



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 8, 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 Joe Money, Jr. led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if anyone has anything to add or change on the agenda as presented. With no changes or additions requested Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated that he is pleased that the city was held the 4th of July festivities on June 29th since it rained heavily on July 4th. Mayor Harvey stated that there was a tremendous turn out for the event. Mayor Harvey also expressed his appreciation to those that worked to help make the festivities a huge success.

GUESTS: Mayor Harvey introduced Josh Stull of the Municipal Gas Authority and John Turner who is present to discuss "branding" the City of Summerville. Mayor Harvey expressed appreciation to all individuals attending the meeting.

JOHN STULL – MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY HEDGING PROGRAM: Mayor Harvey offered Mr. Stull the opportunity to address Council. Mr. Stull stated that the purpose for his attendance is to explain the Municipal Gas Authority's (MGA) hedging program. Mr. Stull explained that Council is being requested to make a decision if the City of Summerville wants to acknowledge participation in the MGA hedging program. Mr. Stull gave a brief history of the hedging program explaining that it began in the late 90s when gas pricing was very volatile. Mr. Stull explained further that hedging allows MGA to lock in a set price for a percentage of gas that helps to stabilize natural gas rates. Mr. Stull explained that there are two options for the city; option one is no hedging with monthly gas bills set strictly by the market price or option two which is to sign a resolution of acknowledgement to participate in the hedging program to have solid financial information of what upcoming natural gas cost will be. Mr. Stull explained that if the city chooses to participate in the hedging program there is a committee of MGA staff that determines the details of the hedging pool. The City of Summerville could have a staff member set to work with MGA to determine the volume and dollar amount to hedge. Mr. Stull stated that if the City of Summerville wishes to participate in the hedging program the associated documents would need to be received by MGA by October 1, 2013. Mr. Stull explained that the city could sign the resolution to participate and choose to not set an amount to hedge; the option is open but not a forced hedging participation.

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JOHN STULL – MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY HEDGING PROGRAM CONTINUED: Mr. Stull explained that the flip side of the scenario is that if the resolution to participate is not signed and then the city decides they want in the option would not be available. Council Member Dale Housch asked if poultry growers were given the opportunity to participate. City Manager Thompson interjected that poultry growers pay what everybody else pays. Mr. Stull explained that there is a poultry program for hedging but that is another pool of participants that hedge to be competitive with propane. Mr. Stull stated that the City of Summerville has never participated in that program. Mr. Stull explained that poultry hedging is usually done a year at a time while commercial and residential hedging is usually done for multiple years. Attorney Palmour asked if Mohawk wants to hedge does the City of Summerville have to sign the acknowledgement resolution. Mr. Stull confirmed that the city would have to sign the resolution to have Mohawk participate in the hedging program. Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Stull for his presentation and explained that since the deadline is October 1st there is a little time available to consider the proposition.

JOHN TURNER – BRANDING OUR CITY: Mr. John Turner addressed Council explaining that he would like to see a slogan established that would brand our city. Mr. Turner suggested "Summerville Georgia – The Friendship Capital of the World". Mr. Turner explained that the slogan was used in combination with the art work of Howard Finster to develop a friendship flag. Mr. Turner stated that an article published in the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper designated Summerville as the friendship capital of the world. Mayor Harvey stated that he likes the idea of Summerville being known as the friendship capital of the world. Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Turner for his time and presentation.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton reported that he has been working on a lot of permits and with all the rain he has gotten a lot of complaints about high grass.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT – JANICE GALLOWAY: Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Janice Galloway reported that during the month of June the Water Treatment Plant pumped 53,460,000 gallons of water. Janice also reported that there has been 4.43 inches of rain so far this month.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – CHRIS TUGGLE: Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Chris Tuggle reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant treated 37.1 million gallons during the month of June giving an average of 1.2 million gallons per day. Chris also reported that in the month of June there was 6.25 inches of rain, 12 septic tank loads processed, 22,114 gallons of condensation water, and 5,300 gallons from Tricon. Chris also reported that wiring maintenance has been done on one of the aerators.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Recreation Director Bo Chamlee reported that there will be five teams going to State for championship competition; 3 baseball and 2 softball.

PUBLIC UTILITIES: City Manager Russell Thompson reported that Terry Tinney is present in Tony Carroll's absence. Terry gave a report of all work done by all departments under Tony Carroll's supervision during the month of June.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that officers patrolled 6,119 miles, housed 26 inmates for a total of 84 days, issued 118 citations and collected \$3,903.00 at the PD for the month of June.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Assistant Fire Chief Butch Eleam reported for the Fire Department since Chief Echols was not present. Butch reported that the Summerville Fire Department responded to 64 calls during the month of June. Among the calls were 3 spills, 11 cancelled in route, 1 electrical, 34 EMS, 2 false alarms, 3 vehicle fires, 1 woods fire and 3 structure fires among the calls.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: City Manager Thompson stated that everyone has a copy of the financial report for June 30th noting that the report is for the last day of the fiscal year. City Manager Thompson explained that expenses are in excess of revenue by about 30,000 with a 70,000 equity transfer. City Manager Thompson explained further that once all the audit transfers are done he thinks that the city should either break even or have a net surplus for the fiscal year.

LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT – AMY HOUSCH: City Manager Thompson explained that Council needs to appoint a member to the Chattooga County Library Board noting that Amy Housch has been recommended to fill the slot. Council Member David Ford made a motion to appoint Amy Housch to the Chattooga County Library Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried with Council Members Ford, Windle, Money, and Martin voting in favor of the appointment. Council Member Dale Housch abstained.

WEB SITE PRESENTATION: Mayor Harvey stated that Council Member Money was instrumental in getting the city's web site up and running. Council Member Money responded that he thinks the web site looks good and is very user friendly. Mayor Harvey stated that City Manager Thompson will give a presentation on the web site for Council. City Manager Thompson gave a brief demonstration of the web site and requested Council to submit any recommendations, additions, or changes to him. City Manager Thompson explained that citizens are able to subscribe to email alerts through the web site. City Manager Thompson reported that the water quality report was posted to the web site saving the city around \$3,500 by not having to do customer mailings.

MOBILE HOME APPLICATION: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item to discuss is the approval of a mobile home application. City Manager Thompson explained that the mobile home will be in the appropriate zoning district. Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton reported that the application is for a new mobile home for a single family dwelling and meets all code requirements. Joey explained that the city's ordinance stipulates that Council must approve all mobile home applications before he is able to issue a permit. Council Member Dale Housch asked the make of the mobile home. The applicant stated that the home is manufactured by Clayton. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the application to put a mobile home inside the city limits of Summerville. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle and carried unanimously.

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RE-CLASSIFICATION OF METER TECH POSITION: Mayor Harvey stated that a request has been received to re-classify the gas department meter technician position noting that he will have City Manager Thompson give more information on the request. Mayor Harvey stated that it is his opinion the position should not be reclassified but the decision is up to Council. City Manager Thompson stated that with the classification system the city operates with, any difference in opinion of what class a given position should be can be brought to Council for consideration. City Manager Thompson explained that currently the Floyd County meter technician position is designated as class 11. City Manager Thompson stated that a request has been received to upgrade the classification to class 12 due to that job having to operate heavy equipment. City Manager Thompson explained that this employee is also used to run the office when the customer service representative is absent. Terry Tinney was present to discuss the request in Tony Carroll's absence. Terry reiterated that this employee does everything a regular gas meter technician does in addition to replacing meter, operating heavy equipment and dealing with money. Council Member Dale Housch stated that he thinks the classification should be moved to class 12. Council Member David Ford stated that the person in the meter technician job for the Floyd County office is the face of Floyd County for the City of Summerville and that he does more than the city hall secretary. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the Floyd County meter technician job classification to be changed from the current class 11 up to class 12. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle and carried unanimously.

PURCHASE GAS DEPARTMENT TRUCK: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for consideration is the purchase of a pick up truck for the gas department at a cost of \$12,200. City Manager Thompson explained that there is a pick up truck in the gas department that currently has 185,000 miles and is starting to have engine trouble. City Manager Thompson stated that \$15,000 has been budgeted for a replacement truck and one has been located for \$12,200. The old truck will be used as back-up or possibly replace one of the other trucks that is in worse shape. Water Superintendent Terry Tinney explained that the whole fleet is in bad shape. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the purchase of a replacement truck for the gas department at a cost of \$12,200. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

CORNER GARAGE CONTRACT: City Manager Thompson stated that the contract for vehicle and equipment maintenance is due for renewal. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his recommendation that the contract be renewed. City Manager Thompson stated that the Mayor needs to be authorized to execute the contract at the same amount (no dollar amount was stated). Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to sign associated documents to renew the city's vehicle and equipment maintenance at the same cost as last year. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Harvey asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* asked if last month's executive session issue has been resolved. Mayor Harvey responded stating that some of these items are still being reviewed. Jason Espy also asked if there would be any cost associated with the classification change. City Manager Thompson responded that there would not be any raise at this time associated with the classification change.

ADJOURN: All business having been concluded, Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C.