



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING JUNE 6, 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. City Manager Russell Thompson was also present.

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member David Ford led the pledge of allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the Special Called Meeting stating that he is always pleased to have the public attend. Mayor Harvey stated that everyone will be given an opportunity to speak. Mayor Harvey explained that if a group has a spokesperson the representative for the group limit their comments to three (3) minutes and only speak two times. Mayor Harvey stated that comments are to be directed to the Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Harvey gave the following announcements;

1. Finster Fest to be held this weekend – 6/8/13 and 6/9/13.
2. July 4th Celebration to be held 6/29/13.
3. Regular Council Meeting Monday night 6/10/13 at 5 pm.
4. First Reading of the Proposed 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget.

SECOND BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Harvey explained that during the first budget work session items were reviewed and some changes requested. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to explain the proposed budget.

City Manager Thompson distributed a 2013-2014 Budget Changes sheet to the Mayor and Council explaining that the line item for the mandated SAVE program was set at \$250, the Firemen's Pension line item increased by \$2,280, and a full time Building Inspector position has been added. City Manager Thompson explained that the adjustments listed result in a contingency fund of \$551.52. City Manager Thompson reviewed the tiered water and gas utility deposits. The initial water deposit will go from \$60 to \$100. The first disconnection for non-payment of a water account will be forgiven. The second disconnection for non-payment of a water account will require a deposit upgrade to \$125. The third disconnection for non-payment of a water account will require \$150. It is duly noted that reconnect fees will stand with no change. The initial gas deposits will remain at \$150. The first disconnection of natural gas for non-payment will be forgiven. The second disconnection of gas for non-payment the deposit requirement will be \$200. The third disconnection of gas for non-payment the deposit requirement will be \$250. City Manager Thompson explained that the added security deposit requirements for water and gas will only impact new customers or those disconnected for non-payment of services received.

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PROPOSED CUTS TO THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT: City Manager Thompson explained that during the first budget work session Council was given a list of departmental requests that had been either reduced or cut from the upcoming proposed budget. City Manager Thompson explained that in the Recreation Department there were cuts to the budgeted amounts to equipment, travel and training, and umpires and scorekeepers.

PROPOSED ADDITION OF A FULL TIME BUILDING INSPECTOR: City Manager Thompson explained that during the first budget work session Council expressed a desire to have a full time building inspector incorporated into the upcoming fiscal year budget.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ADDITION OF ONE OFFICER: City Manager Thompson explained that Police Chief Stan Mosley requested another officer for night shift.

BUDGET IS CURRENTLY BALANCED: Mayor Harvey stated that currently the proposed 2013-2014 fiscal year budget is balanced noting that at the conclusion of the meeting the proposed budget needs to still be in balance even if any changes are made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated that there is a large group of people present and each person will be given an opportunity to speak. Mayor Harvey reiterated that comments should be limited to three (3) minutes each and addressed to Council.

WOODROW SHEPHERD: Mr. Shepherd addressed Council by stating that any increase in water rates is going to only hurt poor people. Mr. Shepherd expressed the opinion that his review of the budget shows a surplus of 2 million dollars in water revenue. Mayor Harvey explained that revenue from both the water and gas departments are used to supplement other departments. Mr. Shepherd questioned the cost of having the city audited annually, IT contract costs, \$20,000 to build a walking track, and expense of gas line expansion for chicken houses. Mr. Shepherd's questions were answered with the explanation of the city is required to be audited every year, there is no in-house IT person so the job is contracted with a local business, the \$20,000 budgeted for the walking track can be in-kind service and will be spending \$20,000 to receive \$100,000, and the gas line expansion will take approximately 15 years to recover but offers the potential for the addition of residential customers to shorten the pay-back time.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT CUTS: Mayor Harvey explained that due to the discussion held at the first budget work session Recreation Department Director Bo Chamlee has been asked to come to the meeting tonight. Bo addressed the Mayor and Council explaining that his first and foremost interest is to do what is best for the children. Bo explained that he did not want to see any child unable to participate in sports because they can't afford the cost noting that a child is unable to control their socioeconomic circumstances. Bo explained that if travel and training is under-funded there will be some children that will be left out. Bo explained that the requested amount for equipment is based on the needs of the children playing sports. Bo explained that helmets have to be changed out for the safety of the children, bats have to meet league requirements, and umpires/scorekeepers have to be neutral to the teams playing and know the rules and regulations.

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RECREATION DEPARTMENT CUTS CONTINUED: Bo explained that there are certain circumstances that require the Summerville Recreation Department to purchase and present trophies. Bo explained that some years all the funds are not needed and some years they are. Bo explained that trophies, like travel and training, is a bit unpredictable but if funds are not put in place to cover an anticipated winning year the children would be faced with not being able to follow through with the competition due to lack of funds. Bo expressed again that his interest is seeing the children are supported and encouraged to participate in organized sports.

PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT PROPOSED CUTS TO THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Several residents were present to express their concern about proposed reduced funding for the Recreation Department. Michael Mack addressed Council stating that he is a Georgia Certified Official and feels training and community support is interracial to providing a positive influence on our children. Pam Albert addressed Council stating that she has coached children for over thirty years and feels it is important to have the community youth active in sports to foster a positive influence. Aletha Brooks addressed Council stating that she has coached children for years and has personally taken extra money with her to competition for those children that only have the limited amount of money the children receive from the city. Ms. Brooks stated that she could not stand the idea of a child being left out because they did not have enough money to participate. Ms. Brooks express that she also feels more training is needed for coaches, referees, and umpires so that all officials are on the same page with rules and regulations. Ms. Pinky Dodd addressed Council stating that she feels that the Summerville Recreation Department could host more tournaments to help build revenue for the department. Ms. Dodd also recommended building a small complex with bating cages. Larry Anthony addressed Council stating that if Council wants to cut costs by using parents to officiate at games it will be a disaster. Mr. Anthony stated that unbiased officials are needed to maintain the integrity of the scores. Concerned citizens were asked if they hold fund raiser events to help support their teams. Pinky Dodd explained that a variety of fund raiser events are held; car washes, bake sales, raffles for giant Christmas stockings, Easter baskets, Halloween baskets; lots of different fund raiser events. Mayor Harvey stated that he appreciates the public support and concern shown for our Recreation Department.

BREAK: Mayor Harvey stated that there would be a 10 minute break before continuing the meeting

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

BUILDING INSPECTION POSITION PROPOSED TO BE FULL TIME: Mayor Harvey stated that during the first budget work session Council Member Dale Housch requested to have the building inspector as a full time employee. Mayor Harvey requested the current building inspector explain his procedures. Joey Norton addressed Council explaining that his agreement is that he will work for the City of Summerville not less than 10 and not more than 15 hours a week. Joey gave an overview of the increase in permits issued during the last several years. Joey explained that he has made concessions to accommodate contractors and permit applicants by using his lunch time and vacation time to meet with people. Joey explained that with the City of Rome, his full time employer, any contractor is required to give a 24 hours lead time for all inspection requests.

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BUILDING INSPECTION POSITION PROPOSED TO BE FULL TIME CONTINUED: Joey stated that he has three telephones and if someone can't get in touch with him it is because they haven't really tried. Joey explained any calls that he received on his City of Summerville phone are returned as soon as he is off the clock with the City of Rome. Joey suggested that one possible solution would be for the City of Summerville to use his personal cell phone number as the contact number and reimburse him for the cost which would give a more direct contact. Joey explained that even with the growth of permits issued he does not see revenue to justify a full time building inspector nothing that the cost of a vehicle and benefits would exceed revenue received. Joey stated that he is willing to increase his hours with the City of Summerville to a maximum of 20 hours per week if Council wants. Council Member David Ford stated that he thinks the twenty-four hour lead time is a good idea the City of Summerville should adopt. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle stated that he thinks with the budget as tight as it is the position should be retained as part time and put \$15,000 back into the Recreation Department. Council Member Dale Housch stated that he would like to see the building inspector on site and available for the City of Summerville from 1 pm to 4 pm. Mayor Harvey responded that request can be revisited at the mid-year budget review to see if it is necessary to change the building inspector's hours.

UTILITY RATES: Mayor Harvey stated that the utility rates were reviewed at the first budget work session and he feels they should be left as listed.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for discussion is the Recreation Department budget. Mayor Harvey stated that the funds listed for the walking trail should be held as listed. No opposition was voiced. Discussion was held concerning Recreation Department travel and training with the final determination that the line item would be restored to \$15,000. Discussion resulted in umpires, score keepers, and referees budget set at \$17,000. Discussion about trophies and plaques resulted in that line item set at \$2,400. Discussion concerning sporting equipment purchases resulted in the line item set at \$17,000. Discussion was held concerning concession stand revenue noting that the person that won the bid for this gives the city a percentage of the earnings. The concession stand revenue is listed as \$2,000 with note made that the payment is done on the honor system. Hosting tournaments and the need for parental participation was discussed again. Mayor Harvey stated that holding tournaments as a means of revenue will be discussed with next year's budget.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – ADDITION OF ONE OFFICER/NIGHT SHIFT: Mayor Harvey stated that a request was received for an additional full time officer for the night shift. Mayor Harvey asked Police Chief Stan Mosley to explain his request. Police Chief Mosley explained that currently there are only two full time officers for the evening shift. Chief Mosley explained that he feels it would be safer and better for the citizens to have a third officer to float. Chief Mosley explained that if one officer requires back-up then there is no other officer available to answer a call which creates vulnerability. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson what the cost would be to add a full time officer. City Manager Thompson responded that the cost would be roughly \$50,000. Mayor Harvey stated that the budget should remain as listed and not add an officer at this time.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT – ADDITION OF ONE OFFICER/NIGHT SHIFT

CONTINUED: City Manager Thompson asked Chief Mosley if he could use a part time officer. Chief Mosley stated that he would take whatever assistance he could get but that it is difficult to find part-time help for the night shift. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle stated that he feels that three officers are needed for the night shift. Council Member Dale Housch asked if he could see the organizational chart for the police department. Mayor Harvey interjected that the budget has to balance. Council Member David Ford asked if the funding to 911 could be reduced since the county reduced their contribution to the recreation department. City Manager Russell Thompson responded to Council Member Ford's suggestion explaining that the city entered into a service delivery strategy agreement that specifies the dollar amount the city will contribute to the operation of 911. City Manager Thompson explained that changes to that agreement must be agreed upon by both parties or go to mediation for a decision. City Manager Thompson explained that the process is not as simple as just deciding to reduce funding to 911. City Manager Thompson explained that the only way to fund an additional full time police officer is to go up on utility rates or use equity funds. City Manager Thompson explained that acceptable accounting practice is to have three months of operating funds on hand. Police Chief Stan Mosley interjected that the police department lost two officers during the staff reduction that have not been restored. Mayor Harvey stated that he did not recommend using equity funds to cover this request. City Manager Thompson stated that he does not recommend touching the \$350,000 certificate of deposit being held from an insurance settlement by previous administration. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that the money for the 1.25% raise could be used to fund another officer. Mayor Harvey stated that the compensation plan has been put into place and should not be changed. City Manager Thompson explained that the proposed compensation plan is for a 1.25% increase which is well below the inflation rate noting that he would like to help boost morale. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that he feels being happy is a personal choice and not tied to wages; the city can not cut a check every time somebody isn't happy. Council Member David Ford commented that morale goes down when employees feel like they are not appreciated. City Manager Thompson explained that if the funding for the recreation department is restored that will leave about \$18,000 in the contingency fund with a full time officer costing around \$50,000. Council Member Dale Housch stated that he would rather have officers safe than have money put back into the recreation department. Council Member Ford suggested using the money in the CD to fund the position. City Manager Thompson stated that he strongly recommends pulling from the cash fund and leaving the CD alone for emergencies. City Manager Thompson stated that if cash funds are used there is still the issue of funding the position for next year's budget. Mayor Harvey stated that if this position is funded he feels money should come from the cash fund not the CD. City Manager Thompson stated that he suggests an equity transfer. Mayor Harvey asked that City Manager Thompson run the numbers with a part time officer with 29 hours for council to review. The final determination was to list one additional full time officer with funding to come from an equity transfer.

FUEL REPORT: Mayor Harvey stated that everyone has a fuel report for take-home vehicles noting that he has not had an opportunity to do much more than glance at the report. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that he wanted to know how often the people that have take-home vehicles are called back in to work. Council Member Dale Housch stated that in his review he thinks that there are possibly four (4) people that actually need a take-home vehicle.

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FUEL REPORT CONTINUED: City Manager Thompson thanked Carla for doing a good job on compiling the requested report for Council. Mayor Harvey stated that he thinks it would be best for Council to have more time to review the report then discuss the item at Monday's meeting.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED 2013-2014 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET: Mayor Harvey stated that the first reading of the 2013-2014 proposed budget will be done at Monday's meeting. City Manager Thompson stated that the budget needs two readings to pass. Mayor Harvey stated that the only adjustment to the numbers will be the inclusion of a full time police officer. Mayor Harvey stated the budget can be advertised, first reading on Monday, June 10th and the second reading on Thursday, June 13th. Mayor Harvey stated that he needs a motion to set the first reading of the proposed budget on Monday. Council Member David Ford made a motion to set the first reading of the proposed 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget to be at the Regular Council Meeting held on Monday, June 10, 2013. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

SHORT TERM DISABILITY DROPPED: City Manager Russell Thompson stated that he recommends removing short term disability. City Manager Thompson stated that employees currently have the ability to accumulate 13 weeks of vacation time and sick leave which could be used in place of the short term disability. City Manager Thompson stated that dropping the short term disability would be a cost savings of \$8,000. Council Member David Ford made a motion to drop short term disability. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

OFF PREMISES LICENSE FOR BEER AND WINE SALES DURING SPECIAL EVENT: City Manager Russell Thompson explained that Jefferson's has requested an Off Premises License for beer and wine sales during the upcoming Finster Fest activity. City Manager Thompson explained that there will be no alcohol in Dowdy Park; there will be a quarantined area. City Manager Thompson stated that he has received a request for a pouring license from Jefferson's and recommends it be authorized for the quarantined area. City Manager Thompson explained further that alcohol sales would be on Saturday from 4 pm to 10:30 pm during the Man of Vision show; no Sunday sales and no alcohol in the city park. Council Member David Ford made a motion to grant Jefferson's an Off Premises License for beer and wine in the quarantined area on Saturday, June 8, 2013 between the hours of 4 pm and 10:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNOUT GEAR: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for discussion on the agenda is authorization for \$7,755.00 to purchase fire department turnout gear. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain the purchase. City Manager Thompson explained that the fire department turnout gear has to be replaced at specified intervals. City Manager Thompson explained further that the replacements are split so all turnout gear doesn't have to be replaced at one time; three sets at a time. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize the purchase of three complete sets of turnout gear for the fire department at a cost of \$7,755. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

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SEATBELT POLICY: City Manager Russell Thompson explained that to meet requirements of the Workman's Compensation policy the city needs to adopt a formal seatbelt policy that will be incorporated into the existing Employee Personnel Policy Manual. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to adopt a seatbelt safety policy to be included in the city's Employee Personnel Policy Manual. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C.