



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 11, 2016
6 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, Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle, Joe Money, Jr. and Zachary Martin were present. Also present was City Manager Russell Thompson and City Attorney Albert Palmour.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harry Harvey gave the invocation.

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

AGENDA: Mayor Harry Harvey asked if there are any changes to the meeting agenda. City Manager Russell Thompson stated that he has two items to be added if there are no objections. City Manager Thompson stated that the first item is to authorize the Mayor to sign a TE grant under LMIG. City Manager Thompson stated that the second item is to reject all of the bids for sludge hauling and have the contract re-bid. City Manager Thompson explained that there was some specific environmental language omitted which needs to be included. Mayor Harvey asked if there are any more changes. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the two items mentioned by City Manager Thompson. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS/WELCOME: Mayor Harvey stated that he appreciates everyone attending the April Council Meeting. Mayor Harvey requested that visitors sign in listing their name, address, and reason for attending the meeting. Mayor Harvey stated that all visitors will be given an opportunity to address Council now and again at the end of the meeting. Mayor Harvey requested that comments be limited to three minutes each.

SUE OWENS – 68 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET: Sue Owens stated that she lives at 68 North Washington Street and has made several calls over the last six to eight weeks concerning a water leak that floods her front yard. Ms. Owens stated that she has not been able to get the situation resolved. City Manager Thompson stated that someone will be there tomorrow to get the situation resolved.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLERS: Mayor Harvey stated that Kris Willis of the Recreation Department has a presentation for Jacob and Jackson Bond who are Georgia State Champions in their respective weight class of wrestling. Kris presented Jacob Bond with a plaque from the City of Summerville in recognition of his first State Wrestling Championship. Jacob wrestled in the 52-pound bracket. Kris presented Jason Bond with a plaque for his sixth State Wrestling Championship. Jason wrestled in the 75 pound bracket this year. Kris expressed his appreciation for all participants in the wrestling program. Kris explained that this is a parent run program with City of Summerville Recreation Department oversight. Kris stated that participation in the wrestling program has doubled since last year.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated that there are a lot of upcoming events which will be shared during Susan Locklear's presentation for Better Hometown. Mayor Harvey also announced that the second Monday of each month the Council meets for their regular meeting.

BETTER HOMETOWN: Susan Locklear stated that in front of each elected official they have a water bottle with the city logo. Susan explained that the water bottles will be used as prizes and promotional give away items.

Susan stated that Kobe Nadu prepared a promotional video for the City of Summerville free of charge. Susan played the video which is posted on the city's web page. Susan reported that April 11th through April 16th is National Volunteer Week. Susan announced the ribbon cuttings and upcoming April events. A copy of Susan's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Joey Norton addressed Council reviewing the report he prepared concerning permits issued during the month of March. Joey also reported that he is reviewing the mobile home ordinance and permit process to have all information consolidated. Council Member Earl Parris asked if there are any demolitions. Joey responded stating that there is a demolition currently going through Superior Court. Joey explained that the first one is a little slow but any that follow will progress more smoothly. Joey explained that there is a lot of work that goes into the process due to having to make every effort to contact all pertinent people associated with the property. A copy of Joey's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Janice Galloway reviewed the report she prepared for Council concerning activity at Raccoon Creek and Lowe Spring. Janice also reviewed distribution for the month of March. A copy of Janice's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Chris Tuggle reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Plant report submitted to Council listing activities for the month of March. A copy of Chris' report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES: Tony Carroll reviewed the March report presented to Council for the water, sewer, street, and gas departments. Tony also reviewed how many locates were done and general information on various projects. A copy of Tony's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes. Council Member Earl Parris questioned if wheelchairs can get on sidewalks. Tony responded, "Yes our sidewalks are ADA compliant".

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Kris Willis reviewed the report he prepared for Council concerning Recreation Department activities. Kris stated that he is happy to announce that Summerville will host the Dizzy Dean 10-year-old baseball tournament for District 1. Kris also reported on building rentals and meetings. A copy of Kris' report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Stan Mosley reviewed the activities of the Summerville Police Department and Probation offices. Chief Mosley reported that Chief Greg Echols retired and there will be a retirement dinner held on 4/20/16 at 7 pm at the Depot. Chief Mosley stated that he hopes everyone will attend. Chief Mosley stated further that he has talked with City Manager Thompson about appointing Robbie Lathem as Fire Chief.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Robbie Lathem reviewed the March Summerville Fire Department report listing each category of call and average response time. A copy of the report prepared by Robbie is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

CITY MANAGER: City Manager Thompson stated that Council has financial reports showing the city's status as of March 31st. City Manager Thompson explained that expenses are at 1.3 million, revenue is at 1.5 million and year to date disbursements at 11.2 million. City Manager Thompson stated that the city is in the black with finances in good shape.

City Manager Thompson stated that in Tony's report he touched on the meter project. City Manager Thompson stated that the 90-day hiatus will end in May noting that once that occurs information on the project will be provided to Council. City Manager Thompson stated further that there will most likely need to be a Special Called Meeting to discuss this item.

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Mayor Harvey asked if anyone had any corrections or comments about minutes as prepared for the previous meetings. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to accept and approve the minutes as prepared and presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY FAIR – CITY CONTRIBUTION: Mayor Harvey stated that Dale Housch is present on behalf of the Chattooga County Fair. Mayor Harvey requested Dale Housch address Council. Dale Housch stated that he appreciates what the city has donated in the past and is asking for continued support for this community event. Dale Housch stated that Council has been provided with a Chattooga County Agricultural Fair Profit and Loss statement as of December 31, 2015. Mr. Housch explained that the document is on point and shows that the net income from last year's event was marginal. Mr. Housch stated that the first year of the event the city contributed \$10,000 and the second year \$5,000 was donated. Mr. Housch stated that the Chattooga County Fair Committee is asking for \$5,000 to be effective July 1, 2016 so that it is listed in next year's budget. Mr. Housch explained that the fair has been "tweaked" to involve more children. Mr. Housch stated that once this year's fair is over work begins immediately for next year. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve a \$5,000 donation to the Chattooga County Fair to be appropriated in the July 1, 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Earl Parris and carried unanimously. A copy of the profit and loss statement is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

SUMMERVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Mayor Harvey stated that discussion has been held previously about revitalizing the Summerville Industrial Development Authority. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson go bring everyone up to speed on the progress.

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SUMMERVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONTINUED:

City Manager Thompson explained that there were seven names suggested that have been narrowed down to five. City Manager stated that the five candidates are Larry Allen, Kevin Gilliland, John Turner, Doug Jones, and Dale Housch. City Manager Thompson stated that if there are other nominees Council would like to consider please make the recommendation in private to allow time to check with the person to see if they are willing to participate. City Manager Thompson also explained that it is recommended that two alternates be considered. Council Member Earl Parris made a motion to appoint the five individuals named by the City Manager as the five board members for the Summerville Industrial Development Authority with two alternate members to be named at a later date. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

CHATTOOGA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated that the Chattooga County Library has requested the city make two appointments to the Library Board. Mayor Harvey stated that the names recommended are Chastity Miller and Kathy Floyd. Mayor Harvey stated that both individuals have agreed to serve in the capacity requested. Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions or discussion relating to the nominations. With no further discussion Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the appointment of Chastity Miller and Kathy Floyd to the Chattooga County Library Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

ENGINEERING FIRM – 2016 CDBG PROJECT: Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Russell Thompson to review the information received concerning engineering firms submitting bids on the proposed 2016 CDBG project. City Manager Thompson reported that proposals were received from Carter & Slope, LADD Environmental, Atkins, and North America, Inc. City Manager Thompson explained that appointment of an engineering firm is contingent upon being awarded the \$500,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. City Manager Thompson stated that staff recommends Carter & Slope due to their proven success with the 2014 CDBG project. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to appoint Carter & Slope as the engineering firm for the 2016 CDBG grant contingent on the city being awarded said grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

CITY AUDITOR SERVICES: Mayor Harvey stated that RFPs have been received for auditing services for the city which have been distributed to Council for review. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to provide information concerning the city auditing services RFP.

City Manager Thompson stated that all RFPs were reviewed for qualifications, scope, and cost. City Manager Thompson stated that Nicholas Cauley and Associates failed to comply with the RFP in that they did not submit the requested number of proposal copies. City Manager Thompson stated that there are three firms that qualified; Williamson and Company, CPA, Mauldin & Jenkins, and Chrysan Thomas, CPA., PC. City Manager Thompson asked if Council would like to have oral presentations by each of the three companies in the final pool of firms. City Manager Thompson stated that if Council does not want oral presentations please provide feedback so a final recommendation can be made at the May meeting.

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CITY AUDITOR SERVICES CONTINUED: Mayor Harvey stated that he would like to have each finalist make a presentation to Council. Council Member David Ford commented that he thinks having a presentation by each one is a good idea. Mayor Harvey asked Council what date would work best. A general discussion concluded that presentations can be done at a Special Called Meeting to be held on Monday, April 18th at 6 pm.

COLOR RESTRICTIONS – REGULATIONS FOR THE HISTORIC DISTRICT: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item for discussion is color restrictions for the historic district. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Thompson to explain what regulations are currently in place. Mayor Harvey also stated that he did not want anything in place to specify colors.

City Manager Thompson stated that the city's Code of Ordinances has some general rules that address color but does not specify restrictions other than to state in Section 9.8 (g) that sign colors should complement the building façade, a sign shall not contain more than three colors except in the instance of an illustration, and that traditionally signs have dark backgrounds with light-colored lettering. City Manager Thompson went on to read that the same code section gives examples of *preferred* background colors; burgundy, forest green, chocolate brown, black, charcoal, and navy. City Manager Thompson stated that further in the ordinance in Section 14.5 addresses requirements for renovated structures with subsection (b) stating that exterior materials and finishes for existing structures, including windows and doors shall be those common and as close as possible to the existing structure found within the historic district. City Manager Thompson reported that subsection (c) addresses renovations maintaining the aesthetics of the original structure but does not address the aspect of color. City Manager Thompson stated that the code section is provided for Council to review and consider if what is proposed blends. Mayor Harvey commented that the code states that signs and renovations should blend. Mayor Harvey asked for Joey Norton to comment on this item.

Joey Norton addressed Council stating that the city has never specified paint colors. Joey stated further that if paint colors are set then a paint permit would need to be purchased in order to enforce the restriction. City Manager Thompson stated that Council reviews requests for renovations done in the downtown historic district; would paint qualify with the request. Joey responded that typically renovations are structural in nature and paint is not structural. Council Member Earl Parris stated that we (Council) needs to decide what we (Council) want it (downtown) to look like. City Manager Thompson asked if Council wants to "beef up" the regulations that cover the downtown historic district to make the ordinance more specific or just keep it where renovations come before Council for approval. Council Member David Ford asked if the existing businesses would be grandfathered in with their current color. City Attorney Albert Palmour responded stating that if a business is currently compliant with the city's existing ordinances they will stay without change. Attorney Palmour stated further that if Council wants to regulate façade appearance a draft can be prepared for review.

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COLOR RESTRICTIONS – REGULATIONS FOR THE HISTORIC DISTRICT CONTINUED: City Attorney Palmour stated that any improvements for the downtown historic district currently require a permit and Council approval. Council Member David Ford stated that he wanted to be sure that businesses that are already there can't be required to change. City Attorney Palmour responded stating that the business could be *asked* to change but would not have to agree to make the change. Mayor Harvey stated that he thinks this item needs to be considered at a later date.

VOTING DELEGATE – MGAG BOARD ELECTION: Mayor Harvey stated that the Municipal Gas Authority has an annual meeting that City Manager Thompson and Tony Carroll attend. Mayor Harvey stated that the voting delegate and alternate need to be set. City Manager Thompson interjected that the city has one vote for the upcoming MGAG Board Election. City Manager Thompson explained that the number of votes a city has is based on the number of meters they have and the MCFs purchased. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to appoint City Manager Russell Thompson and Utility Director Tony Carroll as voting delegates for the upcoming MGAG Board Election. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

SPRING CLEAN UP: Mayor Harvey stated the next item for discussion is Spring Clean Up where residents can leave items that are accepted at the transfer station for the city to pick up. City Manager Thompson stated that spring clean-up is usually held for a week. City Manager Thompson stated that when a date is determined we will post information in the newspaper listing what items are accepted at the transfer station. Mayor Harvey asked what dates will work best. A general discussion determined May 9th through May 13th will be set for Spring Clean Up. Council Member Earl Parris made a motion to hold spring clean-up from May 9th through May 13th. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

GMA – 401K RETIREMENT: Mayor Harvey stated that the next item is to look at a date to have GMA make a presentation for a 401K type retirement plan. Mayor Harvey stated that City Manager Thompson has been working on coordinating a date for a meeting. City Manager Thompson stated that the tentative date of April 26th at 6 pm is being considered. Mayor Harvey asked if there is any discussion or questions on this topic. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle stated that a lot of workers have expressed they do not want a 401K type plan. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that he is strictly against the 401K plans. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that his wife has a 401K, is retired and can't touch the money because of taxes. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that he likes the program that the city currently has. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that employees have said even if current employees wouldn't be affected they would look for other work because it would just be a matter of time before it would all be messed up. Mayor Pro Tem Windle said the current plan works good like it is so it needs to be left alone. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that he makes a motion to keep the GMA retirement plan as it is. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford. The motion carried with Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle, Council Member David Ford and Council Member Zachary Martin voting in favor of the motion.

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GMA – 401K RETIREMENT CONTINUED: Council Member Earl Parris and Council Member Joe Money, Jr. voted in opposition to the motion. Council Member Earl Parris stated that the majority has spoken. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. stated that he would still like to hear what GMA has to say. Mayor Harvey stated that the motion carried so the retirement plan will not be changed. Mayor Harvey stated that GMA will not make a presentation but individuals are welcome to contact them individually if they so choose.

PART-TIME POSITION – DOWNTOWN MOWING & LITTER CONTROL: Mayor Harvey stated that a request is being submitted for a part-time worker to help with mowing and picking up trash during the summer. City Manager Thompson stated that the city usually hires a part-time person in the summer that works about 20 hours a week for eleven weeks at \$10 per hour which will be around \$2,500 and be appropriated with the new fiscal year. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve a part-time position to help with mowing and picking up litter during the summer at \$10 per hour, working approximately 20 hours per week, and set for the July 1, 2016 budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

MURAL CONTRACT: Mayor Harvey stated that Susan Locklear and City Manager Thompson can provide information about the mural contract. City Manager Thompson stated that there has been great response to the first mural in the city. City Manager Thompson stated that an effort is being put forth to have one done each year. Susan explained that the Go Georgia Arts program will be working on a five-year mural tour and is looking at doing a mural rendition of community history. Susan explained that eight items associated with the area history with descriptions are needed in order to make the mural. Susan explained that if the mural contract is signed then Summerville will be on the mural tour map to draw tourists to our area. Council Member David Ford asked if this will help with grants. Susan responded stating that if the city has a five-year plan that will put the city in a better standing for grants. Mayor Harvey asked when the project would begin. City Manager Thompson stated that \$1,000 would be in the current budget as a retainer and the remainder would be set for the upcoming budget. Mayor Harvey asked where the mural would be placed. Susan responded that the city would work with the historical society to determine the location. Council Member David Ford stated that several ideas were offered. City Manager Thompson stated that the project needs Council approval with the artist to have artistic freedom. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize execution of the mural contract. The motion was seconded by Council Member Earl Parris and carried unanimously. A copy of the mural contract is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

LMIG – TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT: Mayor Harvey stated that the grant tied to LMIG need to be executed before May 1, 2016. Tony Carroll briefly explained that the \$300,000 grant would be Phase One of the project around Highland and Phase Two can be picked up next year. Mayor Harvey stated that this project has been looked at for several months. Mayor Harvey asked if there are any questions. With no further questions Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the LMIG Transportation Improvement Grant Application. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ear Parris and carried unanimously.

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SLUDGE REMOVAL CONTRACT: Mayor Harvey stated that this contract needs to be rebid. City Manager Thompson explained that the contract for land application of sludge needs to be rebid. City Manager Thompson explained further that the EPD has verbiage requirements, some of which were omitted when the bid packet was prepared. City Manager Thompson stated that the omitted federal regulations will be included and then be rebid. City Manager Thompson stated that all current bids need to be rejected. City Manager Thompson stated that the rebidding should be able to be accomplished without a lapse of service. Council Member David Ford made a motion to reject all bids received for the sludge removal contract. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle and carried unanimously.

SANTA IN UNIFORM: Mayor Harvey stated that discussion is needed concerning the Santa in Uniform program. Mayor Harvey stated that the program has been beneficial to the community. Mayor Harvey asked Police Chief Stan Mosley to provide information concerning this item.

Police Chief Stan Mosley explained that the police, fire and recreation departments work together holding fund raising events to help underprivileged children in the community. Chief Mosley explained that what started out as an effort to help a disadvantaged family with children at Christmas has become a program that does much more than just help at Christmas. Chief Mosley explained that the program helps folks throughout the year providing needed funds for basic necessities such clothes after a house fire and glasses for children in need. Chief Mosley stated that a letter was received concerning the program needing a 501C certification. Chief Mosley stated that once this letter was received it became necessary for the program to stop until further information was received. Chief Mosley stated that because of the letter one of the major fund raiser events was cancelled. Chief Mosley stated that Attorney Albert Palmour's office was contacted to find out about the allegations. Chief Mosley explained that all money received by Santa in Uniform goes to helping the disadvantaged of our community. Chief Mosley explained that Attorney Melissa Hise of Albert Palmour's office informed Chief Mosley that 501C status is not mandatory for the Santa in Uniform program to function. Chief Mosley stated that Attorney Hise explained that even though the community understands what the program is for it would be best to make a documented effort to let people know it is a private operation. Chief Mosley stated that Attorney Hise told him (Chief Mosley) to go ahead with the program that there is no reason for concern. Attorney Albert Palmour stated that as long as the program publish the funds received there is no problem. Chief Mosley responded stating that there is no problem providing a report. Mayor Pro Tem Lloyd "Buddy" Windle asked how long this program has been operating. Chief Mosley responded that it has been functioning for 15 or 16 years. Mayor Pro Tem Windle asked if there have been any complaints at all prior to this one letter. Chief Mosley responded that there has never been any complaint about the program. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that the letter is coming from someone that has a beef with the city. Council Member Earl Parris asked if it is too late for the event. Chief Mosley stated that it is too late for that event. Council Member Earl Parris asked how much money he estimates was lost by not having the event. Chief Mosley responded stating that they lost between \$2,500 and \$3,000 by not having the event. Chief Mosley stated that the group will figure something out and come up with an alternate event. Council Member David Ford interjected that people that work at the events held by Santa in Uniform work for free. Mayor Pro Tem Windle stated that he can think of someone that should make a donation to the cause.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: Mayor Harvey asked if anyone has any comments or questions.

DALE HOUSCH: Dale Housch stated that the agricultural building is available for a variety of events. Mr. Housch stated that Mohawk has their annual dinner at the facility noting that the building can hold around 650 people. Mr. Housch asked that the city keep the facility in mind for any upcoming events. Mr. Housch also shared that there will be a bull riding event at the location on June 5th.

OUTDOOR EXPO – APRIL 24TH & 25TH: Council Member David Ford stated that he wanted to remind everyone about the outdoor expo that will be held April 24th and 25th.

MIKE BRYANT: Mike Bryant stated that he and his wife have a business in Summerville and he thinks color approval by Council is a good idea.

SPECIAL CALLED MEEGING: City Manager Russell Thompson stated that there is a Special Called Meeting set for April 18th. City Manager Thompson asked if Council would like to have someone from the Chattooga County Library and Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce give presentations at that meeting. A general discussion resulted in agreement that presentations by these entities would be good. Mayor Harvey stated that City Manager Thompson should have whomever he thinks would be beneficial for Council to hear at the meeting.

AQUATIC PARK: Council Member Earl Parris stated that he will be visiting an aquatic park to see how it works.

MOHAWK: Council Member Earl Parris asked City Manager Thompson how Mohawk is doing. City Manager Thompson responded that they are doing well noting that water sales have been good. City Manager Thompson stated that they are always trying to hire new people.

ADJOURN: With all current business concluded, Council Member Joe Money, Jr. 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.