



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 8, 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 and 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 David Ford led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any changes to the agenda. City Manager Russell Thompson asked that item "E", zero turn mower purchase, be removed from the agenda to allow receipt of more information. There being no further deletions, changes, or additions to the agenda Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey welcomed all people in attendance for the September Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Harvey extended a personal welcome to Charles Bennett and Larry Howard. Mayor Harvey stated that each visitor would be given an opportunity to address Council at the appropriate time and at the end of the meeting.

CHARLES BENNETT – ACTUAL WATER CONSUMPTION ISSUE: Mayor Harvey asked Mr. Charles Bennett if he would like to address Council at this time. Mr. Bennett stated that he thinks that folks should only pay for the actual water they use rather than having a base bill for zero to 3,000 gallons consumption. Mr. Bennett said that he has a friend that moved out of a location and the landlord had the service turned on in their name and both individuals got a bill for the same location. Mr. Bennett said that isn't right; people should only pay for what they actually use. Mr. Bennett stated that he thinks that a \$10 bill for having access to the water is plenty. Mr. Bennett stated further that the bills are sent out for 0 to 3,000 gallons of water usage because nobody says anything. Mr. Bennett stated that he hopes that lots of folks show up and complain so the method will be changed. Mr. Bennett stated that he is not mad he just thinks the current method of billing is not fair.

CHARLES BENNETT – NO CITY INVOLVEMENT IN OLD THEATER: Mr. Bennett expressed the opinion that he is pleased that the city did not get involved with the purchase of the old theater.

CHARLES BENNETT – NO BROWN BAGGING: Mr. Bennett expressed his personal opinion that brown bagging is a bad idea. Mr. Bennett stated that brown bagging is not allowed at the 4th of July festivities or during Christmas in the Park celebration so it shouldn't be allowed any other time.

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CHARLES BENNETT – NO BROWN BAGGING CONTINUED: Mr. Bennett stated that a Council Member, which he stated will remain unidentified, told him that he (Charles Bennett) should not have brought up the issue of brown bagging. Mayor Harvey stated that he appreciated Mr. Bennett's input and directed Mr. Bennett to speak with the City Manager about his concerns.

GRANT AWARD: Mayor Harvey gave a brief presentation showing an enlarged \$500,000 check from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs which depicted grant funds awarded to the City for Phase II of the sewer project. Mayor Harvey stated that he wanted to thank staff members for their collaborative efforts on the project.

BETTER HOMETOWN: Susan Locklear reported on the activities and training done through the Better Hometown program during the month of August. Susan reported that 180 votes were turned in for the 2014 City of Summerville Christmas parade theme. Susan stated that the winning theme is "Glitter and Shine its Christmas Time". Susan also reported that there will be prizes for Christmas floats; 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$75, and 3rd place \$50. Susan reported the fall activities schedule for each Saturday in October and the first Saturday in November. Susan reported that 500 brochures have been printed for the fall festivities which will be distributed to area businesses. Susan reported that the fall decorating is underway for the area businesses. Lastly, Susan reported that there is a new business networking site called Alignables which could be beneficial for the city and county.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Joey Norton reported that 13 permits were issued in August for a total of \$759.00. Joey also reported that he continues to work on property maintenance issues. Joey reported that the property on Curran Street is now cleared.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: City Manager Russell Thompson explained that Janice Galloway is unable to attend the meeting. City Manager Thompson reported on Janice's behalf noting all maintenance performed, that there was 60,780,000 gallons of water pumped for August and the lost and unaccounted water was at 11.29%.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: City Manager Russell Thompson explained that Chris Tuggle is unable to attend the meeting because he is working on an aerator that is not working.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: City Manager Russell Thompson stated that Fire Chief Greg Echols is on a fire call. City Manager Thompson reported that there were 168 calls for the month of August. The full report of all calls made is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

PUBLIC WORKS: Tony Carroll gave a report of all work orders done for all departments under his supervision. Tony also reported that 23 pot holes were repaired in the month of August noting the 1,600 pot holes are now down to 925. Tony also reported that it is time for the 2015 LMIG paving requests. Tony asked that Council please provide a listing of their priority streets for submittal. Council Member David Ford interjected that the railroad track crossings in the city need repair. City Manager Thompson responded stating that the Georgia Department of Transportation has been contacted concerning this matter and is supposed to respond soon.

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RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Bo Chamlee reported that fall sports sign ups are done. Bo reported that there were 145 children signed up for football, 95 for cheerleading, and 85 for soccer. Bo also reported that it is time for Sum Nelly sign-ups. Bo stated that he wanted to report that a Summerville Recreation Department participant, Senioris Perry, was signed with the Chicago Bears football team. Bo stated that he is proud of what Senioris has accomplished and his participation in Summerville's Recreation Department programs.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Captain Harold Tucker reported that during the month of August officers patrolled 5,853 miles and housed 15 inmates, issued 158 citations, collected \$8,208 in fines, \$7,388.33 for State probation, \$5,510.72 in fees, \$4,909 for city court, \$1852 for city fees, and 150 hours of community service.

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Albert Palmour stated that he has talked with the USDA concerning the revenue bond noting that the process is moving forward.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: City Manager Thompson reported that revenue for August was at 2.1 million with expenses slightly over 2 million. City Manager Thompson explained that revenue tends to be down this time of the year which makes things a bit tight but still in good standing. City Manager Thompson stated that the 2014 annual audit report should be ready for Council in November.

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

CARTER & SLOOPE CDBG ENGINEERING CONTRACT: Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to give details of the CDBG engineering contract. City Manager Thompson explained that Council is being asked to authorize the Mayor to execute an engineering services contract with Carter and Sloope for the 2014 CDBG project. City Manager Thompson explained that the contract will be for \$56,500 with \$22,975 paid from grant funds and the remaining balance paid out of SPLOST. City Manager Thompson stated that Carter and Sloope is designated as the CDBG engineering by Council based on an RFQ that was released prior to the grant award. City Manager Thompson explained that cost difference between LADD Environmental and Carter and Sloope was included in Council packets. City Manager Thompson stated that there is a \$5,000 cost reduction in engineering services with Carter and Sloope. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to sign the documents associated with Carter and Sloope for engineering services associated with the before mentioned CDBG grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

FAIRWAY WALKING TRACK: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give information on the Fairway walking track. City Manager Thompson reported that Tony Carroll prepared bid packets for the Fairway walking track project. City Manager Thompson stated that one estimate of \$30,000 was received prior to bidding the job. Council approved \$20,000 for the project. City Manager Thompson stated that two bids were received on the project. City Manager Thompson stated that William D. Patty's bid was the lowest bid listing 2" of asphalt at \$19,000.

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FAIRWAY WALKING TRACK CONTINUED: City Manager Thompson stated that the second bid was from Randy Patty at \$19,250 for labor only plus \$11,614.50 for the top. City Manager Thompson stated that there is always the option to go with another type surface other than asphalt. City Manager Thompson stated that the project could be started by getting the dirt work done without the top then come back and appropriate funds for the surface or look at an alternative surface. Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to award the prep work for \$19,000. City Manager Thompson stated that the bids submitted were for 1.5" and 2.0" asphalt surface with William Patty being low bid. Council Member David Ford made a motion to go ahead and put the 2 inch asphalt down using Delbert Patty. Mayor Harvey stated that a motion has been made to go ahead with the project and put the asphalt down at a cost of \$30,600. Mayor Harvey asked for further discussion or a second to the motion. Council Member Zachary Martin seconded the motion made by Council Member David Ford which carried unanimously.

SALES TAX AUDIT: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to provide information on the sales tax audit. City Manager Thompson explained that the company will look at invoices associated with projects like the filter plant to insure no taxes were paid on materials. City Manager Thompson explained that if the audit reveals that taxes have been paid then the company goes through the process to acquire a refund. City Manager Thompson stated that the City doesn't pay the company anything; they keep 25% of the tax funds recovered. City Attorney Albert Palmour interjected that if any of the tax money recovered was associated with a bond issue the funds will have to be used to pay against retirement of that bond debt. City Attorney Palmour stated further that tax funds recovered associated with a bond issue can not be deposited into the general operating account. City Manager Thompson explained that the Georgia Municipal Association audits the City's franchise agreement funds but they do not look at capital projects. Mayor Harvey asked for a decision from Council on the audit. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to use the sales tax audit firm. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

TRENCH BOX: Mayor Harvey stated the next item for consideration is the purchase of a trench box. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give details of the request. City Manager Thompson explained that the trench box is a safety device for excavation that secures the walls of a ditch to safeguard workers from having the walls cave in. City Manager Thompson stated that this item was budgeted at \$15,000 and can be purchased for \$10,492. Mayor Harvey asked if the City currently has a trench box. Tony Carroll responded that the one currently being used is in rough shape with a lot of patches and needs to be replaced. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to purchase a trench box from Trench Shoring Services at a cost of \$10,492. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

TOOGA TRADER SIGN REQUEST: Mayor Harvey stated that Council is being asked to consider approval of a sign application for Tooga Trader at 10127 Commerce. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give details of the request. City Manager Thompson explained that the signage request meets ordinance requirements and needs Council approval since the business is located within the historic district.

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TOOGA TRADER SIGN REQUEST: Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton interjected that this 4' x 8' sign will be mounted on the side of the building. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the sign request for Tooga Trader. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

AWNING – PALMOUR LAW FIRM: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item is a request for approval of awnings on the front of Palmour Law Firm located at 9933 and 9929 Commerce Street. Mayor Harvey asked Building and Codes Enforcement Officer if the request meets ordinance regulations. Joey responded that the request meets requirements. Council Member David Ford asked who is designing the awnings. Attorney Palmour responded that Smith Iron Works has done the design work and will do the installation. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the awnings as requested. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch which carried unanimously.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION 2ND SATURDAY EVENTS: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give details of alcohol consumption for the second Saturday events. City Manager Thompson stated that discussion about brown bagging has been held with the Better Hometown Board and at Council's planning session. City Manager Thompson stated that the question at hand is to either allow or not allow brown bagging at the second Saturday events or have a vendor for alcohol sales. Mayor Harvey stated that he recommends having a vendor and no brown bagging. Mayor Harvey stated that if a vendor is used then there would be no change needed to the existing ordinance. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle stated that brown bagging will be a problem; Council voted to have alcohol vendors. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle stated that having an alcohol vendor has worked well so it should be kept that way. Council Member Zachary Martin stated that he thinks that brown bagging should not be allowed. Mayor Harvey asked if Council needs to vote on a vendor. City Manager Thompson responded stating that there are three resident vendors with two expressing no interest in providing alcohol at the events. City Manager Thompson stated that Jefferson's expressed interest in serving as the event alcohol vendor. Mayor Harvey stated that if a vendor is used no further action is necessary.

LIBRARY BOARD: Mayor Harvey stated that no action is needed at this meeting but Council is being asked to make an appointment to the Chattooga County Library Board. Mayor Harvey stated that Council needs to have someone by the October meeting. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that he has a couple of people in mind but wants to speak with them before a nomination is made.

AED DEFIBRILLATOR – RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey stated that Council is being asked to consider purchasing an AED defibrillator for the Recreation Department. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that he has spoken with Bo about this item noting that it is a safety mechanism to assist with emergencies. Council Member Money stated that all recreation staff would be trained to use the equipment. City Manager Thompson interjected that there is an EMT certified firefighter that could conduct the training for the City. Council Member David Ford asked if plans include the purchase of a unit for the Fairway Recreation facility. City Manager Thompson explained that the City has \$5,000 annually from the Georgia Municipal Association to be used for health and safety.

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AED DEFIBRILLATOR – RECREATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUED: City Manager Thompson stated that the AED units could be funded through the GMA money. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the purchase of two AED defibrillator units for the Summerville and Fairway Recreation Department facilities. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

DEMOLISH 138 CURRAN STREET: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give details of the 138 Curran Street demolition. City Manager Thompson explained that the property at 138 Curran Street has already been through the court process. City Manager Thompson stated that Council is being asked for approval to solicit bids for the demolition and clearing of the property. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to solicit bids for the demolition and clearing of 138 Curran Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

QUESTIONS: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions from the public.

TRION-TELOGA CHICKEN HOUSES: Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* asked if the City of Summerville will be supplying natural gas to the new chicken houses on Trion-Teloga Road. Tony Carroll responded that the location is in the City of Summerville natural gas certificate area.

SALARY COMMITTEE: Jason Espy asked if the salary committee has been set up. Mayor Harvey responded stating that the committee has been established and should meet soon.

BUILDING INSPECTION/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Larry Howard asked if there is a plan to reduce building inspection services. Mayor Harvey responded stating that there are no changes planned at this time. Larry stated that he has worked with Joey and has had no problems.

BROWN BAGGING – CHARLES BENNETT: Charles Bennett asked if there will be anyone present during the second Saturday events to check that nobody is brown bagging. Mayor Harvey responded that the issue will be monitored. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle asked if arm bands will be used. City Manager Thompson stated that all security issues will be worked through before events.

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

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C.