



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
CALLED COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 25, 2020  
11 AM**

**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 Melissa Hise.

**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 Joe Money, Jr. 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 called meeting, and requested visitors to sign in, listing their name, address, and reason for attending. Mayor Harvey requested visitors limit their remarks to three to five minutes, and they would also have the opportunity to speak again at the end of the meeting if they choose to do so.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Harvey encouraged visitors to attend February and March events, including the upcoming Smithsonian Exhibit, which will begin March 6<sup>th</sup> and continue until April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT-CARTER & SLOOPE:** Mayor Harvey stated the first item of business is to consider approving Carter & Sloope to proceed with an Engineering and Environmental Report concerning the ongoing water issue. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Janice Galloway and Utilities Director Terry Tinney to provide more information on this item. Janice explained the Engineering and Environmental report is to assist in the application process for an Emergency Community Funds Grant that is available. Janice also noted several other grants could be available to help with the installation of water lines to the water treatment plant. Mayor Harvey explained the city is currently considering drilling freshwater wells and would need to move rapidly, thus the need for the called meeting. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked Janice if the city would be required to match the grant if approved. Janice stated, "No, not the grants the engineers are currently considering." Mayor Harvey stated the best solution, based on suggestions from Carter & Sloope, is the drilling of fresh water wells. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve Carter & Sloope to proceed with the Engineering and Environmental Report. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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**PROCEDURES AND PLANS-CARTER & SLOOPE:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve Carter & Sloope to proceed with the development of procedures and plans for a freshwater well or wells. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Janice Galloway and Utilities Director Terry Tinney to provide more information on this item. Terry explained five possible locations had been identified for a well or wells, and there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday with the Geologist and Engineers to narrow down the location to drill. Terry reported all of the locations are located in the Fish Hatchery Road area. Janice explained the process and steps required to determine if the well would have an adequate water supply. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if Raccoon Creek water would be diluted with the installation of the wells. Janice explained the initial well would blend with Raccoon Creek after the installation of the second well is complete, the creek source could possibly be abandoned until more technology becomes available to remove the contaminants. Council Member Money asked how long it would take to complete the installation of water lines and wells. Terry stated, "Hopefully, within a year or sooner." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve Carter & Sloope to proceed with the development of procedures and plans for a freshwater well or wells. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr, and carried unanimously.

**EMERGENCY COMMUNITY FUNDS:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving Carter & Sloope to apply for Emergency Community Funds Grant and or any additional funding available for drilling freshwater wells and the installation of water lines to the Raccoon Creek Water Treatment Plant. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Janice Galloway provide more information on this item. Janice explained with the Emergency Community Funds Grant, funding is available up to one million dollars, and it is not a matching grant. Janice explained it would take a 16-inch water line and 18,000 feet of pipe to complete the installation to the water plant from the possible well sites. Terry explained the city would be looking for contractors to help with the installation of the pipe. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked Terry if the property owners in the proposed areas are on board. Terry explained he believes so, and he has contacted the owners, and the initial indication is they are willing to work with the city. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve Carter & Sloope to apply for Emergency Community Fund Grant. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**THE USE OF CITY FUNDS FOR A FRESHWATER TEST WELL OR WELLS:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving a payment up to \$100,000 of city funds from the operating budget for an 8-inch diameter test well or wells. The test well or wells could be developed into a 12-inch production well or wells, which would be subject to the bid process. Council Member David Ford asked Terry where he intends to drill first. Terry explained he would have more information after Thursday. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment up to \$100,000 from the operating budget for the purpose of drilling an 8-inch in diameter test well or wells. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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Mayor Harvey explained the staff continues to work with EPD, EPA, and engineers to find a solution to the water issue, and drilling fresh water wells seem to be the best solution, both temporary and permanent. Mayor Harvey explained other options such as reverse osmosis and activated charcoal filters had been discussed, but they are very expensive and time-consuming to install. Mayor Harvey stated more meetings are scheduled for this week to discuss the process.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mayor Harvey asked for public comments.

**JIMMY HOLBROOK-WZQZ RADIO:** Jimmy Holbrook with *WZQZ* Radio asked why the city would continue to use Raccoon Creek once the freshwater wells are completed. Terry explained the water would still have to be pumped back to the clear wells at the water plant for distribution, and that is the most economical way to distribute the water throughout the system. Jimmy asked if the first well would be diluting Raccoon Creek for distribution. Janice stated, "Initially." Jimmy asked if an additional well is added, then would it be strictly well water. Terry stated, "Correct, we don't think we will get enough water from one well."

**MILFORD MORGAN:** Mr. Morgan asked how the test wells would impact the property. Terry explained the initial impact for test wells would consist of some clearing, and if it is a permanent well, then a road to access the well would need to be installed.

**KILEY THOMAS:** Ms. Thomas, with *News Channel 9*, asked the locations of the well sites. Terry responded, stating all of the sites are in the Fish Hatchery Road area. Ms. Thomas asked what the estimated cost would be if the grant received would not cover the wells, and what is the backup plan if the grant does not cover the cost. Janice explained it would cost in excess of one million dollars, and the city would need to apply for a loan with a low-interest plan for a long period of time. Ms. Thomas asked if the well water would be safe without treatment at the water plant. Terry responded, stating wells are treated on-site. Janice explained the city is currently using Chattooga County's well #7 to supplement the Lowe Springs area.

**MILFORD MORGAN:** Mr. Morgan stated twenty years ago, research was completed concerning building a reservoir, off of Perennial Springs Road, that would be able to provide a large amount of water, but it would entail purchasing a large amount of property.

Mayor Harvey explained the city is still looking at options, both temporary and permanent.

**BOBBY CAHEELY:** Mr. Caheely addressed Mayor and Council asking if the original source of the contaminant has been determined. Mayor Harvey explained EPD and EPA had not determined the source at this time.

**TOMMY GRIMES:** Mr. Grimes asked if it would be possible for the contaminants to leak into the groundwater at the well sites. Terry stated the test wells would be checked. Mayor Harvey explained the wells would be tested for contaminants, and to make sure it will provide enough water, and that is why a geologist and other agencies are needed.

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Mayor Harvey stated he understands everyone has concerns and would like to assure everyone that city, state, and federal staff continues to work on the issue, and when more information is available, it will be passed on to the public. Mayor Harvey reiterated the purpose of the called meeting was to be able to move forward and at the present time, the wells seem to be the best course of action.

**TONY YOUNG-ENGINEER HAYS STATE PRISON:** Mr. Young asked if the city is still considering installing filters. Mayor Harvey explained filters had been discussed, but the filters could take longer than the wells, and there are some issues with a filtration system. Mayor Harvey stated some major renovations would need to be made to change to a filtration system that would be adequate to supply the entire system.

**JIMMY HOLBROOK:** Jimmy Holbrook asked if Hays State Prison was still connected to Summerville's water system. Mayor Harvey stated, "Yes."

Mayor Harvey reminded visitors the advisory is not a do not drink advisory; it is guidelines from the EPD and EPA for the most susceptible population. Mayor Harvey explained some filters had been recommended to remove the contaminants.

**TONY YOUNG-ENGINEER HAYS STATE PRISON:** Mr. Young asked Mayor Harvey if they are still recommending not to drink the water. Mayor Harvey stated, "No, it is for the most sensitive groups, such as pregnant women, nursing mothers, babies, and compromised immune systems. Mr. Young asked if there was a letter sent saying it was ok to drink the water. Mayor Harvey read an excerpt from the original health advisory to clarify the most susceptible population and reiterated it is not a do not drink advisory.

**DEBBIE KILGO:** Ms. Kilgo asked who the letter was sent to. Mayor Harvey stated, "All of our customers."

Council Member Joe Money, Jr asked if a map could be sent out to customers to show the location of customers that are affected by the advisory. Janice explained staff is currently working on a map.

**ADJOURN:** With all business concluded, Council Member David Ford made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kristy L. Dennis and carried unanimously.

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**HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR**

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**ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK**

Attest:

