



## CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING November 11, 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 Dale Housch led the pledge of allegiance.

**MEETING AGENDA:** Mayor Harvey asked if anyone needed to add or remove any item from the agenda as presented. Mayor Harvey stated that he has one item to add; discussion of one bid received for surplus property. Mayor Harvey asked for the item to be listed for review and approval. Council Member David Ford asked to add discussion concerning volunteer firemen. With no further items to be added or deleted Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Harry Harvey stated that there are no visitors present at this meeting. Mayor Harvey welcomed all staff and members of the media in attendance. Mayor Harvey expressed appreciation to all veterans and armed services men and women for their contributions to protect our country's freedoms. Mayor Harvey also expressed appreciation to all citizens that came out and supported their right to vote by participating in the city's municipal election. Mayor Harvey gave congratulations for those city public servants that were re-elected. Mayor Harvey stated that there will be a planning session held at the Depot on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. Mayor Harvey encouraged everyone to join the planning session.

**BETTER HOMETOWN:** Susan Locklear gave a report of all the activities that were held in Dowdy Park during the month of October and first weekend of November. Ms. Locklear reported that all downtown planters have been filled with winter hardy plants, she is working to promote a wreath decorating contest, there will be a Santa art and best dressed elf contest for area pre-K up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, and there will be a Christmas cookie contest. Ms. Locklear also reported that the Christmas parade will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 7 pm with the theme of "Christmas Past & Present – 175 years in Chattooga County". Ms. Locklear stated that there will be a Christmas decorating contest in both business and residential categories with first, second, and third trophies in each.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Code and Compliance Officer Joey Norton reported that there are a lot of on-going property maintenance cases, a decision will be made on the Taylor house at court this month, and that there were 17 permits issues for \$2,266.00 in October.

**PAGE 2**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Water Treatment Plant Director Janice Galloway reported that during the month of October the plant pumped 54,290,000 gallons of water, electrical contractors have installed new motor control panels, walkways have been repaired, basins have been cleaned, there was .93" of rain and new lab certification through August 2014 was achieved.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Wastewater Treatment Plant Director Chris Tuggle reported that during the month of October the plant handled 33.5 million gallons of waste water for an average of 1.1 million per day. Chris reported that the plant received 11 septic loads for \$877.67 and 6,000 gallons of condensation water for \$265.00. Chris also reported all maintenance tasks done for the month of October.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Public Works Director Tony Carroll reported all work done by all departments under his supervision. Tony reported that the CDBG project is progressing well explaining that he hopes to be done at the end of Scoggins then move to Cleghorn. Tony also reported that the mini excavator works well and the bush hog and back hoe have been ordered. Tony reported that Marietta is getting ready to sell some equipment that the city might be interested in purchasing.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Recreation Department Director Bo Chamlee reported that there are three football teams in play offs and he hopes they make it to the finals. Bo reported that basketball sign ups are coming up. Bo also reported that there were approximately 400 people that went through the haunted house.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Captain Harold Tucker reported that officers patrolled 6,276 miles, housed 54 inmates for a combination of 63 days, issued 92 citations and collected \$6,368 for the month of October.

**PROBATION:** Captain Harold Tucker reported that Probation collected \$3,195 in fines, \$2,418 in fees, and has 122 active probation cases for October. State Court collected \$6,341 in fines, \$4,151.52 in fees and has 264 active cases. Captain Tucker reported that 623 hours of community service was performed in the month of October.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire Chief Greg Echols reported that the Summerville Fire Department responded to 52 calls in the month of October. Chief Echols stated that among the calls were 4 gas spills, 3 electrical fires, 12 calls cancelled en route, 19 medical assist, 2 vegetation fires, 1 rubbish fire, and 2 system malfunctions.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:** City Manager Russell Thompson addressed the Mayor and Council stating that everyone has a financial statement for the month of October. City Manager Thompson stated that 3.9 million in revenue left expenses of 4 million slightly above revenue for the month. City Manager Thompson stated that he hopes the gas season will help increase the revenue side of the operation.

**PAGE 3  
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED:** City Manager Thompson reported that the city's AMR (automated meter reading) project is to swap gas and water meters to electronic meters. City Manager Thompson reported that application has been made to GEFA for a 1.2 million dollar loan to cover the water side of the project. City Manager Thompson reported that 10% of the loan is forgivable with the balance financed at .85% for 20 years. City Manager Thompson explained that a vote would be made by GEFA on November 14<sup>th</sup> to determine if the city gets approved then the city has 6 months to decide if we want to move forward with the project. City Manager Thompson explained that the project would be "turn-key" that would allow meters to capture meter readings by using a laptop computer. City Manager Thompson reported that the county and Lyerly use this type of system. City Manager Thompson said that he would like for Council to think about the project noting that the city's application made it through the underwriting review and scored second. Mayor Harvey interjected that GEFA will let us know by November 21<sup>st</sup> of their decision. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his opinion that the city needs to modernize explaining further that we are one of two systems that have not changed over to the newer technology.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the previous minutes as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** City Manager Thompson explained that there are always amendments to our annual budgets to get numbers back in line due to departmental overages. City Manager Thompson explained that the annual budget is an educated forecast and framework of the coming fiscal year that never ends up being exactly as anticipated. City Manager Thompson pointed out that enterprise transfers have historically been done to balance funding requirements and offset the general fund deficit. City Manager Thompson reported that he has provided three sheets to Council; a. the transfers, b. the enterprise funds prior to transfers, and c. the proposed and requested amendments detailing transfers necessary to offset the general fund deficit. These documents are attached and become part of these minutes. City Manager Thompson explained that overall the general fund's budgeted expenditures came in under budget by \$31,500 but the state looks at the departmental levels which show overages in five departments. City Manager Thompson stated that he is recommending increasing the budgeted expenditures by \$110,741 as noted in document "c". City Manager Thompson explained that the budgeted numbers will not reflect or affect the audited actuals; it moves departmental overages back into the black. City Manager Thompson explained further that the proposed budget transfer is \$1,977,283 with \$800,000 from gas and \$1,177,283 from water. This will balance the general fund budget minus \$76,572 that council approved as an equity transfer from the unreserved budget balance. City Manager Thompson stated that the actual transfer that will be required once the numbers are audited is \$1,876,950; \$800,000 from gas, \$950,566 from water, and \$126,384 SPLOST transfer back to the general fund to reimburse project expenses paid out of the operational account. City Manager Thompson stated that this will leave the fund balance reduction at \$76,572.

**PAGE 4**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS CONTINUED:** City Manager Thompson explained that if council approves the transfers and budget amendments as presented, the budget will be balanced with no departmental overages, the general fund will show a decrease in fund balance of \$76,572 to represent the equity transfer, and the enterprise assets will show a net increase of \$1,395,904. This represents \$1,322,939 from water and \$72,965 from gas. City Manager Thompson explained that there are enough funds to cover the general fund to balance it at a zero net change. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to accept and approve the FYI 2013 budget amendments as described by City Manager Thompson. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**CHRISTMAS BONUS PAY:** City Manager Thompson reported that \$22,681 was appropriated with no specific designation for how the funds would be distributed. City Manager Thompson explained that the funds are usually distributed at Christmas. City Manager Thompson stated that his recommendation is to have the funds distributed in equal amounts to all full-time employees and a reduced equal amount to temporary or part-time workers. City Manager Thompson reported that there are currently 73 full-time employees and 14 temporary or part-time workers. City Manager Thompson explained that if the distribution included the city manager it would work out to \$295 for each of the 73 full-time workers and \$75 for the part-time and temporary employees. City Manager Thompson explained that the numbers do not include the city attorney or municipal court judge. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends to either include the city court judge, city attorney, and the city manager or remove them from the scenario which would increase the full-time employee's Christmas bonus pay to \$300. Mayor Harvey asked for comments from Council. Mayor Harvey interjected that he would like to see part-time people to get \$100, leave the city manager in the pool, and exclude the city attorney and city court judge. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle asked if the part-time people go to \$100 what happens to the full-time employees. City Manager Thompson responded stating that it would put full time workers at \$295.57 each. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that he thinks full-time employees should get an even \$300 each. Council Member David Ford interjected that he thought the budgeted amount was \$24,000. City Manager Thompson responded that is correct but there are required withholdings that reduce the number to \$22,681. Council Member David Ford stated that he agreed that full-time workers should receive \$300 and part-time employees should get \$100. City Manager Thompson stated that the distribution would require a small budget adjustment. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. interjected that he is fine with that distribution. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle made a motion to give part-time employees \$100 and full-time employees \$300 and remove the city manager from the recipients. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 5**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**PROBATION OFFICER CONTINUED: PROBATION OFFICER:** Mayor Harvey stated that it has been recommended to eliminate the part-time probation staff member and replace them with a full-time employee. City Manager Thompson interjected that if the discussion gets too complicated the item will need to be tabled until Chief Mosley is present. City Manager Thompson explained that if there is one salaried staff member added there would be approximately \$10,000 added to the \$32,280 budgeted amount. City Manager Thompson explained that Chief Mosley has expressed the opinion that a full-time salaried employee would be pro-active and more aggressive. Captain Tucker stated that a full-time probation officer will help with probation income. Council Member Dale Housch asked if it would be better to table this item until Police Chief Stan Mosley is able to be present. City Manager Thompson responded, "Yes". Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to table this item until Chief Mosley can be present and more information is available. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT RADIO EQUIPMENT:** Mayor Harvey stated that Council is being asked to consider authorization to appropriate \$12,220 in unbudgeted funds to purchase radio equipment for the police department. City Manager Thompson explained that January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year there was a required banding change which resulted in dead spots for officer radio coverage. City Manager Thompson explained that the dead spots have to do with the repeater. City Manager Thompson explained that the city's repeater is at the E911 center. City Manager Thompson stated that Chief Mosley expressed concern for officer safety relating to the dead spots and is requesting a conversion to digital coverage. City Manager Thompson explained that Chief Mosley reported to Council that they were experiencing problems with communications due to narrowed band widths ordered by the FCC at the last planning session. Council Member Dale Housch asked why the request is being made now if there was knowledge about the forthcoming change back at the first of the year. Captain Tucker stated that the FCC would not allow the city to move our tower and studies have been done to see what corrective action would work best. Council Member Dale Housch asked if Coosa Valley Communications is the only bid received. Council Member Housch also asked if the purchasing agent looked into prices or an alternative supplier. City Manager Thompson asked Council Member Housch if he had anyone in particular he was interested in having submit a bid. Council Member Housch responded that there isn't but wanted to see if a better deal is out there noting that a lot of larger municipalities are not with Coosa Valley any more. City Manager Thompson stated that if Council wants to designate a "not to exceed" price he will bid it (radio equipment) out. Council Member Zachary Martin asked if the old radios can be used. Captain Tucker responded that the car radios are still good. Council Member Housch stated that he understands that the quality of service provided is an important part of the overall cost. Mayor Harvey asked if Council wants to set a price limit of \$12,200. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to set the police department radio system upgrade for bid to acquire 12 portable radios not to exceed \$12,200. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 6**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**RANDOM DRUG SCREENING – VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS:** City Manager Thompson stated that he is recommending amending the random drug screening policy to include the volunteer firefighters. City Manager Thompson stated that the reason he is requesting the amendment is because when volunteer firefighters respond to calls they are covered by the city's worker compensation policy so they should be included with the group of safety staff members. City Manager Thompson explained further that the city's police department has the capability to do drug screening. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve adding the volunteer firefighters to the pool of people subject to random drug screening. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY – 506 SEVENTH STREET:** Mayor Harvey stated that only one bid has been received for the unused city property located at 506 Seventh Street. Ronald Montgomery bid \$1,126.00 for the lot that is located adjacent to his property. City Manager Thompson explained that the property was acquired during the mid 90s from Myrtis Evans. City Manager Thompson stated that Mr. Montgomery approached the city asking if the city would sell the property since it is not being used. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his recommendation to accept the bid as submitted noting that the proper advertisements and bidding process has been followed. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to accept Mr. Montgomery's bid of \$1,126 and follow through with the sale. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

**VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER HIRING PRACTICES:** Council Member David Ford stated that he wanted hiring of volunteer firefighters to be done the way it has been done from 1945 up until the end of 2005. Mayor Harry Harvey stated that the city manager is over the day to day operations of the city which includes hiring. Council Member Ford stated that prior to 2005 any application for the fire department was reviewed by the firefighters and a decision was made by a vote within the department. Mayor Harvey stated that he did not think that method was appropriate. Council Member Ford stated that he feels hiring of firefighters needs to be up to the fire department since they are the ones that have to work beside anyone hired in that department. Attorney Albert Palmour stated that the Charter gives the city manager the authority to hire and fire and anything other than that would be in violation of the Charter. City Manager Thompson stated that if there is a change to the current Charter then the problem with the protocol needs to be identified. City Manager Thompson stated further that the training director makes recommendations to the public safety director who in turn makes a recommendation to the city manager. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle interjected that the Charter is set so that is how things need to be handled and if it is changed for the fire department it is just going to cause more problems. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that the problem with the volunteer firemen needs to be solved. Mayor Harvey stated that recommendations go from the fire chief to the safety director then to the city manager because that is how the Charter is set. Mayor Harvey stated that he does not see any need to change the process because recommendations are accepted and reviewed. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle made a motion to leave things as they are (process as designated in the City Charter). The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin. The motion passed with Council Members Windle, Money, and Martin voting in favor of the motion. Council Members Housch and Ford voted in opposition of the motion.

**PAGE 7  
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 11, 2013**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** With no comments from the public, Mayor Harvey announced that there will be a planning session at the Depot on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. Mayor Harvey stated that everyone is welcome to attend.

**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.**