



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 10, 2020
5 PM**

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harry Harvey gave roll call. Council Members David Ford, Kristy L. Dennis, Joe Money, Jr., and Zachary Martin were present. Also present were City Manager Janice Galloway and City Attorney Albert Palmour.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Joe Money, Jr. led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any changes needed to the agenda. No changes were requested. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey welcomed visitors to the meeting, requesting visitors to sign in and limit their remarks to three to five minutes. Mayor Harvey explained if any questions are related to the water situation, visitors will have the opportunity to address concerns. Mayor Harvey stated visitors would be offered the chance to speak at the end of the meeting as well.

SON RISE COMMUNITY CHURCH-GENE MOORE: Mr. Gene Moore addressed the Mayor and Council, stating he is a Deacon at Son-Rise Community Church. Mr. Moore explained the church is growing, and it is landlocked. Mr. Moore explained the church is requesting, 30ft of the 60 ft right-of-way, to be able to build a family life center on Union Street.

City Attorney Albert Palmour explained Attorney Chris Corbin had provided him with a plat that showed storm drains in the area. City Attorney Palmour explained he had spoken with Mr. Morrison, who created the plat, and at that time, it did not appear that any portion of the right of way would be included in the physical structure, and the recommendation at that time would have been to ask for a setback exclusion, but something may have changed. Terry Tinney stated the only information he had was concerning the sewer lines in the area, and he was not aware of the plat.

Mr. Moore explained 811 was contacted to locate utility lines in the area, and there were no lines located in the section they are requesting to build on. Mr. Moore explained they need the 30ft, not as a setback, but to be able to build on. Mr. Moore provided a plat for Terry to review. Mayor Harvey explained to Mr. Moore, he would like for Terry Tinney, and City Attorney Albert Plamour review the information. City Attorney Palmour stated he would talk with Mr. Morrison and Terry Tinney concerning the plat. Mayor Harvey stated Code Enforcement would also need to be involved. Mayor Harvey requested Terry to arrange a meeting with Mr. Moore to discuss the request.

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UPDATE ON PROJECTS: Mayor Harvey requested Utilities Director Terry Tinney and City Manager Janice Galloway to provide an update on the sewer line collapse at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Terry reported the repair required 82ft of 32-inch sewer main, 150ft of 15-inch sewer main, and four manholes to complete the repair. Mayor Harvey said the cost estimate to make these repairs was \$175,000 but noted there were no spills due to the collapse.

Mayor Harvey introduced Chad Sipe with Carter & Sloope, and Mike McGill with Water PIO. Mayor Harvey explained they are attending the meeting to provide more information on the recent water health advisory issued by the EPD for the City of Summerville water customers, and the presence of PFOS and PFOA in the water supply.

EPA WATER ADVISORY

MIKE MCGILL: Mike McGill, introduced himself to Mayor, Council, and Visitors as President of Water PIO, a public communications firm that works solely for water and wastewater utilities. Mr. McGill gave a brief description of his background and experience as it relates to PFAS. Mr. McGill stated the chemicals that were discovered in the water source were in small amounts, and it is not an immediate threat to public health because they are bioaccumulative. Mr. McGill explained these chemicals are found in everyday products, such as Teflon pans, Oral B glide dental floss, chocolate cake mix, and was initially created in the 1940s. Mr. McGill stated 99.7% of the population has PFAS in their blood, and he explained he is not trying to minimize concerns but to provide perspective. Mr. McGill told visitors the EPA lifetime health advisory is not a drinking water standard. Still, it is issued to provide guidance based on lifetime exposure and not immediate impacts on public health. Mr. McGill explained the advice differs for pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants because PFOA and PFOS have been found to impact these groups differently, and they are the most sensitive populations, so they should consider alternative sources of water. Mr. McGill explained the amounts of these chemicals are in parts-per-trillion, and 80% of the exposure comes from everyday products, not the drinking water. Mr. McGill stated The City of Summerville's water plant is not the source of the PFOA and PFOS, but the city is left to deal with it, and the city is currently investigating treatment options. Mr. McGill explained some of the information provided to The City of Summerville, by the EPD concerning point of use filters was incorrect. Mr. McGill explained just because the filter is labeled NSF/ANSI 53 does not mean it filters out PFOA or PFOS, and the only in-home water treatment systems trusted to remove PFAS are under the counter reverse osmosis systems.

BOBBY CAHEELY: Mr. Caheely asked if the chemicals could be boiled or filtered out. Mr. McGill stated, " Boiling water has no impact on the chemicals, and the only filters that impact the chemicals are the in-home reverse osmosis filters."

EARL H. PARRIS: Mr. Parris asked how the carbon is eliminated from an in-home filter system. Mr. McGill explained the carbon filters need to be disposed of properly, or else you could get more chemicals from being oversaturated.

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EPA WATER ADVISORY CONT:

DAVID WESTBROOKS: Mr. Westbrook stated he has two family members on dialysis, and the filter system is reverse osmosis. Mr. Westbrook asked if the reverse osmosis filter is safe. Mr. McGill recommended making sure it was operating correctly to filter the chemicals.

Mr. McGill explained at the current level of 98 parts per trillion, the water is safe for the general public to drink and use for cooking, but the susceptible population should take extra precaution and use alternative sources of water. Mr. McGill reminded everyone the city's water is just above the EPA's lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion, and the average person has a one in a million elevated risk of getting cancer.

CASIE BRYANT: Ms. Bryant with *All on Georgia* asked when the number lowered. Mr. McGill stated, "2016, and to his knowledge, the city has not been above the advisory level". Mr. McGill reiterated this is an advisory, and it should be used to provide guidance on how to address the matter.

VISITOR: A visitor asked what the timetable was for fixing the issue. Chad Sipe, with Carter & Sloope, responded, stating there is not a quick fix, and the city is looking at options for renting portable membrane units, that would be used as a treatment process at the water plant. Chad explained the units are made to order, and five manufacturers have been contacted for pricing. Still, several things have to be considered when designing the filters, such as water chemistry, design parameters, but the long-term solution could be an activated carbon solution at the plant, and the city is looking at feasibility, disposal of the carbon, and space restraints. The question was asked if the public is stuck drinking bottled water. Chad responded, stating, "In his personal opinion, the vulnerable groups should be the only ones drinking bottled water."

MATTHEW HALL: Mr. Hall asked if a list could be provided for recommended in-home reverse osmosis systems. Mr. McGill responded, stating he would be hesitant to recommend a particular filter.

GREG HURLEY: Mr. Hurley asked if they have any idea of the source. Mr. McGill responded, stating it is his understanding the EPD and EPA are looking into the potential source causing the contamination. Mr. McGill noted the City of Summerville's water treatment plant is not the source of the contamination.

BRANDON MCDANIEL: Mr. McDaniel questioned the comparison used to determine the exposure limit. Mr. McGill responded, stating, "He will not go beyond what the EPA says concerning the limits and exposure." Still, people should remember it is a health advisory for a lot of consumption, over a long period, for a slightly elevated risk of cancer. Mr. McDaniel asked how far back the PFOS/PFOA could be tracked, to determine how long it was in the water source before it was discovered. Mr. McGill stated, " He doesn't know, if they found a particular source, they would go back and look at the source to see how it entered the water supply." Mr. McGill explained he has just come into the situation, but it is his understanding the EPD and EPA are looking for the source.

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EPA WATER ADVISORY CONT:

CHAD SIPE: Chad asked if large industries still manufactured the PFOA/PFOS. Mr. McGill explained the chemical industry moved away from PFOA/PFOS, but the problem still remains there is not a drinking water standard, only the EPA's health advisory.

Mr. McGill stated more information would be forthcoming, after scheduled conference calls to discuss what action should be taken moving forward. Mr. McGill noted the health advisory was released out of an abundance of caution.

TODD KINGSOLVER-JEFFERSON'S: Mr. Kingsolver asked Mr. McGill if there is not a feasible, cost-effective option for in-home filters, then should he assume there is not a feasible filtration system for restaurants. Mr. McGill explained the only system for in-home use is the reverse osmosis system, but it is expensive, and unless you are included in the susceptible population, the water is safe at the current levels, according to the EPD health advisory.

Mayor Harvey advised visitors they would have the opportunity to ask more questions at the end of the meeting, he requested visitors write down any questions they may have, and the questions would be addressed at the end of the meeting.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

MAIN STREET: Mayor Harvey requested Susan Locklear to present the Main Street monthly report. Susan reviewed the activities of her department, including meetings and events she attended during the month, and future events Main Street will be hosting or participating in. Susan's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Mayor Harvey asked Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton to provide the monthly report submitted to Mayor and Council. Joey stated 13 permits were sold in January, generating \$802 in permit fees, and he has started eleven new property maintenance cases. A copy of Joey's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

WATER TREATMENT PLANT: No one was in attendance from the Water Treatment Plant to provide the monthly report. The report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: No one was in attendance from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide the monthly report. The report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mayor Harvey requested Terry Tinney provide his monthly report. Terry reviewed the work completed by the Street, Water, and Gas Department during the month under his supervision. Terry provided updates on the marble installation on the walking trail, soccer field, and chert pit projects. Terry noted his crews worked most of the month of January at the wastewater treatment plant due to the sewer line collapse. Terry's report is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

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REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS CONT:

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey requested Bo Chamlee to provide the monthly report for Mayor and Council. Bo reported basketball season is coming to an end, and baseball and softball registration will continue until February 28. A copy of Bo's report becomes part of these minutes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey asked Chief Stan Mosley to provide the monthly police department report. Stan reviewed the monthly activities of the Summerville Police Department. Stan reported city court collected \$5,353 in fines and fees, and state court collected \$7,419 in fines and fees. A copy of the report is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey requested Fire Chief Robbie Lathem to review the monthly report. Robbie reviewed the categories of calls his department responded to during the month, training nights, and facilities visited during the month. Chief Lathem's report becomes part of the minutes.

CITY MANAGER: Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Janice Galloway to provide the monthly financial report. Janice reviewed the expenses and revenues for the month. Janice reported a balance of \$2,196,001.86 in the operating account at the end of January. A copy of the financial report is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

OATH OF OFFICE-DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Mayor Harvey administered the Oath of Office to Joe Money, Jr. as a board member of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Mayor Harvey noted Council Member Money was approved as a board member in a previous meeting. A copy of the Oath is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES: Mayor Harvey asked Council for approval of the minutes as presented. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

R&W CONTRACTORS-WATER TREATMENT PLANT: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve R & W Contractors to repair and re-install a 150hp service pump at the water treatment plant, in the amount of \$10,023.80, to be paid out of maintenance and materials. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Janice Galloway to provide more information concerning this item. Janice explained the motor was worn out, and it had to be pulled and reworked. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve R & W Contractors to repair and re-install a 150hp service pump at the water treatment plant, for \$10,023.80, to be paid out of maintenance and materials. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

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GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM (GMEBS)- Mayor Harvey explained the next item for consideration is to authorize him to sign the GMEBS Adoption Agreement and General Addendum. Mayor Harvey asked City Attorney Albert Palmour to provide more information on this item. City Attorney Palmour provided information concerning the adoption agreement and addendum. Council Member David Ford made a motion to authorize Mayor Harvey to sign the GMEBS Adoption Agreement and General Addendum. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

HUSQVARNA MOWER-STREET DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey stated the next item for business is to consider approving the purchase of a Z554 Husqvarna Mower from North Georgia Equipment, in the amount of \$6,639.96 to be paid from 2014 SPLOST funds. Mayor Harvey requested Terry Tinney to provide more information on this purchase. Terry explained this mower would replace a 2015 model that has over 1100 cutting hours. Council Member David Ford asked how many mowers the department has now. Terry stated, "One" Mayor Harvey noted the old mower would supplement the new mower. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the purchase of a Husqvarna Z554 mower from North Georgia Equipment for \$6,639.96. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

COMPETITION ATHLETIC SURFACES, INC.: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving a bid from Competition Athletic Surfaces Inc., to resurface two tennis courts, in the amount of \$21,400, to be paid from 2014 SPLOST. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Janice Galloway and Recreation Director Bo Chamlee to provide more information on this item. Janice explained the recreation department has been removing tar from the courts to save money on resurfacing. Bo explained it took two months to remove the tar. Council Member David Ford asked when they could start. Bo said if the weather breaks, the resurfacing will begin in April. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the resurfacing of two tennis courts by Competition Athletic Surfaces, Inc. for \$21,400, to be paid from 2014 SPLOST Funds. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

SENIOR PARKS AND RECREATION POSITION: Mayor Harvey explained information had been provided to the Council for the consideration of creating a Senior Parks and Recreation Position. Mayor Harvey explained this position would be classified as a 14A in the pay plan, at a rate of \$15.27 per hour. Mayor Harvey stated he does not feel this position is needed at this time, and normally the changes should be made at mid-year or with the yearly budget. Mayor Harvey asked for a discussion from the Council. Council Member David Ford stated he did not see a problem with having a senior director, and it will not affect the budget. Mayor Harvey stated it would impact the budget, and it should not be done at this time. Bo Chamlee explained there would be a savings due to James Hayes retiring. Mayor Harvey interjected, stating there were residual items that had to be paid out of the budget when James Hayes retired. Mayor Harvey stated changes could be made at budget time, and that would be a more appropriate time to make the changes. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the Senior Parks and Recreation Position. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

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ADOPT A STREET POLICY: Mayor Harvey explained he is concerned about the litter on the streets and roads in the city. Mayor Harvey stated he would like to change some of the language in the current Adopt A Street Policy #48 to make it friendly for both individuals and organizations. Mayor Harvey stated a coordinator/volunteer is needed, and the city could provide safety vests, bags, and grabbers for the litter. Mayor Harvey requested City Attorney Palmour to review the policy. Mayor Harvey stated he would like some discussion from the Council on this policy, and volunteers.

Mayor Harvey requested, with council approval, the public comment section be moved, before holding the Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey opened the meeting for public comments. Mayor Harvey explained the staff would try to answer as many questions as possible and be as factual as possible. Mayor Harvey stated information would be passed along to the public as the city receives it.

TODD KINGSOLVER-JEFFERSON'S: Mr. Kingsolver stated the water advisory is a suggestion, and the residents of the city are able to make the decision if they would like to drink the water. Mr. Kingsolver stated he would like for the city and county to provide a resolution quickly to allow patrons to decide if they would like to drink the water in restaurants. Mr. Kingsolver stated he would post the advisory on the door for patrons to decide for themselves. Mr. Kingsolver said he would like to know when a resolution would be in place. City Manager Janice Galloway responded, stating the information for restaurants would need to come from the health department. Mr. McGill said he spent most of the day trying to get the situation with the restaurants addressed so that they may serve drinks and use for cooking, and it is a top priority.

Mayor Harvey stated he thought after a few weeks there would be a solution, but no one knows at this time, but information will be relayed when available.

JIMMY HOLBROOK: Jimmy Holbrook with *WZQZ 1180 AM* asked Mayor Harvey what the concise message is he would like the public to know about the drinking water at this time. Mayor Harvey responded, stating the water for most individuals except for the most susceptible groups are safe to use for various activities such as bathing, washing foods, and other activities. Mayor Harvey explained the most vulnerable groups, such as people with compromised immune systems, nursing or pregnant women, and babies should not consume the water, but as far as the general population, they should decide for themselves. Mayor Harvey explained the EPD/EPA is currently looking into the source of the contaminants, and the water treatment plant, cannot test for these chemicals. Mayor Harvey stated the water treatment plant is not at fault. Chad Sipe, with Carter and Sloope, interjected, saying there is not a certified lab in the State of Georgia to test for the contaminants. Chad explained it is an emerging contaminant, and emerging technology is needed to treat it. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked why the chemicals are not regulated. Chad explained it is not in the framework for regulated contaminants in the State of Georgia, and it falls under a classification of unregulated contaminants and unenforceable. Chad noted prior to 2016, the advisory level was 600, and the results at the Raccoon Creek was 98, the threshold changed in 2016, and was lowered to 70, but testing was not conducted until late last year.

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JIMMY HOLBROOK CONT: City Manager Janice Galloway clarified creek samples were taken in November, but soil testing was not done until the first of the year from the creek. Janice explained testing was completed from the raw water supply and finished water. Janice noted the health advisory information provided to the media and customers was directly from the EPD. Mayor Harvey recommended reading the advisory in its entirety and review the supporting documents provided on the EPD's website.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked for clarification on the recommended filters. Mr. McGill explained the EPD did not list all of the language in its entirety concerning the filters in the water advisory, and the filters should specify it should treat PFOS/PFOA. Janice noted this advisory was mailed to each water service connection in the system. Mr. McGill explained the next step is to attempt to clear up any information that has been handed down as we move forward, and the information that has been provided was out of an abundance of caution, and the city will be transparent with any information, and answer all questions.

BRANDON MCDANIEL: Mr. McDaniel stated he had three questions he would like to ask. Mr. McDaniel asked if the city could release a map showing the coverage area that is affected, will the city continue to distribute bottled water until the issue is completely resolved, and if the National Guard could assist with their water treatment facilities since the city is under the State of Emergency. Mayor Harvey requested Chad Sipe to provide information about mapping. Chad explained the Lowe Springs area tested undetectable for these contaminants, but it covers a very small area. Mayor Harvey explained the tanker truck would be available for use, and the bottled water will be distributed while it is available. Terry Tinney reported two semi truckloads of bottled water are expected within the next couple of days. Mr. McDainel stated he has two semi-trailer loads of water ready to be delivered, and a remote reverse osmosis trailer available, to be delivered to the nursing home, and will be on location Friday, and it will supply the entire nursing home. Mayor Harvey explained the purpose of the State of Emergency was to open up doors for funding and resources. Mr. McDaniel asked if there would be any adjustments to water bills since the water is not drinkable. Mayor Harvey stated, "No, not at this time, and if you are not part of the susceptible population, it is up to you if you want to drink the water."

CASIE BRYANT: Ms. Bryant asked the Mayor if he was drinking the water. Mayor Harvey stated, "Yes."

BOBBY CAHEELY: Mr. Caheely asked if the city could provide containers for potable water even for a fee so residents could make use of the tanker. Mayor Harvey stated, "The preference would be for people to use the bulk water due to availability." Mr. Caheely responded, saying getting the containers is the problem.

GERALD PICKLE: Mr. Pickle asked if Chad could provide other solutions besides a filtration system, the schedule, cost, and what other solutions might be. Chad explained the city is currently looking at blending the water with other systems. Terry explained there are two interconnect points, one being Chattooga County and the other being Town of Trion, and both systems will be tested later in the week. Terry explained the county system would be able to provide service to 250 households, in an isolated area. Chad explained permitted sources of water would be Trion and Chattooga County water.

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Council Member Zachary Martin asked if Trion and Menlo have been tested. Terry explained Menlo and Lyerly is not able to provide any water to the city. Terry reported EPD would be onsite to test Trion's and Chattooga County's water. If Chattooga County's water is good, it will support customers south of both river bridges on Hwy 27, and Trion would supply Hays State Prison with water.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-OPEN: Mayor Harvey stated an Executive Session is needed to discuss possible litigation and land acquisition. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-CLOSED: Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to close the Executive Session and reopen the regular meeting. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Harvey stated no action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to adjourn, Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK

Attest: