



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 12, 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.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda as listed. Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to amend the agenda by postponing the Public Hearing scheduled for this meeting concerning a rezoning request from First Baptist Church at 125 Georgia Avenue. City Manager Thompson requested that the rezoning request be maintained on the agenda for discussion purposes. Mayor Harvey asked if there were any further comments concerning the agenda. With no further items to be amended to the August 12, 2013 Regular Council Meeting Agenda, Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the August 12, 2013 Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Harvey requested members of the public attending the meeting sign in and list any issue they wish to present to Council.

QUALIFYING FOR 11/5/13 ELECTION: Mayor Harvey announced that qualifying for the upcoming November 5th City of Summerville Municipal Election will begin on Monday, August 26th at 9 a.m. and close on Friday, August 30th at 4:30 p.m. The election will be for the Mayor's seat and Council Seats 1 and 2. Mayor Harvey also announced that the qualifying fee for the Mayor's seat is \$216; qualifying fee for Council seat 1 and 2 is \$108.

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE OF THE MUSIC MAN: Mayor Harvey stated that he wanted to congratulate the performers, directors, and supporters for the outstanding community presentation of The Music Man.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton reported that there were 15 permits sold during the month of July, there are 65 open property cases, and court will be held next week.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Water Treatment Plant Director Janice Galloway reported that there were 55,350,000 gallons of water pumped during the month of July and 8.26 inches of rain recorded at the WTP.

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WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Waste Water Treatment Plant Director Chris Tuggle reported that there were 4.93 million gallons of waste treated during the month of July and 9 inches of rain recorded at the WWTP. Chris also reported that the new land application sludge agreement was signed July 1st with Gary and Tommy Cross and is in operation.

UTILITIES: Utilities Director Tony Carroll reported all work done in every department under his supervision. Tony also reported that he has begun working on the 2014 list of streets to be submitted for resurfacing.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that officers patrolled 8,575 miles, housed 35 inmates for a total of 48 days, issued 100 citations and collected \$7,665.00 at the Police Department for the month of July.

PROBATION: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that the Probation Department collected \$4,263 in fines and \$2,900 in fees for a total of \$7,163 for the month of July.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Greg Echols reported that the Summerville Fire Department responded to 52 calls during the month of July. Among the calls were 2 flammable spills, 1 electrical, 13 EMS, 18 medical assist, 3 rubbish, 1 search and rescue, and 1 system malfunction.

SALE OF 7TH STREET PROPERTY: City Attorney Albert Palmour addressed Council explaining that the city gained ownership of property on 7th street by virtue of the Myrtis Evans case in the mid 90s. Attorney Palmour explained that Council has been given the Chattooga County Board of Tax Assessors information for the location noting that the lot is 35' x 175' with an assessed total value of \$1,124. Attorney Palmour explained that there are three adjacent property owners. Attorney Palmour stated that the property is currently not being used by the city and can be sold. Attorney Palmour explained that if Council chooses to sell the property, solicitation for sealed bids would need to be advertised with notation that the city has the right to reject any or all bids. A general discussion rendered that the city will clean up the lot prior to advertising the acceptance of sealed bids for the property. Attorney Palmour stated that he is relatively certain that adjacent property owners will be interested in obtaining the lot. Mayor Harvey stated that if Council is in agreement with the sale of the property the item will be listed under new business.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Recreation Department Director Bo Chamlee reported that there has been a lot of activity at the Rec for football, soccer and cheerleading registration. Bo reported that there will be a meeting with the high school tonight at 6:30 to hold a concussion program. Bo explained that there are new certification requirements relating to handling concussions noting the goal is to have all sports entities on the same page concerning this item.

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CITY MANAGER – FINANCIAL STATUS: City Manager Russell Thompson reported that expenses are above revenue for the month of July which is indicative of this time of year. City Manager Thompson stated that there will be a savings of approximately \$14,000 with the new sludge land application agreement signed in July. City Manager Thompson also reported that the city is ahead by \$414,000 from this same point in time for 2012 and \$514,000 ahead for the same point in time for 2011. City Manager Thompson stated that he wanted to commend department heads for doing a good job on holding down costs.

TENTATIVE FALL ACTIVITIES: City Manager Thompson reported that the tentative schedule for fall activities has been set noting that there are a couple of weeks still open where events are needed. City Manager Thompson reported that the train will be here every weekend in October with coordinated events as follows: 10/5 – Sum Nelly, 10/12 – BBQ Cook Off with The Well, 10/19 – Farm Days with 4-H, 10/26 – not set but hope to have some sort of art function, and 11/1 – open. City Manager Thompson asked for event suggestions for open dates.

CHRISTMAS PARADE: City Manager Russell Thompson stated that the Christmas parade is set for December 2nd and Christmas in the Park will be held on December 6th.

SOLID WASTE CONTRACT: City Manager Thompson reported that the solid waste contract currently with Wright's Sanitation will expire in October. City Manager Thompson stated that the city has been very pleased with the service Wright's has provided but this service needs to be put out for bid to obtain competitive pricing.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Harvey stated that there will be no public hearing concerning the First Baptist Church's request for a variance to erect a 9' 6" x 16' wooden structure on their property at 125 Georgia Avenue. City Manager Thompson stated that the church would like to have the unveiling on September 1st. City Manager Thompson stated it would be necessary to have a Special Called Meeting in August or let the item roll to the September 9th meeting. Mayor Harvey expressed the opinion that a Special Called Meeting would be best. It was determined through a general discussion that a Special Called Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 29th. Codes Enforcement Officer Joey Norton stated that the August 29th meeting would allow him to have the property properly posted for the required 14 days. Council Member David Ford made a motion to set a Special Called Meeting for August 29th at 6 p.m. for the purpose of a Public Hearing concerning the variance request made by First Baptist Church at 125 Georgia Avenue. The motion was seconded by Council member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

BETTER HOMETOWN POSITION: Mayor Harvey stated that a request has been made to approve \$10,500 to fund a Better Hometown position. City Manager Thompson explained that the county had an employee that functioned as the Better Hometown person but the position has been eliminated. City Manager Thompson explained further that to retain the Better Hometown certification there has to be an employee that dedicates a minimum of 20 hours per week to the program. City Manager Thompson explained that the position can be part time but has to be above minimum wage.

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BETTER HOMETOWN POSITION CONTINUED: City Manager Thompson stated that in order to fund the position, if Council chooses, money from the contingency fund would need to be used. City Manager Thompson explained that if we use an existing employee then half of their duties would have to be compromised. Mayor Pro Tem Windle asked if the county would be willing to split the cost. City Manager Thompson said that the county would not split the cost of this employee. City Manager Thompson explained further that the Better Hometown certification is for the City of Summerville so it isn't actually a county function. Council Member Dale Housch asked when the position needs to be filled. City Manager Thompson stated that it needs to be filled as soon as possible. City Manager Thompson explained he would like the slot filled before the fall events. City Manager Thompson stated if the position is approved it could be advertised this week. City Manager Thompson explained that the other option is to not hire anyone and lose the Better Hometown certification. Mayor Harvey stated that he recommends the position be funded and filled as soon as possible. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize the funding of \$19,500 for a Better Hometown position with a minimum of 20 hours per week. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

CDBG GRANT PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION (SEWER LINES): City Manager Thompson explained that he is requesting approval and appropriation of \$8,000 to prepare and administer a grant for sewer line improvements. City Manager Thompson explained that 70 to 80% of the city's sewer line is terracotta and crumbles if disturbed. City Manager Thompson stated that the city's sewer system needs to be rehabilitated. City Manager Thompson explained that with the CDBG grant we will also be able to replace service connections. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to authorize \$8,000 for the preparation and administration of a CDBG grant for the purpose of sewer line rehabilitation. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TURN OUT GEAR: Mayor Harvey explained that the next item is a request for authorization to purchase turn out gear for the fire department at a cost of \$8,003. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to elaborate on the request. City Manager Thompson explained that this is routine replacement of dated equipment. City Manager Thompson explained further that there are regulations covering the length of time gear can be used for safety reasons. City Manager Thompson explained also that the replacement of turn out gear has been split between two fiscal years so that the expense doesn't hit all at one time. Council Member Housch asked if this would take care of fire department gear needs for this year. Fire Chief Greg Echols responded saying that it should take care of everything unless equipment gets damaged during a call. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize and approve \$8,003 for replacement fire department turn out gear. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

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HOUSING AUTHORITY RE-APPOINTMENT: Mayor Harvey stated that the city has received a request to fill an expiring board position for the Housing Authority. Mayor Harvey explained that the slot currently held by John R. Humphreys will expire on August 15, 2013. Mayor Harvey stated that the Housing Authority has recommended that Mr. Humphreys be reappointed to the board position he currently holds. Council Member David Ford made a motion to re-appoint John R. Humphreys as a board member of the Summerville Housing Authority with said term to expire on August 15, 2018. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

TEMPORARY METER READER POSITION: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for discussion is the appropriation and approval of a temporary meter reader position for \$10,400. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give details concerning the request. City Manager Thompson explained that two meter readers have been out on medical leave, one meter reader has returned to work and has transferred to the street department due to a vacancy but the second meter reader is still out. City Manager Thompson explained further that the meter reader currently out on medical leave does not have a set date for returning to work. City Manager Thompson explained that two meter readers have been hired; one has been on the job for a month, the other two weeks. City Manager Thompson stated that the position being requested is for six (6) month temporary position to allow regular utility crew members to get back to their normal jobs. City Manager Thompson explained that there are a lot of upcoming projects that will require regular utility crew members to remain dedicated to those projects. City Manager Thompson explained further that hiring a temporary meter reader would help eliminate the need of pulling staff from other areas to get all meters read. City Manager Thompson stated that reading all active and inactive meters is necessary to insure proper billing and identify any consumption for locations that are supposed to be inactive. City Manager Thompson stated further that the budget will have to be amended at mid year to reflect the position if approved. Mayor Harvey stated that the position is needed to get work done and take care of upcoming projects. Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to authorize a temporary meter reader position for six (6) months with an appropriation of \$10,400 to fund said position. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

TRACTOR PURCHASE: Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to explain the request for authorization to purchase a tractor for \$30,000. City Manager Thompson explained that the city has 74 miles of right-of-way to mow in addition to all other grounds upkeep. City Manager Thompson explained the city has one large John Deere tractor that has a bad transmission housing and will cost approximately \$10,000 to repair. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends selling the John Deere in its current condition to offset the cost to purchase a new tractor. City Manager Thompson stated further that the John Deere is also too big for the type of use the city needs. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize \$30,000 for the purchase of a tractor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

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SALE OF PROPERTY – SEVENTH STREET: Mayor Harvey stated that a discussion was held earlier in the meeting concerning the sale of unused city property located on Seventh Street. City Attorney Albert Palmour interjected that he recommends the sale be handled by sealed bids with a notation that the city has the right to reject any or all bids. Attorney Palmour stated that once bids are received then the results will be brought to Council for their approval or rejection. Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to authorize advertisement and acceptance of sealed bids for property located on Seventh Street with the results to be presented to Council for final consideration. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the pervious minutes as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

ADJOURN: All business having been concluded, 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