



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 14, 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.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Joe Money, Jr. led the pledge of allegiance.

MEETING AGENDA: There were no additions or deletions made to the meeting agenda. Council Member David Ford made a motion to accept and approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the October Regular Council Meeting asking people in attendance to sign in listing their name, address, and reason they wish to address Council. Mayor Harvey stated that David Tidmore of the Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce is present and will be giving a report to Council, Mr. Gordon Pool of Paradise Garden will also be reporting to Council, and Mr. David Bennett is present as a private citizen.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated that he wanted everyone to know that absentee voting begins on Monday, October 15, 2013. Mayor Harvey stated that there are lots of activities going on now through December. Mayor Harvey encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities. Mayor Harvey stated further that Red Ribbon Week is coming up noting that the Council will be asked to act on a proclamation of support later in the meeting.

DAVID TIDMORE – CHATTAOOGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: David Tidmore of the Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce addressed the Mayor and Council stating he is pleased to report that the Chamber of Commerce is working with Mohawk Industries concerning upcoming jobs. Mr. Tidmore stated that Mohawk is strong financially and optimistic about having a positive impact on the economy. Mr. Tidmore stated that the new process Mohawk is putting into motion will require more technically advanced employees. Mr. Tidmore stated that being a work ready certified community has helped lower the unemployment rate noting that it is now below 10%. Mr. Tidmore stated that if all of the anticipated new jobs with Mohawk are filled the community's unemployment rate could drop below 5 or 6%. Mr. Tidmore reported that this month's chamber luncheon will be honoring the denim mill. Mr. Tidmore encouraged elected officials to attend the monthly chamber lunch meetings. Council Member Dale Housch asked what the chamber is working on for community activities such as a golf course. Mr. Tidmore responded stating that he is not aware of anything associated with a golf course in the works. Mayor Harvey interjected that the next Chamber of Commerce Luncheon will be held at 12 noon on October 29th. Mayor Harvey stated that he encourages attendance as a way to stay informed.

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PARADISE GARDEN – JORDON POOL: Mr. Jordon Pool of Paradise Garden addressed the Mayor and Council to highlight awareness of activities at the art facility. Mr. Pool encouraged everyone to visit Paradise Garden this Sunday for a special dedication program at 3 PM. Mr. Pool stated that he has been amazed at the visitors that have traveled great distances to see the art exhibit. Mr. Pool reported that there are pamphlets available for Paradise Garden which he would like to see displayed at local businesses. Council Member Dale Housch suggested that the pamphlets be made available at the Georgia Welcome Centers. Council Member David Ford asked if bird houses will be made and decorated again this year. Mr. Pool responded stating that the bird houses will be available and will sell for \$45 each. Mr. Pool explained that the bird houses are decorated as a replica of the mirror house this year. Mr. Pool stated that Paradise Garden also has a gift shop for visitors. Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Pool for his report and encouraged people to visit Paradise Garden.

BETTER HOMETOWN – SUSAN LOCKLEAR: City Manager Russell Thompson introduced Susan Locklear as the new Better Hometown staff member. Susan gave a run-down of upcoming fall events noting the response to the fall scarecrow decoration contest has been a success. Susan said that she will work on having a similar contest for the Christmas season. Susan reported that the Halloween candy walk will begin at 4:30 pm on Thursday, October 31st and the haunted house will open at 6 pm. Mayor Harvey interjected that the Christmas Parade will be held December 2nd.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Code and Compliance officer Joey Norton reported that Mohawk is adding another compressor room, the Family Dollar is moving, and he continues work on compliance.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Janice Galloway reported that everything is going well at the Water Treatment Plant; routine maintenance. Janice also reported that there were 53.29 million gallons of water pumped during the month of September and 3.63 inches of rain.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Chris Tuggle reported that there were 26.7 million gallons treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant during the month of September and 3.9 inches of rain. Chris also reported that the influent pump is down and he is waiting on repairs.

PUBLIC WORKS: Tony Carroll reported all work done by all crews under his supervision. Tony also reported that East First Street is reopened but not paved yet with work beginning on West First Street today. Tony also reported that the second phase of the chicken house project is finished. Tony reported that there are 6 to 7 new customers left to hook up on Big Texas Valley Road.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Kris Willis of the Recreation Department reported that the Recreation Department has been very busy working with the activities in the park, football is getting underway, and basketball sign up are coming in the near future.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that officers patrolled 7,285 miles, housed 24 inmates for a total of 83 days, issued 108 citations and collected \$4,661.00 for the month of September.

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PROBATION: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that Probation collected \$2,812 in fines and \$1,333 in fees for a total of \$4,145.00 for the month of September.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Greg Echols reported that during the month of September the Summerville Fire Department responded to 55 calls. Among the calls were 4 gas leaks, 9 calls cancelled en route, 10 EMS calls, 20 medical assist, 1 vehicle fire, 2 rubbish fires, 1 search for a lost person, and 2 structure fires among the calls.

CITY ATTORNEY: City attorney Albert Palmour addressed Council stating that GMA has been handling the fiber optic agreement noting that there has been some activity with fiber optics and feels GMA might be "dropping the ball". Attorney Palmour stated that this function might be better done "ourselves". No action was taken on the matter.

CITY MANAGER: City Manager Russell Thompson stated that everyone has a copy of the September 30th financial report. City Manager Thompson explained that the report shows expenses at 2.9 million and revenue at 2.7 million. City Manager Thompson explained further that there has been 2.3 million in the bank since the first of the year and hopes that there is some cold weather to help.

PRIOR MINUTES APPROVED: Mayor Harvey stated that if there are no changes needed to the previous minutes a motion is needed for approval. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the minutes of previous meetings as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

ALUM FEED & STORAGE TANK: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item concerns awarding the alum tank bid. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to explain the item. City Manager Thompson explained that part of the city's EPD permit involves limits for phosphorous level. City Manager Thompson explained further that it was determined by our plant superintendent and our engineers that an alum storage and feed tank system would be the most cost efficient method of meeting EPD requirements. City Manager Thompson stated that Schmidt Environmental submitted the lowest bid for the project at \$124,000. City Manager Thompson stated that staff's recommendation is to accept and award the job to Schmidt Environmental, Mayor Harvey being given authorization to execute all documents associated with the project, and fund the project with S.P.L.O.S.T funds. Council Member David Ford made a motion to award the alum feed and storage tank project to Schmidt Environmental, authorize Mayor Harvey to sign all associated documents, and use S.P.L.O.S.T. funds for the project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and passed unanimously.

LADD ENVIRONMENTAL – PENNVILLE SEWER PROJECT: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for consideration is authorization for the Mayor to execute an engineering contract with LADD Environmental for the design and oversight of the city/county sewer project in Pennville. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to give details of the project. City Manager Thompson explained that the request is for an engineering contract with LADD Environmental for the Pennville sewer project.

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LADD ENVIRONMENTAL – PENNVILLE SEWER PROJECT: City Manager Thompson explained that the city pledged \$45,000 as matching funds to the Pennville sewer project. The Engineering contract is for \$46,300 with \$35,837 of that coming from the project grant funds. After grant funds are distributed the city would be left to pay \$10,463 which would come from S.P.L.O.S.T. funds. City Manager Thompson explained further that the county had requested the city handle the engineering part of the joint grant sewer project. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends authorization of the Pennville sewer engineering contract with LADD Environmental having Mayor authorized to sign all documents associated with the agreement. Mayor Harvey stated that he appreciates the county working with the city on this project. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to sign all documents associated with the \$46,300 Ladd Environmental engineering contract associated with the Pennville sewer project with \$35,837 being paid by associated grant funds and the remaining \$10,463 being paid by the city using S.P.L.O.S.T. funds. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

TRI-STATE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT: City Manager Thompson reported that the city currently participates in the tri-state mutual aid agreement but needs to have the agreement reauthorized. City Manager Thompson explained that there have been some changes in the by-laws and rules relating to disaster response that make reauthorization necessary. City Manager Thompson stated that federal funding could be available due to participation in this program. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to reauthorize the City of Summerville's participation in the Tri-State Mutual Aid Agreement. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

FAIRWAY WALKING TRACK: Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to have a planning retreat in November to work on prioritizing S.P.L.O.S.T. projects. City Manager Thompson stated that there has been conversation about sales tax projects as associated with the proposed walking track at Fairway. City Manager Thompson explained that S.P.L.O.S.T. funds are not available for appropriation until January 2014 then it will take until March or April before the funds would be available. Council Member Ford stated that he wants funds to be taken from reserves to construct the walking track then paid back with S.P.L.O.S.T. funds. City Manager Thompson explained that if that is the way Council wants to fund the project it will still be necessary to wait until January so that the project is done during the associated S.P.L.O.S.T. funding period. Mayor Harvey stated again that he would like for everyone to get together for a planning session to determine priorities for S.P.L.O.S.T. projects. A general discussion was held which determined that a planning session will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 21st at the Depot. Mayor Harvey stated that light refreshments will be served with the meeting lasting around two to two and a half hours. Council Member David Ford asked if the Fairway walking track will be discussed at the November 21st meeting. Mayor Harvey responded that it (Fairway walking track) will be discussed at that meeting. Mayor Harvey invited the public to attend the meeting. Council Member David Ford asked for a public service announcement to be published in the newspaper asking for suggestions.

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CHANEY WALDEN CHICKEN HOUSE AGREEMENT AMENDED: Mayor Harvey stated that there has been a revision to the gas line extension agreement for Chaney Walden's chicken houses. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain. City Manager Thompson explained that the original agreement with Mr. Walden was based on him operating five (5) chicken houses. City Manager Thompson explained that Mr. Walden currently has three (3) chicken houses and still plans to add two (2) more chicken houses but is not sure on the time frame. City Manager Thompson stated that to protect the city's interest in the project he recommends that Mr. Walden be given two years to construct the additional two (2) chicken houses. City Manager Thompson stated that the amended agreement will be that Mr. Walden will pay for a minimum of 400 mcf per house per year for the three (3) chicken houses he currently has, be given two years to construct and put into operation the two (2) additional chicken houses and pay 400 mcf per year for those houses also with the understanding that if the two (2) addition houses are NOT constructed within two (2) years Mr. Walden will be required to pay an additional 800 mcf per year to offset the payback. City Manager Thompson explained that without the two (2) additional chicken houses the payback on the city's investment goes from 20 to 25 years. Utility Director Tony Carroll stated that the two (2) additional chicken houses should be constructed within eight (8) to twelve (12) months. Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to approve the amended agreement associated with the gas line extension project for the Chaney Walden chicken houses based on the description given by City Manager Thompson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle and carried unanimously.

ELECTION STAFF FOR 11/5/13 MUNICIPAL ELECTION: Mayor Harvey stated that staff has to be established for the upcoming City of Summerville election noting that the staff members recommended are veteran poll workers. Mayor Harvey read the recommended workers. They are:

Election Superintendent	Jill Durham
Poll Manager	Emory Gilmer
Assistant Poll Manager	Martha Gilmer
2 nd Assistant Poll Manager	Jessica Nadu
Poll Worker	Keitha Shamblin
Poll Worker	Vickie Dawson
Poll Worker	Jamie Frady
Absentee Ballot Clerk	Jill Durham
Assistant Absentee Ballot Clerk	Carla Rutledge

Mayor Harvey explained that the rate of pay for election workers has remained the same since 1997 with city employees paid at their normal rate of pay. Council Member Dale Housch asked if city workers will get overtime. City Manager Thompson responded that overtime is not paid until an employee works over 40 hours. Council Member Dale Housch asked if it is necessary to have as many poll workers as listed. City Clerk Jill Durham responded that there are state requirements for the superintendent, poll manager, two assistant poll managers, absentee ballot clerks, and sufficient support staff to allow electors the ability to vote at a reasonable speed. Jill stated that the staff listed is necessary to allow workers to have breaks and eat. Jill explained further that staff reports to city hall at 6 a.m. and normally leave around 8:30 p.m. which is a very long day.

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ELECTION STAFF FOR 11/5/13 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CONTINUED:

Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the November 5, 2013 City of Summerville Municipal Election staff as presented. 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 motion. Council Member Dale Housch abstained stating his reason being "due to relatives".

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any members of the public that would like to make a comment.

CITY PURCHASE OF OLD THEATER: Mr. Charles Bennett addressed Council asking if Council is going to purchase the old theater building. Mr. Bennett stated that he doesn't think the city should buy the old theater. Mr. Bennett stated that he feels there are better uses of funds than to buy that old building. Mayor Harvey stated that the item is still under review with no decision made at this time. Mr. Bennett said that he would rather see funds spent to build an RV park. Council Member Housch interjected that he would like to see discussion held in December concerning the theater. No motion was made on the items presented.

BID PROCESS: Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* asked who checks bids to make sure they are correct. City Manager Thompson responded stating that it depended on the type of bid; some are done by the engineers. City Manager Thompson stated that he should also review bids. Jason Espy also asked when the last time engineering services were bid. Utility Director Tony Carroll responded stating that it has been about two to three months ago; army core of engineers for dredging the creek. Jason Espy asked when the last time was the city did not use Ladd Engineering. City Manager Thompson responded stating that it was prior to his tenure. Attorney Albert Palmour interjected that proposals are requested (from engineering firms) and companies send in bids like all other professionals.

Jason Espy asked about how the probation services were going. Police Chief Stan Mosley stated that he is looking into having two full time probation officers noting that currently there is one full time and one part time officer. Chief Mosley explained that there is no answer about if that will be done or not (have 2 full time probation officers). Jason Espy asked if there has been a problem with a probation officer sleeping on the job. Chief Mosley responded stating that he had never seen any probation officer asleep on the job.

Jason Espy asked for a copy of the wage and classifications of employees. City Manager Thompson stated that he will provide the info.

RED RIBBON WEEK: Mayor Harvey stated that Red Ribbon Week is from October 23rd through October 31st with advocacy programs that fosters families, schools, and youth to promote a war on drugs. The National Family Partnership advocacy program was initiated in 1988 by Nancy Reagan to promote the concept that one person can make a difference. Mayor Harvey read the Red Ribbon Week proclamation which will be distributed to area schools.

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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.