



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2015
5 PM**



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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harry Harvey gave roll call. Council Members David Ford, Earl H. Parris, Joe Money, Jr. and Zachary Martin were present. Also present was City Manager Russell Thompson and Attorney Melissa Hise. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle was absent.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member David Ford led the pledge of allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICIALS ELECTED 11/3/2015: Attorney Melissa Hise officiated the swearing in Council Members elected at the 11/3/2015 City of Summerville Municipal Election. Sworn in were: Council Seat 3 – Earl H. Parris, Council Seat 4 – S. Joe Money, Jr., Council Seat 5 – Zachary D. Martin. Each elected official signed their respective Oath of Office which becomes part of these minutes.

MEETING AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions or changes to the agenda as presented. Mayor Harvey stated that item (9) c. Public Hearing – Rezone lot east of University Ave will be removed. Mayor Harvey stated that the item will be done at the next regular meeting.

City Manager Russell Thompson stated that he needed to add one item. City Manager Thompson explained that the GEFA resolution passed at the last meeting had his secretary listed to attest the document. City Manager Thompson explained that he had the city clerk attest the document and affix the city seal. City Manager Thompson explained that his conversation with GEFA resulted in the recommendation that a resolution be passed amending that signature be the city clerk's.

Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with the removal of the zoning public hearing and the addition of the resolution requested by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously. Mayor Harvey noted that the added item would be listed right after the zoning request on the agenda.

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the January 2016 meeting. Mayor Harvey requested that visitors sign in listing their name, address, and reason for attending the meeting. Mayor Harvey explained that each visitor wanting to address Council may do so at the beginning and end of the meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that public comments need to be limited to three minutes each.

CHARLES BENNETT: Charles Bennett introduced himself and asked if D & H Pressure Washing buys water from the city. Utility Director Tony Carroll responded stating that they get water on Saturdays and in turn the city gets two free pressure washes a year.

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CHARLES BENNETT CONTINUED: Charles Bennett asked if the sign for the new real estate company in town has been approved. Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton responded that sign was approved at the last Council Meeting.

JEREMY KWALERSKI: Mayor Harvey asked Mr. Kwalerski to address Council at this time.

Jeremy Kwalerski introduced himself saying that he owns a business in Summerville, CPR. Mr. Kwalerski stated that he is interested in opening a vape shop in the old Yolie's location on Commerce. Mr. Kwalerski explained that he would like to serve alcohol but with the way the city alcohol ordinance reads he would be required to have 50% of his sales in food. Mr. Kwalerski stated that he has no interest in running a restaurant and is requesting Council add a billiard ball classification that would allow alcohol sales without being tied to food sales. Mr. Kwalerski stated that he is willing to have a 15% tax share with the city. Mr. Kwalerski stated that he would like to serve wine and craft style beers. Mr. Kwalerski also stated that he has gotten about 300 people to stop smoking through vaping. Mayor Harvey requested Mr. Kwalerski speak with the City Manager then the information can be given to Council. Council Member Earl Parris asked if Mr. Kwalerski has a floor plan. Mayor Harvey interjected that all information provided to the City Manager will be brought back to Council.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: Mayor Harvey stated that departmental reports will begin with Better Hometown. City Manager Thompson stated that each department will give an annual report plus their monthly information.

BETTER HOMETOWN: Better Hometown Director Susan Locklear reviewed the report she prepared for Council listing the Better Hometown vision and mission statements, all activities for the month of December, and her re-cap of what was accomplished for the year. A copy of Susan's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton reviewed the permit list provided to Council for the month of December 2015. Joey also reported that he continues to work on property maintenance issues. A copy of Joey's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the old Huddle House location is operating as a car lot. Joey responded stating that the lot is used to store cars only; no sales done on that lot. Joey explained that the existing sign must be either repaired or removed by the owner. Council Member Money asked if the location will be reopened as a restaurant. Joey responded stating that the building is in such bad state of repair that a lot of work would be needed to operate as an eating establishment again. Joey explained that he will move forward with advising the property owner to either fix or clean off the location.

Council Member Earl Parris asked Joey Norton to provide a list of vacant property.

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WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Janice Galloway reviewed the report she prepared for Council. Janice gave statistical information concerning distribution for the month of December 2015, annual distribution, data for samples collected, and recertification points accomplished by each Water Treatment Plant staff member. A copy of Janice's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Lead Operator Randall Craig reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant report presented to Council listing activities for the month of December. Randall also reviewed all maintenance performed for 2015 and read the WWTP mission statement. A copy of the WWTP report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

UTILITY/PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works Director Tony Carroll addressed the Mayor and Council reviewing his report of all activities accomplished by all departments under his supervision. Tony also reviewed upcoming 2016 projects. A copy of Tony's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

Tony also presented a draft of a chicken house policy for review. City Manager Thompson interjected that the draft is not intended to be a finished product. City Manager Thompson requested Council review the draft and provide feedback about any concerns or questions. Mayor Harvey stated that Council may be ready next month to set a chicken house policy.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Recreation Department Director Bo Chamlee reviewed the report he submitted to Council listing athletic and community programs spearheaded through the Summerville Recreation Department. Bo also reviewed the listing of athletic accomplishments achieved by Summerville Recreation Department teams as well as 2015 maintenance and 2016 goals. A copy of his report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Police Chief Stan Mosley reviewed the statistical information prepared for the Mayor and Council depicting police department activities and collections for the month of December. Chief Mosley also reviewed collections for the State and Municipal Probation services. Copies of Chief Mosley's reports are attached and become part of these minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Fire Chief Greg Echols reviewed the Fire Department reports prepared for Council showing the number, category, and hours involved with Fire Department calls for the month of December and the full year of 2015. A copy of Chief Echols' reports are attached and become part of these minutes.

Council Member David Ford stated that AED certification classes will be available Wednesday of this week. Council Member Ford stated that it would be a good opportunity to get Fire Department staff certified. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the AED at Fairway was damaged during the fire. Recreation Director Bo Chamlee stated that the Fairway AED was lost.

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Melissa Hise stated that she did not have anything to discuss other than items listed on the agenda.

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CITY MANAGER: City Manager Thompson reviewed the financial reports submitted to Council concerning the financial condition of the city. City Manager Thompson explained that expenses are at 1.5 million and revenue is at 1.2 million. City Manager Thompson stated that there is approximately \$181,000 in outstanding reimbursements that will be coming in. City Manager Thompson stated that the city is approximately 70,000 mcf below the amount of gas sold this time last year. Council Member Earl Parris asked exactly what that means. City Manager Thompson stated that he will prepare a break down of that for Council Member Parris. City Manager Thompson stated that the mid year budget is due January 19th. City Manager Thompson stated that the mid year budget will be presented for Council review. City Manager Thompson stated further that since revenue is tight the city will observe a spending freeze; only absolutely necessary items will be approved. City Manager Thompson also reported that the sludge, garbage service, and auditing services contracts will be bid this year. City Manager Thompson asked that Council Members let him know if they have any questions.

GOOD JOB – WORKING WELL: Council Member Earl Parris addressed department heads and stated that everyone did a good job presenting reports. Council Member Parris stated further that it sounds like everyone is working well.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Harvey asked if anyone had any changes or questions concerning the minutes of the previous meeting. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 meeting as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

GEFA MODIFICATION – ATTESTING SIGNATURE: Mayor Harvey stated that the City Manager explained that a resolution needs to be approved naming the city clerk as the attesting signature to the GEFA loan modification papers that were approved at the December meeting. Council Member David Ford made a motion to name the City Clerk as the attesting signature for the GEFA loan modification paperwork. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

STREETScape – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to give information concerning the Memorandum of Understanding for the Streetscape project. City Manager Thompson stated that the paperwork mimics the original Memorandum of Understanding done in 2011. City Manager Thompson stated that all preliminary work has been sent to the State which is in the process of being reviewed. City Manager Thompson stated that the Memorandum of Understanding is to help push the Streetscape project through to 2019. City Manager Thompson stated that he thinks the project will be worthwhile. City Manager Thompson stated that a motion is needed to authorize the Mayor to execute associated documents as needed for this project. Council Member Earl Parris made a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for submittal to the Department of Transportation. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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HOTEL/MOTEL TAX: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for consideration is the hotel/motel tax. Mayor Harvey asked for City Manager Thompson to give details on this item. City Manager Thompson explained that the hotel/motel tax ordinance was set at 5% but due to complications of fund requirements it was determined that the tax would be best set at 3%. City Manager Thompson stated that it is possible to go back later and increase the percentage. City Manager Thompson stated further that since there was some wording missing in the first ordinance he recommends the effective date be set as March 1, 2016. City Manager Thompson explained that once the ordinance is approved by Council it has to go to the Department of Community Affairs. Attorney Melissa Hise stated that she hopes that DCA can get the ordinance back to the city in order to line everything up for the March 1st date. City Manager Thompson stated that once the city gets approval from DCA then the forms forthcoming from Melissa will be reviewed with the hotel owner. Mayor Harvey read the hotel/motel tax ordinance. After reading the ordinance it was duly noted that a corrected document is needed. Mayor Harvey stated that the corrected document will be presented at the February meeting and considered the official second reading.

FAIRWAY RECREATION DEPARTMENT – DESTROYED: Mayor Harvey stated that the Fairway Recreation facility was destroyed by fire in December. Mayor Harvey stated that it is important to have Council input on what is done concerning the Fairway location. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give information concerning this item. City Manager Thompson stated that two quotes have been received which have been approved by the insurer. City Manager Thompson stated that there has been a lot of input from the community. City Manager Thompson explained that it is staff's recommendation to establish a community committee that works in concert with elected officials and city staff to develop a land use plan or hire an architect to develop a multi purpose facility with renderings for presentation to Council. Mayor Harvey asked Bo Chamlee if he has any recommendations. Bo responded stating that he would like to establish a development committee that includes himself, Wayne Perry, and a couple of Council Members. Council Member Earl Parris asked anyone that is watching the meeting on TV to please contact Bo Chamlee concerning this project. Mayor Harvey stated that public input will be considered. Mayor Harvey stated that once the committee is established, the public is encouraged to attend the developmental meetings. Council Member Earl Parris asked if there is a deadline for any aspect of this project. City Manager Thompson responded that the development is not to that point at this time. Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to have Council Members David Ford and Zachary Martin on the committee. Mayor Harvey stated further that he would like other Council Members to submit ideas as well. Council Member David Ford stated that he recommends Larry Allen be on the committee. Mayor Harvey stated that he recommends having between seven to nine people on the committee. Mayor Harvey stated that Council will review all submissions and will make the final decision. Council Member Earl Parris asked if a date is going to be set for the first meeting. Bo Chamlee responded that he hopes to meet in the next couple of weeks; third or fourth week of January. Mayor Harvey stated that the meetings will need to be advertised. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that this is a great opportunity and Council needs to be sure to get it right.

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HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to give information on the health and dental insurance item. City Manager Thompson stated that the health and dental insurance coverage is through the Georgia Municipal Association. City Manager Thompson explained further that the elected officials were left off of the insurance declaration. Mayor Harvey stated that a motion is needed to add elected officials to the health and dental coverage. Council Member Zachary Martin made a motion to add elected officials to the health and dental coverage. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

IRS – CIVIL PENALTY: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain the IRS civil penalty of \$5,493.75. City Manager Thompson stated that this penalty is associated with cafeteria insurance and how they are taxed. The amount of \$5,493.75 will close this item out. Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions from Council. With no questions voiced, Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to authorize the payment of \$5,493.75 to the IRS to clear the civil penalty associated with taxes for cafeteria insurance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Earl Parris and carried unanimously.

SIDEWALKS – HIGHLAND AVE: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for discussion is sidewalks for Highland Avenue. Mayor Harvey asked Council Member Joe Money, Jr. to begin the conversation. Council Member Money stated that sidewalks for Highland Avenue have been talked about for forty years. Council Member Money stated that in the 70s when David Ford ran for office this was one of his campaign issues. Council Member Money stated that he thinks that sidewalks for Highland Avenue should be accomplished by 2019. Council Member Parris asked if this can be tied to any other project. Utility Director Tony Carroll responded stating that currently there isn't any way to tie sidewalks to an existing project. Tony stated that sidewalks can be tied to the next LMIG grant. City Manager Thompson stated that it would be wise to rectify any infrastructure first. Council Member Zachary Martin stated that sewer lines need to be fixed first. Tony Carroll stated that some right-of-way acquisitions will be needed along with some tree removals. Council Member Earl Parris asked about project cost including any associated work. City Manager Thompson stated that it would be nice to have sidewalks from Washington Street to Highway 27. Mayor Harvey stated that it may be best to do sidewalks a section at a time. Tony Carroll stated that this subject has been discussed before with consideration of going all the way around Fairway Recreation Department and by the library. Mayor Harvey stated that he didn't want to get started and then have the project dropped. Mayor Harvey asked how that (keeping the project going) can be accomplished. City Manager Thompson stated that the first step would be to identify property owners and use AutoCAD to determine the cost. Council Member Parris wanted to know who knocks on doors to see what the public wants. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends a rough concept be prepared then have a public meeting or series of meetings for community input. Mayor Harvey stated that this item could be revisited during the upcoming planning session. City Manager Thompson stated that he recommends it be included in the 2017 fiscal year budget. Council Member David Ford stated that a door to door survey of the residents could be done for informational purposes. Mayor Harvey stated that there will be no action on this item at this time but it will be kept in mind.

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REGULAR MEETING TIME: Mayor Harvey stated that the discussion is to see what Council's opinion is to change the regular meeting time from 5 PM to 6 PM. Mayor Harvey stated that moving the meeting to 6 PM will help our public to attend the meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that the time change will also help Council Member Money coordinate work and meetings. Council Member Zachary Martin said he is flexible. Council Member Parris stated that it will encourage the public to attend meetings. City Manager Thompson stated that the meeting time is specified in the City Charter. Attorney Melissa Hise stated that the time can be changed by ordinance. Council Member Earl Parris made a motion to change the regular meeting time for the City of Summerville Council to 6 PM. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

SWIMMING POOL: Mayor Harvey stated that he wanted to open the floor for discussion concerning a public swimming pool for Summerville.

Council Member Earl Parris read his memo to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager concerning his thoughts on a pool/water park. A copy of the document is attached and becomes part of these minutes. Mayor Harvey asked for Council's comments. Mayor Harvey stated that it has been mentioned to tie the splash park with Fairway. Mayor Harvey requested that Earl Parris and Joe Money, Jr. come up with a Committee. Mayor Harvey also asked that each Council Member establish one committee participant. Mayor Harvey went on to say that pools are not very popular due to the liability. Mayor Harvey stated that splash parks are more popular. Mayor Harvey stated that the committee needs to have between 7 to 9 members to consider the cost, maintenance, and liability associated with the concept. Council Member Parris stated that the key ingredient is keeping the kids busy. Council Member Parris said that the money takes a back seat to keeping kids engaged in healthy activities. Council Member Parris stated that if money can be spent to bus folks to jail and house them then money can be spent in an effort to keep them out of jail by participation in a healthy sport. Council Member Parris asked Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* to help with community awareness of this item. Council Member David Ford suggested that Assistant Recreation Department Director Kris Willis be involved with this project since he worked with the Trion Recreation Department when they operated a public pool.

PLANNING SESSION: Mayor Harvey stated that he would like Council's input on a date for a planning session. Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to review the city's current position and future direction. Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to have the planning session before the next regular meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that the meeting would be from 6 – 6:30 PM to 8 – 8:30 PM. A general discussion determined that a planning session will be held on Thursday, January 21st beginning at 6:30 PM. City Manager Thompson stated that a review of the city's operation will be done allowing face time with departments to explain daily operations. Mayor Harvey stated that the second planning session date will be set at the January 21st meeting. Council Member David Ford made a motion to set a planning session for January 21st beginning at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

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SAFETY PLAN: Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Thompson to provide information concerning the countywide safety plan. City Manager Thompson explained that authorization is needed for the Mayor to sign all paperwork related to the countywide safety plan and territorial boundary map which will be submitted to the Georgia Public Service Commission. City Manager Thompson explained that the information to be submitted is mutually agreeable to the City of Summerville and the Town of Trion. Tony Carroll interjected that the same process will have to be done for our Floyd County service area. Mayor Harvey stated that the document being authorized for submittal is only for Chattooga County. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to sign all documents associated with submitting the countywide safety plan with the territorial boundary map to the Georgia Public Service Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

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

IRS – JASON ESPY: Jason Espy of *The Summerville News* stated that he did not understand the IRS issue then requested copies of the associated documents. Jason asked if there would be any examination of staff. Jason stated that there was a problem with a staff member in the past then that person was brought back. Jason asked if there would be any repercussions with staff about this item. City Manager Thompson responded that the IRS tax issue is related to staff transition. City Manager Thompson stated that the error probably occurred due to not having enough training; no other issue.

GAS LINES – BACK VALLEY AREA: Jason Espy asked if there have been any new customers added to the new gas line in the back valley area. Tony Carroll responded stating that there are 7 or 8 new customers hooked on to that gas line.

COMMUNITY BASKETBALL TEAM: Council Member David Ford stated that he is proud of the community basketball teams. Council Member Ford stated that Isaiah Foster has record high points. Council Member Ford stated that he is also proud of the work Council Member Zachary Martin has done as a basketball coach. Council Member Martin stated that the kids are dedicated and doing a good job. Council Member Martin stated that there are more games tomorrow and Friday.

ADJOURN: With all current business having been completed Council Member Earl Parris made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

Attest:

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

JILL DURHAM – CITY CLERK, G.C.M.C.