



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING AUGUST 29, 2013



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

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

INVOCATION: Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the August 29th Special Called Meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that he appreciates all visitors attending meetings noting there will be an opportunity to address Council at the end of the meeting.

MEETING AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if anyone had items to add or delete from the current agenda. City Manager Russell Thompson stated that he would like to have one item removed from the agenda; municipal court judge’s health insurance. With the one item duly noted and removed from the agenda Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the agenda with said amendment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated that public comments will be accepted prior to the scheduled work session since there is no way to determine how long the work session will last.

FALL ACTIVITIES: Mayor Harvey stated that fall activities are coming up. Mayor Harvey encouraged everyone to participate in the events noting that the city’s web site has a calendar of events. Mayor Harvey stated further that the scheduled events will also be advertised in The Summerville News.

PUBLIC HEARING – 125 GEORGIA AVENUE/FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED: Mayor Harvey opened the Public Hearing for comments concerning the First Baptist Church’s variance request to have an ancillary structure in the front of the church which will be used as a “Tabernacle of Prayer for Our Nation”. Mayor Harvey stated that plans have been submitted for the structure which will be removed on or before January 1, 2017. On behalf of the Summerville First Baptist Church Ken McCarley stated that he appreciates Council’s consideration of the request. Building and Code Enforcement officer Joey Norton stated that the variance is needed because the church wants to install the ancillary structure in a different location from what the code specifies for the location of such a structure and the set-back requirements. Joey Norton explained that there is no room at the back of the property to accommodate the structure; only option is for it to be in the church’s front yard if Council grants the variance.

Mayor Harvey asked if there were any further questions or comments concerning the variance request. No further questions or comments were presented.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED: With no further discussion or comments Mayor Harvey closed the Public Hearing.

VARIANCE REQUEST MOTION: Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the First Baptist Church’s variance request to build a 10’ x 12’ ancillary structure with a 4’ front porch in front of the church’s primary structure that is to be removed by January 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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FOUNTAIN – DOWDY PARK: Mayor Harvey stated that Council has been asked to consider the addition of a fountain in Dowdy Park to complement the existing Veterans Memorial. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson expound on the subject. City Manager Thompson explained that the Veterans Committee has provided a “rough rendering” of a proposed 10’ x 10’ fountain in Dowdy Park to complement the existing Veterans Memorial. City Manager Thompson explained that the proposed structure would be made out of black granite to match the current Veterans Memorial. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends approval of the request as long as construction is done in compliance with standard fountain code, the Veterans Committee works with Joey Norton, and construction does not cause a problem or interfere with fall activities in Dowdy Park. A general discussion was held concerning the use of recycled water, if children can play in the fountain, and if a water purification system is needed or not. City Manager Thompson stated that the Veterans Committee is asking if they can move forward with this project or not with more definitive design plans to be presented at a later time. Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton interjected that he would have to see architectural design to determine the available use. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to approve the Veterans Committee to move forward with the design of a proposed fountain in Dowdy Park to complement the existing Veterans Memorial but reserves final approval pending presentation of the final design. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: A gentleman by the name of Mr. Bennett expressed the opinion that he does not agree with the City of Summerville purchasing the old theater. Mr. Bennett explained that the city went up on water rates and a theater would be nothing but an expense the city does not need. Mr. Bennett also stated that he would like to be billed for only the amount of water he actually uses rather than a base 3,000 gallons a month. Mr. Bennett stated further that he is not mad; just wanted to say what he thinks. Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Bennett for taking the time to attend the meeting and voice his opinion.

WORK SESSION – EQUIPMENT NEEDS: Mayor Harvey stated that the remainder of the meeting will be dedicated to discussion of public works equipment needs. Mayor Harvey stated that he would ask City Manager Thompson to expound on the needs. City Manager Thompson explained that there are several projects coming up for the gas and sewer departments plus routine work that emphasize the need for additional equipment. City Manager Thompson explained that there are no funds allocated in the current budget for the purchase of equipment. City Manager Thompson explained that funds would have to either come from the contingency fund or from a loan. City Manager Thompson explained further that equipment can be rented, bought, or borrowed. Discussion was held concerning essential equipment needs verses what would be nice to have. Discussion was also held concerning the pros and cons of new verses used equipment noting that the large tractor purchased used now has a mechanical problem that will be expensive to fix and the tractor is too large for practical use. City Manager Thompson stated that he does not want to see the city in a situation where necessary work can’t be done but also wants to be fiscally responsible. Discussion was held concerning unrestricted funds wherein Mayor Harvey stated he did not want to see funds down too low; there needs to be a cushion. City Manager Thompson stated that he wanted Council to be comfortable with what is done. Council Member Dale Hosch stated that from what he is looking at he sees about \$300,000 of equipment that needs to be purchased. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd “Buddy” Windle stated that the equipment will have to be bought now or later. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends that Council be provided with a formal acquisition request list, cost options for rent or purchase, and finance options for consideration at the next council meeting. City Manager Thompson stated further that he will have both new and used equipment options also listed.

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WORK SESSION – EQUIPMENT NEEDS CONTINUED: Council Member Dale Housch asked if S.P.L.O.S.T. funds could be used for equipment purchases. City Manager Thompson responded that those funds are already allocated. There was also discussion concerning the immediate need for a trailer to house equipment. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to authorize the purchase of one trailer at a cost of \$2,350. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

STREET SCAPE PROJECT: City Manager Thompson stated that he has a copy of the Street Scape Project plans sent to the Georgia Department of Transportation available for inspection.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS LIST: Mayor Harvey asked Council to review the equipment purchase requests and bring any ideas or suggestions to the next meeting.

ADJOURN: All business having been concluded Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd “Buddy” Windle made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

JILL DURHAM, CITY CLERK – G.C.M.C.