



## CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 9, 2014



**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.

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

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA:** Mayor Harvey asked if there are any items that need to be added or deleted from the agenda. With no change requested, Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Harvey stated that there are several visitors present and expressed gratitude for all people present. Mayor Harvey requested visitors sign in listing their name, address, and reason for attending the meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that an opportunity would be provided for public comment.

**VISITOR – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Mayor Harvey stated that David Tidmore of the Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce is present to give Council a report of Chamber activities. David Tidmore addressed Council explaining that the Chamber's web site has undergone re-development making note that he would appreciate developmental suggestions from the City's web designers. David stated that the Chamber of Commerce is a Chattooga County organization that makes a blended effort for the entire county. David reiterated the previous success of having Marvin's open in Summerville. David stated that the unemployment rate for our county is no longer in the double digit range; currently 7.9%. David stated that he has met with Commissioner Winters who has expressed a desire to emphasize small businesses. David stated that a transmission line relocation is underway. City Manager Thompson questioned what transmission line is being relocated. David Tidmore responded that it is a Georgia Power line between Tri-Con and Smith Iron Works. Council Member Joe Money asked what the hours are for the Chamber. David responded that the location is "in limbo due to construction". David stated further that consideration is being given to turn the Chamber office area into a meeting room so smaller groups will not need to use the larger meeting area. Council Member David Ford stated that the City is in the process of hiring a full time Better Hometown person that will also work on economic development for Summerville. Council Member Ford asked if the Chamber of Commerce would be willing to work on economic development with the City's Better Hometown staff member. David Tidmore responded that would compliment the Chamber's efforts. David Tidmore stated that he would like to recommend the City's Better Hometown staff member attend the Georgia Academy of Economic Development offered by RDC in Rome. Mayor Harvey stated that there is concern about City funding for the Chamber and requested David Tidmore to explain where the money goes. David Tidmore responded stating that the funding is based on population noting that the funding has gone down due to the overall loss of residents.

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**VISITOR – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTINUED:** David Tidmore stated that the monthly luncheons are an important part of contact with the public. Mayor Harvey stated that the luncheon meetings are very informative. Council Member David Ford asked if the luncheon speakers are paid a flat rate. David Tidmore stated that the fee is worked out with each speaker. Mayor Harvey expressed appreciation for Mr. Tidmore taking the time to provide the City with a report of Chamber activities noting that the job is difficult considering the economy.

**VISITOR – FILM FRIENDLY GEORGIA:** Mayor Harvey stated that Page Rast of Film Friendly Georgia is present and wishes to address Council. Ms. Rast explained that they function as a middle man for properties used for the movie industry. Ms. Rast reported that over 3 billion dollars was made from filming in Georgia. Ms. Rast reported that Georgia is ranked third in the nation for filming locations. The short presentation was for informational purposes only; no action taken or required.

**BETTER HOMETOWN:** City Manager Russell Thompson reported that the full time Better Hometown position was approved by Council and applications have been received. City Manager Thompson stated that he hopes to have someone in place by July 1, 2014. City Manager Thompson stated that work was initiated on activities for the downtown area on the second Saturday of each month. City Manager Thompson stated that \$250 to pay for the band will come out of the Better Hometown budget.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** City Manager Thompson reported for Joey Norton concerning Code Enforcement. City Manager Thompson stated that everyone has been given a listing of all open code compliance cases. City Manager Thompson stated that there is also a hardship case that will be discussed later in the meeting.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Janice Galloway reported all sampling activities and compliance adherence achievements, routine maintenance, and 53.9 million gallons of water was pumped from the water treatment plant during the month of May. Janice also reported that a group from Georgia Highlands will tour the plant on Tuesday.

**WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Chris Tuggle reported that 27.7 million gallons of waste water was processed at the wastewater treatment plant during the month of May. Chris also reported that 3.6 inches of rain was recorded at the plant. Chris reported that the roof repair is now complete and normal preventative maintenance has been performed.

**PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES:** Tony Carroll reported on all work orders done by all departments under his supervision. Tony also reported that 63 potholes were repaired and 4,200 feet of gas line has been installed and 7 new gas customers connected.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Bo Chamlee reported that the recreation department is finishing up softball and baseball. Bo explained that All Stars is next which will last for three weeks.

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Stan Mosley reported that officers patrolled 6,785 miles, housed 35 inmates for 75 days, issued 121 citations and collected \$9,496 at PD. Chief Mosley also reported that Probation collected \$14,907 in fines and \$9,558 in fees for the month of May.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Chief Greg Echols reported that during the month of May the Summerville Fire Department responded to 85 calls. Among the calls were 3 gas leaks, 9 dispatched and cancelled en route, 1 electrical fire, 8 public assistance, 7 structure fires, and 4 no emergency found calls. A full report of all calls is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**ATTORNEY ALBERT PALMOUR:** City Attorney Albert Palmour reported that an Executive Session is needed for a personnel matter.

**CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Russell Thompson reported that revenue stands at 15 with expenditures at 13.5 which maintain City finances in the black. City Manager Thompson stated that the City's fiscal year should close strong.

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

**SECOND READING OF 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:** Mayor Harvey explained that this is the second reading of the proposed budget for 2014-2015 Fiscal Year. Mayor Harvey explained that the proposed budget has been advertised and has been available for inspection by the public at City Hall. Mayor Harvey explained that the budget has been balanced with no increase in gas or water rates. Mayor Harvey explained that there was a slight increase in the garbage fee of \$0.40 for residential customers, which is a pass through from the provider. Mayor Harvey explained that there would be no increase in the garbage fee for seniors or those on disability. Mayor Harvey stated further that the budget does include some classification changes and a pay increase. City Manager Thompson interjected that he appreciates the staff for being frugal and providing leadership that complimented the City's desire for fiscal responsibility. Mayor Harvey read the proposed budget balance sheet which is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET OPENED:** Mayor Harvey opened the public hearing for the proposed upcoming fiscal year budget. Mayor Harvey offered the opportunity for elected officials or citizens to ask questions or make comments concerning the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget. No comments or questions were voiced by the public or elected officials.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET CLOSED:** With no further questions or discussion presented, Mayor Harvey closed the second public hearing for the proposed 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget.

**2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET MOTION:** Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle made a motion to accept the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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**SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT:** City Manager Russell Thompson stated that he has been approached about having a Battle of the Bands event on 7/19/14 from 5 pm until midnight with Washington Street being used for the stage area. City Manager Thompson stated that interest has been expressed to have an alcohol vendor for the event. City Manager Thompson explained that he has not received a vendor request as of this date. City Manager Thompson stated that there is a request for porta-toilets, trash pick up and additional officers for the event. City Manager Thompson stated that he is not in favor of pledging additional officers noting that regularly assigned City officers will be on duty. City Manager Thompson stated that the \$250 permit fee being waived is up to Council. Mayor Harvey stated that he thinks the event will be a good thing but is concerned about security. Mayor Harvey stated that he thinks other officers should be available if needed. Council Member David Ford asked if Chattooga County officers could respond if needed. Police Chief Stan Mosley responded that Chattooga County officers could respond if needed. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the Special Permit for the Battle of the Bands event on 7/19/14 from 5 pm to midnight. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

**COUEY HOUSE REPAIRS:** Mayor Harvey explained that Council is being asked to consider authorization of \$19,500 to repair the Couey House. City Manager Thompson explained that a bid has been received from Taylor's Construction for repairs to stabilize the Couey House at a cost of \$19,500. City Manager Thompson explained further that no other bids have been received for the project. Council Member Dale Housch stated that the quote from Taylor's Construction shows repairs will be done on the back; what about the side. City Manager Thompson responded stating that he could ask for a more detailed listing of the scope of repairs. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to go with the Taylor's Construction bid with a more detailed list of work to be done. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE – 162 TAYLOR ST:** Mayor Harvey stated that Council is being asked to consider a hardship allowance for a property owner at 162 Taylor Street. Mayor Harvey stated that since Joey Norton is not here, City Manager Thompson will provide details. City Manager Thompson explained that Mr. Dixon of 162 Taylor Street has requested permission to have a mobile home put on his property at 162 Taylor Street for the purpose of taking care of his elderly mother. City Manager Thompson explained that the property is zoned R-1 which does not allow for a trailer to be put on the property. City Manager Thompson explained that Council could approve a variance for the duration of the hardship. City Manager Thompson explained that all adjacent property owners have been contacted and are fine with the request. City Manager Thompson stated that staff recommends approval of the request. Greg Dixon addressed the Mayor and Council explaining that his mother is 82 years old and lives about 65 miles away from him. Mr. Dixon explained further that she has people that sit with her 24/7. Mr. Dixon stated that all he wants to do is be able to take care of her. City Attorney Palmour stated that the request could be approved as conditional use which allows him to be required to remove the trailer once the conditions cease. Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to approve Mr. Dixon's request to have a mobile home on his property as a conditional use permit with the understanding that the trailer will be removed once the condition changes. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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**SMOKE SHOP LICENSE SUSPENSION:** Mayor Harvey stated that the next item before Council is discussion of the business and alcohol license suspension for The Smoke Shop located at 9733 A Rome Boulevard. City Attorney Albert Palmour stated that the City received a letter from Chattooga County Sheriff Mark Schrader concerning The Smoke Shop in the Ingles Shopping Center selling synthetic marijuana. Attorney Palmour stated that charges have also been made against other businesses in the county. City Attorney Palmour stated that the businesses located outside of the city limits had their licenses suspended for 14 days. Attorney Palmour stated that if the license is suspended for 14 days that would not keep the City from taking further action if they are convicted. City Manager Thompson explained that by the City's ordinance the business owner must have a hearing before Council. City Attorney Palmour stated that he felt a 14 day suspension is reasonable. City Manager Thompson stated that there are two choices; suspend their license for 14 days or set a meeting for Council to hear the case. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle asked if this is the second time this establishment has been in trouble. Police Chief Stan Mosley confirmed Mayor Pro Tem Windle's knowledge. City Attorney Palmour stated that if a meeting is set up it would have to be coordinated to include the Sheriff to present evidence. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that a 14 day suspension is not enough. Mayor Harvey stated that he thinks the store should have a 14 day suspension then look at the situation after the county trial. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that he would like to have a hearing. City Attorney Palmour stated that he will prepare a notice for a hearing. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to set up a hearing concerning the allegations that synthetic marijuana was sold at The Smoke Shop. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**CHATTOOGA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD:** Mayor Harvey stated that the Chattooga County Library Board has requested two appointments for the Library Board. Mayor Harvey stated that Julie Adams is a resident of the city and is willing to serve on the board. Mayor Harvey explained that Ms. Frances Shropshire no longer lives in the city but still resides within the county. Mayor Harvey stated that he recommends appointment of Ms. Adams. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if both people are willing to serve on the board. Mayor Harvey responded that both individuals have confirmed they are willing to serve. Council Member Money stated that he has no problem with either of them serving on the Library Board. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to re-appoint Ms. Frances Shropshire and appoint Ms. Julie Adams. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**SPECIAL EVENT – DOWDY PARK:** City Manager Russell Thompson stated that Chief Stan Mosley has a request for a special event to be held by Freedom Tabernacle on 6/21/14. City Manager Thompson stated that the event holders have not requested any city staffing or assistance. City Manager Thompson stated that the event holders anticipate the need to close University Street. Chief Mosley stated that he will look at the situation and make a determination if the street needs to be closed or not. Chief Mosley stated that the event planners anticipate a large turn out for the event but that may not come to fruition. Council Member Zachary Martin asked if the event holders will do all the clean up. City Manager Thompson responded stating that clean up would be done by the event planners. City Manager Thompson stated that it is his recommendation that the group pays \$250 for the special event permit then if everything is cleaned up well then the fee will be refunded.

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**SPECIAL EVENT – DOWDY PARK CONTINUED:** Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve a special event in Dowdy Park on 6/21/2014, pay the \$250 permit fee up front, and have the permit fee refunded if the grounds are cleaned up to the City's satisfaction. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Harvey stated that an executive session is needed to discuss a personnel matter. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSED:** Council Member David Ford made a motion to close the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle and carried unanimously.

**CALLED BACK TO ORDER:** Mayor Harvey called the meeting back to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions or comments from Council or the Public. No questions or comments were presented.

**ADJOURN:** Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

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**HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR**

Attest:

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**JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C.**