



## CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 9, 2015



**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 Melissa Hise.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Dale Housch led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA:** Mayor Harvey asked if there are any changes to the agenda. City Manager Russell Thompson requested the sign request under item 9-d be removed from the agenda noting that the applicant is undecided on the type of sign at this time. City Manager Thompson also requested item 9-f listing an executive session to discuss real estate be removed from the agenda because more information is needed. Mayor Harvey asked if there are any further changes to the agenda. With no further changes being requested, Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of items 9-d and 9-f. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** Mayor Harry Harvey gave the following announcements:

- Everyone is encouraged to attend as many of the activities scheduled for April as possible; there is a lot going on.
- The Georgia Municipal Association Annual Convention will be held in June 26<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>.
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5 PM there will be a planning session held to discuss potential projects and set prioritization for those projects.
- Regular Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Mayor Harvey encouraged the public to attend and expressed appreciation for those that join the meetings.
- Mayor Harvey welcomed all visitors requesting that they sign in listing their name, address, and reason for attending the meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that all visitors will be given an opportunity to speak now and again at the end of the meeting. Mayor Harvey requested that all comments be limited to three minutes.

**SIRENS FOR CITIES, INC:** Mayor Harvey stated that Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and Mr. Ed Wise have a presentation concerning a public warning system. Mayor Harvey asked for Council Member Money to proceed. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. gave a Power Point presentation showing damage and the class of tornados that have touched down within 40 miles of Summerville. Council Member Money explained that there has been damage in Ringgold, Trenton, Calhoun, Adairsville, and Summerville as well as in Rainsville, Alabama. Council Member Money explained that in 2009 when an EF-2 tornado hit Summerville he was inside of a store. Council Member Money explained that a public warning system would provide citizens with notification to help reduce the risk of harm.

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**SIRENES FOR CITIES, INC. CONTINUED:** Council Member Money explained that Trion and Lyerly have public warning systems in place. Council Member Money stated that the city of Menlo has approved the purchase of a public warning system but has not found grant funding for the project at this time. Council Member Money stated further that Channel 9 has stated they will work with the City of Summerville to coordinate warnings. Council Member Money requested CEO of Sirens for Cities, Inc. Ed Wise to come forward with his portion of the presentation. Mr. Wise provided a handout to Council. Mr. Wise explained that within the handout there are suggested sites for sirens noting that the locations are up to Council and can be changed. Mr. Wise stated that the sirens are virtually maintenance free explaining that the only component that has to be replaced is the siren head which lasts approximately seven years with the sirens lasting about 53 years. Mr. Wise explained that the sirens are \$18,101.81 each. Mr. Wise stated that installation of the full system would be \$19,500 which includes pole installation. Mr. Wise stated that the information he has provided is based on purchasing three model 16V1T-B AC/DC warning sirens. Mayor Harvey asked how the notification system works. Mr. Wise explained that they system works like Code Red. Mr. Wise said the system can be set up however the city determines is best. Mr. Wise explained that Chattooga County already has a Code Red system so the city would not need to purchase that part. Mr. Wise explained that the system is tested once a month with the duration of the siren being three seconds at a time and following Chattooga County's protocol. Council Member Dale Housch asked about the system capabilities. Mr. Wise explained that Chattooga County has purchased a system that has phone, text and siren capabilities noting that the system is limited only by what the city wants. Mayor Harvey stated that he appreciated the presentation but the item will need further discussion and collaboration. City Manager Thompson stated that he has talked with Eddie Henderson about the system and if Council chooses to move forward there are four funding options; 1. SPLOST funds, 2. Grant funds, 3. Contingency funds, or 4. Capital funds all of which could be discussed at the planning session if Council chooses.

**BETTER HOMETOWN:** Mayor Harvey requested Susan Locklear give the Better Hometown report. Ms. Locklear reviewed the report submitted to Council for the February Better Hometown activities noting that April 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the next Downtown Coffee Break, Brent Templeton Design Group's application for smart phones will help Summerville visitors to find points of interest, and April 19 – 23 is Georgia Cities Week. A copy of Ms. Locklear's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Mayor Harvey requested Joey Norton to give the Code Enforcement report. Joey reviewed the permit report submitted to Council for February activity noting that he continues to work on property maintenance issues. A copy of the Code Enforcement report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Mayor Harvey requested that Janice Galloway give the Water Treatment Plant report. Janice reviewed the February activity report for her department which was submitted to Council. The report gave a listing of plant maintenance accomplished, rain and snow for the month, water pumped and distributed, lab analysis, chlorine and fluoride distribution, sample requirements, and the problem with a high service pump which is listed later in the agenda. A copy of the report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

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**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Mayor Harvey asked Chris Tuggle to give the report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Chris reviewed the WWTP report that was given to Council in their meeting packet. Chris also reported that the newest operator has passed all three exams for certification. A copy of the WWTP monthly report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES:** Mayor Harvey asked Terry Tinney to give the report for Public Works and Utilities. Terry reviewed all work orders for all departments in public works and utilities that were issued during the past month. A copy of the report is attached and becomes part of these minutes. Terry also expressed appreciation for the good work done by the city crew members during the recent snow and ice.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT:** Mayor Harvey asked Bo Chamlee to give the Recreation Department report. Bo reviewed the report issued to the Mayor and Council for Recreation Department activities during the month of February. A copy of the report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Public Safety Director and Police Chief Stan Mosley reviewed the Police Department, Municipal Probation, and Chattooga County State Court reports that were submitted to the Mayor and Council. The reports are attached and become part of these minutes.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Mayor Harvey requested Fire Chief Greg Echols to give the Fire Department report. Chief Echols reviewed the report issued to the Mayor and Council showing all calls and associated man-hours for the Summerville Fire Department during the month of February. A copy of the report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Russell Thompson reported that revenue is at 11.6 million and expenses are at 9.5 which leaves the city approximately 2 million to the good. City Manager Thompson expressed appreciation for the great work done during the snow by our public works and safety departments.

**MINUTES:** Mayor Harvey asked if there are any comments or changes needed to the minutes of the previous meetings. With no comments or changes required to the previous minutes Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to accept and approve the minutes as prepared. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**SECOND READING – MID YEAR BUDGET AMENDMENTS:** Mayor Harvey stated that this is the second reading of the July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 Mid Year Budget Amendments Ordinance. Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions or changes Council wishes to discuss. There were no questions or changes requested by Council. Mayor Harvey stated that the budget is balanced with the inclusion of three new positions; one operator at the Water Treatment Plant, one operator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and changing one staff member from part time to full time. Mayor Harvey read the ordinance aloud followed by offering the public an opportunity to make comments and voice opinions. There was no comment or question from the public. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the current fiscal year mid year budget amendments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

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**HIGH SERVICE PUMP – WATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Mayor Harvey stated that there is a problem with the high pressure pump at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mayor Harvey asked that City Manager Thompson and Janice tell Council about the situation. City Manager Thompson responded stating that the high pressure pump at the WTP is experiencing problems. City Manager Thompson stated that two prices have been quoted; one for repair at a cost of \$9,500 with a 30 day warranty and one to replace for a cost of \$16,075 with a one year warranty. City Manager Thompson recommended the unit be repaired. Council Member David Ford asked how often the unit breaks down. Janice stated that the last time it was repaired was in 2002 noting that the unit is worn out. Council Member Dale Housch made a motion to approve repair of the pump by Hand Service Company. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Harvey stated that an executive session is needed for the City Manager's annual evaluation. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**REGULAR SESSION RESUMED:** Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to reopen the regular session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dale Housch and carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER'S EVALUATION AND COMPENSATION:** Mayor Harvey stated that the City Manager is doing a satisfactory job in all areas. Mayor Harvey stated further that he also does an outstanding job in some areas. Mayor Harvey asked Council to make a motion concerning the City Manager's compensation. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to award City Manager Thompson a 2.5% increase in salary. Mayor Harvey asked if the bonus is included in the salary. Council Member Money responded, "Yes". Council Member Dale Housch seconded the motion. Mayor Harvey stated that the vote is unanimous in favor of the motion. The City Clerk visually scanned the Council to confirm all Council Members did raise their hands. Council Member David Ford did not raise his hand to show affirmation of the motion nor did he voice objection to the statement of a unanimous approval by the Mayor. The motion passed as unanimous since no objection was voiced. Mayor Harvey stated that the City Manager's pay is not part of the employee compensation plan.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** Mayor Harvey asked if there are any comments or questions from the public.

**JASON ESPY – THE SUMMERVILLE NEWS QUESTIONS:** Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* asked the following questions.

**CITY MANAGER'S SALARY:** Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* asked what the City Manager's base salary is. Mayor Harvey responded stating that his base salary is \$81,900 which will put him at around \$84,500.

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**BLUE BUILDING PURCHASE & USE:** Jason Espy asked why the city wants to buy the property that has been discussed in executive session. Mayor Harvey stated that the attorney is working on that. Mayor Harvey stated that the blue building is right by the park which is advantageous but a discussion has not been concluded concerning use. City Manager Thompson explained that there is a 50 foot ROW for the railroad and a 25 foot buffer from the edge of the stream so building would not be feasible. Jason asked if the lot has been paid for. City Manager Thompson responded that the sale is not final. Jason asked if the property was purchased because it is an eyesore. Attorney Hise responded that details of the sale and or use are not available due to privacy issues which put this item outside of the sunshine law and legally does not have to be divulged. Attorney Hise stated that once the deal is finished then a discussion can be held.

**ADJOURN:** All current business having been concluded, Council Member David Ford made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle and carried unanimously.

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**HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR**

Attest:

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**JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C**