



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 15, 2014



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.

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the January Council Meeting then asked visitors to sign in if they wish to address Council. Mayor Harvey explained that there would be an opportunity for visitors to speak at the end of the meeting.

ALLAN BRYANT RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE: Mayor Harvey stated that he would like for Police Chief Stan Mosley and Assistant Fire Chief Butch Eleam to come forward to present Mr. Allan Bryant with a token of the city's appreciation for his service. Chief Mosley presented Mr. Bryant with a framed certificate of appreciation for his 27 years of dedicated service as a City of Summerville firefighter. Mr. Bryant stated that he is thankful for being offered the opportunity to serve his community as a firefighter and EMT.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS SWORN IN: City Attorney Albert Palmour administered the City of Summerville oath of office to newly elected officials, Mayor Harry Harvey, Council Member David Ford and Council Member Lloyd "Buddy" Windle, III.

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

BETTER HOMETOWN: Susan Locklear reported on the Better Hometown December activities stating that Christmas in the Park was a success even though the event had to be rescheduled due to bad weather. Susan reported that she is working on several 2014 events. Susan reported that she is talking with the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in hopes to coordinate train rides from Dowdy Park this spring or December. Susan is also trying to coordinate a fourth Friday block party type event for warm weather. Susan stated that the Better Hometown Board is in need of another board member noting that the item is set for discussion later in the meeting.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Janice Galloway reported that there was 74.93 inches of rain in 2013, 54.9 million gallons of water pumped in December, the electrical work is done, and there are two employees working on certifications.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Joey Norton reported that \$16,000 in permit fees was collected in 2013. Joey also reported that he is working on some property maintenance issues.

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Chris Tuggle reported that during the month of December the plant treated an average 2.6 million gallons of wastewater a day. Chris reported nine inches of rain for the month of December. Chris explained that weather has created a bit of a delay for the construction of the alum tank. Chris stated that work on the tank will start back as soon as weather permits. Chris also stated that there has been a set back on the impellers for the influent pump but it should be back up and working by the end of the week.

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES: Tony Carroll reported all work performed by all departments under his supervision for the month of December.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Bo Chamlee reported that this is the second week of basketball. Bo also reported that thirty teams participated in the Santa in Uniform basketball tournaments. Council Member Lloyd "Buddy" Windle asked how the Summerville Recreation Department is dealing with concussions. Bo explained that all coaches for all sports must be tested and certified concerning concussions. Bo explained that parents are also required to sign a waiver of liability to allow their children participate in Recreation Department sporting events.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that officers patrolled 6,250 miles, housed 25 inmates for a total of 32 days, issued 71 citations, and collected \$2,120 at the Police Department in December.

PROBATION: Police Chief Stan Mosley reported that the probation department collected \$3,717 in fines and \$1,094 in fees for a total of \$4,811.00 collected in the month of December.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Assistant Fire Chief Butch Eleam reported that during the month of December the Summerville Fire Department responded to 67 calls. Butch reported that among the calls were 5 construction fires, 12 calls cancelled en route, 2 electrical fires, 13 EMS calls, 2 false alarms, and 19 medical assists.

CITY MANAGER – EXTREME WEATHER: City Manager Thompson expressed appreciation to all city staff members that helped during the recent extreme weather.

CITY MANAGER – FINANCE REPORT: City Manager Thompson stated that the city is half way through the fiscal year noting that the budget was at 2.2 million at the end of December and is currently at 2.3 million.

CITY MANAGER – GAS CONSUMPTION: City Manager Thompson reported that with the extreme cold weather natural gas consumption has gone up and some curtailments were required.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey stated that the second reading of the Alcohol Ordinance to allow happy hour sales needs to be added to the agenda. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the second reading of the Alcohol Ordinance concerning happy hour sales. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

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

MAYOR PRO TEM APPOINTED: Council Member David Ford made a motion to appoint Council Member Lloyd "Buddy" Windle as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

SIGN REQUEST – 79 W WASHINGTON ST: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain the sign request for 79 West Washington Street. City Manager Thompson stated that the sign for AmeriTax does not meet code requirements noting that it is a two sided electronic sign. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his recommendation that the sign be denied. City Manager Thompson stated further that he recommends that Codes Enforcement Officer Joey Norton contact the establishment to discuss the sign and make application for a variance if needed. Codes Enforcement Officer Joey Norton interjected that the sign could be made into a one sided non-electronic sign to meet code. Joey stated that the current sign ordinance prohibits electronic signs in the downtown historic district. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to deny the sign request. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

SIGN REQUEST – 10034 COMMERCE: Mayor Harvey stated that the next sign request is for 10034 Commerce. City Manager Thompson explained that this location had a name change only but the location is in the historic district so it requires council approval. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the sign application for 10034 Commerce. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

BETTER HOMETOWN APPOINTMENT: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain the vacancy on the Better Hometown Board. City Manager Thompson explained that the current Better Hometown Board is comprised of Jay Henry, Connie Howard, Larry Howard, David Ford, Mary Beth Housch and Keitha Shamblin. City Manager Thompson explained that Mr. Henry has stated that he will not be serving for another term on the board due to family commitments. City Manager Thompson stated that Mr. Henry has a small child now and feels his primary commitment should be to his family. City Manager Thompson explained that Mr. Henry's decision leaves one vacancy on the Better Hometown Board. City Manager Thompson stated that it has been recommended that Kathy Dillard be appointed to the position. Mayor Harvey asked if anyone had a suggestion for appointment other than Ms. Dillard or a motion in favor for the appointment. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to appoint Ms. Kathy Dillard as the 6th member of the Better Hometown Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – DCA/BETTER HOMETOWN: City Manager Thompson stated that the Department of Community Affairs requires a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the Mayor to retain the city's Better Hometown status. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to sign the Department of Community Affairs Better Hometown Memorandum of Understanding for the City of Summerville. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

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SUMMERVILLE CEMETERY FUNDING: Mayor Harvey stated that at the last meeting members of the Summerville Cemetery Board addressed Council to explain the financial dilemma being experienced by the Board associated with grounds maintenance. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain the city's proposal. City Manager Thompson reiterated Mayor Harvey's statement explaining the Summerville Cemetery Board's financial situation and goals. City Manager Thompson stated that currently the city contributes \$3,000 annually to the operation of the cemetery. City Manager Thompson stated that one goal of the Summerville Cemetery Board is to be financially capable of having the cemetery's grass cut twice a month. City Manager Thompson stated that the board needs some indication of how to proceed for the upcoming mowing season. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his recommendation that the city make an additional \$7,500 contribution to the Summerville Cemetery Board and authorize the city to trim and or remove trees as needed as talks continue concerning transitioning ownership. Mayor Harvey asked if either of the board members attending the meeting would like to make any comment. Arch Farrar commented that the Summerville Cemetery Board would appreciate any assistance possible noting that bidding will begin shortly for the upcoming mowing season. Arch stated that if Council sees fit to help with the financial burden of the Summerville Cemetery it would be greatly appreciated if the funds could be rendered in February. Arch explained that he wanted to be positive the funds are in hand before any commitment is made concerning mowing the grounds. Council Member Dale Housch asked if there is any advantage to making the payment on a pro-rated basis rather than a lump sum. Arch responded that it isn't a real problem he just wants to be sure the funds are there before he commits to a mowing contract. Mayor Harvey suggested that the city go ahead with \$7,500 now and do a mid year budget adjustment which would bring the total contribution to the Summerville Cemetery Board of \$10,500 for the fiscal year. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. so moved. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried with Council Members Windle, Housch, Money, and Martin voting in favor. Council Member David Ford voted in opposition of the motion.

REPLACEMENT METER – MOHAWK: City Manager Thompson explained that a large gas meter needs to be replaced at Mohawk. City Manager Thompson explained further that two bids were received with Neal's Measurement Service, Inc. rendering the lowest bid at \$9,015.83 for the meter and installation. City Manager Thompson stated that Mohawk will reimburse the city \$5,000 for the purchase. City Manager Thompson reported that the gas meter needing to be replaced is on the back of the main building in Summerville. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to authorize the purchase of the gas meter from Neal's Measurement Service, Inc. at a cost of \$9,015.83 with Mohawk to reimburse the city \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

POLYMER – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: City Manager Thompson explained that jar testing has been done at the wastewater treatment plant on the current type product used which is temperature sensitive versus an alternate product from CedarChem, LLC that works better in cold weather. City Manager Thompson explained that the wastewater plant superintendent recommends purchasing a load of polymer from CedarChem at a cost of \$6,750. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion authorizing the purchase of a load of polymer from CedarChem, LLC for \$6,750. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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COUEY HOUSE RENOVATIONS: Mayor Harvey stated that the city has received \$10,000 from the Tillotson Foundation for rehabilitation of the Couey House. Mayor Harvey stated that Council is being asked to consider appropriating \$10,000 to help with the cost of basic renovations. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain. City Manager Thompson explained that the low bid to just stabilize the Couey House was \$30,000 but that the project could be re-bid or go forward with an in-house approach. Mayor Harvey stated that he recommends that work begin to stabilize the Couey House. Council Member David Ford asked if there is a contract that mandates the city maintain the house. Attorney Albert Palmour responded explaining that the house was gifted to the city as a historical building. Council Member Ford asked if the city is obligated to maintain the house. Attorney Palmour stated that he will research Council Member Ford's questions. Attorney Palmour stated that the project may be more of a morale obligation than legal. Council Member Money asked who paid to move the house to the current location. Tony Carroll responded stating that the house was removed from the original location with all parts being numbered then transported to Knoxville where rotten logs were replaced with replicas of the original structure. Tony explained the structure was disassembled again and transported to the current location in Dowdy Park and put back together. Joey Norton interjected that some of the parts of the home are original. Tony explained that during the time it has been in Dowdy Park the structure has been vandalized with fire and repaired. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked what work could be done for \$20,000. City Manager Thompson responded stating that the amount of work done for \$20,000 would depend on the approach; bid out or done in-house. City Manager Thompson explained that if the job is bid out it will be more expensive. City Manager Thompson stated that if the money is appropriated the job will be bid and if bids received are too expensive then they can be rejected. Council Member David Ford asked if the job can be bid then appropriate funds. Mayor Harvey responded that he recommends approval of the funds first so the money is set before anything is begun. Mayor Harvey stated further that the property has historical value noting that the Historical Society said they could help a small amount. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to approve \$10,000 for renovation of the Couey House and set the project for bid to render the building structurally sound. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford which passed with Council Members Ford, Windle, Housch, and Martin voting in favor of the motion. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. voted in opposition.

WILLOW TREE GRILL – ALCOHOL LICENSE: City Manager Thompson explained that paperwork has been turned in and fees paid for the Willow Tree Grill located at 592 Highway 48. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his recommendation that the request for an alcohol license be approved. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the alcohol license for Willow Tree Grill. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

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AUTOMATED UTILITY METERS: Mayor Harvey stated that Council has been reviewing information on automated meters and has been awarded a GEFA loan for \$1,220,000 in association with installing automated water meters. Mayor Harvey read the letter from the State of Georgia Environmental Finance Authority granting approval of the loan. Said letter is attached and becomes part of these minutes. Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to see automated meters for both water and gas. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give Council a review of the item. City Manager Thompson explained that the automation of utility meters is a green project that will reduce the environmental footprint of the city by lowering the number of people required to read meters which in turn reduces the number of vehicles operated in association to the job as well provide better stewardship of the natural resource. City Manager Thompson explained that the loan for automated water meters is at a reduced rate with a debt service of \$57,956.10 per year for 20 years noting that \$122,000 of the initial \$1,220,000 loan is forgivable. City Manager Thompson explained that funds have not been solicited for automated gas meters. City Manager Thompson explained that an additional \$735,000 would have to be sought for the gas automated meters. City Manager Thompson explained that the annual debt service on the gas meters is estimated at approximately \$61,700. City Manager Thompson stated that having both water and gas meters automated would have a debt service a little over \$119,000 per year. City Manager Thompson explained that the new technology would offer superior utility service efficiency ultimately paying for the debt service required for the automation. City Manager Thompson also explained that the debt service on the water meter project would begin in 2016. Mayor Harvey stated that he is in favor of the project based on the savings achieved from efficiency of service. Mayor Harvey stated that the ability to track consumption is a big benefit noting that leaks could be caught quicker. Council Member Housch asked if the system would be able to transmit to the office or if all would be transmitted by driving by the location. City Manager Thompson explained that there are meters that do radio transmission from radio towers but they are more expensive. City Manager Thompson explained that due to the topography of the city's service area several towers would be required to cover all meters of that type. City Manager Thompson stated that tower transmitted readings could be used in the downtown area noting that those meters are more expensive. Council Member Housch asked how many companies offer the automated meters. Tony Carroll responded stating that four companies have been contacted. Council Member Joe Money Jr. asked if the project would put an increased burden on customers and end up making their bill go up. Tony Carroll responded that the new meters should be better for customers. City Manager Thompson stated that old meters register slower so new automated meters would provide more accurate consumption. Council Member Dale Housch asked what the time frame is for the loan. City Manager Thompson responded stating that the paperwork for the loan needs to be turned in by the end of the month to get a draft prepared. City Manager Thompson stated that the city could request an extension but there is no guarantee the request would be approved. Council Member Dale Housch stated that the longer the city waits to do the project the more expensive it will be. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to execute the necessary paperwork for the city to accept the GEFA loan in the amount of \$1,220,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried with Council Members Windle, Housch, and Martin voting in favor of the motion and Council Members Ford and Money voting in opposition.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any comments by the public. No comments were made.

ADJOURN: All current 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.