.25% increase for those employees that do not have a frozen salary which equates to approximately \$34,000. City Manager Thompson explained further that the longevity pay has been included in the new budget which equates to approximately \$24,000. City Manager Thompson stated that the department heads were asked what they felt employees would want; an across the board increase or longevity pay. City Manager Thompson stated that the consensus was that employees look forward to the longevity pay at Christmas. Mayor Harvey suggested cutting the \$24,000 in half and giving it as a bonus this year then doing away with it all together in future budgets. City Manager Thompson explained that he wants to see the employees get something because the 1.25% increase isn't in line with the cost of living. City Manager Thompson stated that he understands budget constraints but feels the city has good workers that deserve something. Council Member Dale Housch stated that he thought the longevity was rolled into the classification program and feels that anything above what is in the classification plan should be distributed by performance. Further discussion rendered that the longevity pay would be retained in the budget but revisited at the next work session.

**TRAVEL/TRAINING FOR COUNCIL & CITY MANAGER:** Mayor Harvey stated that he wants travel and training for the Council and City Manager to be the same as it is in the current budget; no change.

**BETTER HOMETOWN:** City Manager Thompson stated that he wants to do an internal assignment for the Better Hometown work.

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**RECREATION DEPARTMENT – TROPHIES AND PLAQUES:** A brief discussion was held concerning cutting the amount allotted to the Recreation Department for trophies and plaques. The final determination was that Recreation Department Director Bo Chamlee will be asked to attend the next budget work session to discuss his department's funding needs.

**VEHICLE AND FUEL REPORT:** Council Member Joe Money, Jr. reiterated the request for a take home vehicle use and fuel consumption report as well as how often those people assigned take home vehicles are called in after hours. City Manager Thompson stated that he would have the report prepared.

**QUESTIONS:** City Manager Thompson stated once again that if anyone has any questions please give him a call.

**ADJOURN:** Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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**HARRY HARVEY - MAYOR**

Attest:

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**JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C.**