



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 08, 2021 5 PM

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harry Harvey gave roll call. Council Members David Ford, Dana W. Mosley, 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 Kristy L. Dennis led the pledge of allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey welcomed both in-person guest and online attendees to the City of Summerville Regular Council Meeting. Mayor Harvey asked that guests attending in-person follow CDC guidelines. Mayor Harvey reported COVID statistics are much better than last month, and hopefully, numbers will continue to improve with the warmer weather approaching. Mayor Harvey requested visitors to remove their masks when speaking. Mayor Harvey offered the opportunity for in-person and online attendees to address questions, comments, or concerns. Mayor Harvey requested visitors limit comments to three to five minutes.

SUSIE WEAVER: Ms. Weaver explained she is attending the meeting to seek permission to hold a downtown event.

RACHEL GROCE: Rachel stated she is attending the meeting to seek Mayor and Council approval to host a downtown event.

CITY MANAGER - JANICE GALLOWAY: City Manager Janice Galloway reported the monthly expenses as \$737,797.03 and revenues of \$1,708,493.93, and \$2,733,845.67 in the operating account at month-end.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked Council to review the meeting agenda. With no additions or deletions to the agenda requested, Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES: Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for the February meeting minutes if no changes are requested. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

OPEN PAVING BIDS: Mayor Harvey requested Public Works Director Terry Tinney to provide more information on this item. Terry explained the bid would be for LMIG paving and any other paving needs the city may have. IT Administrator Trey Goble explained Patty Construction submitted the sole bid. The submitted bid is for \$31.00 per ton; the price per ton includes labor, equipment, hauling, and laying down of asphalt. The bid also has a charge of \$4.75 for TAC per gallon. Mayor Harvey requested City Attorney Albert Palmour to review the bid before awarding it.

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APPROVE PAYMENT TO WESTECH FOR REPLACEMENT OF ROTARY DRUM SCREEN: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider payment to WestTech for \$28,164 for the replacement of a rotary drum screen at the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Harvey requested Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, Chris Tuggle, to provide additional information on this request. Chris explained this drum screen was installed in 2007 or 2008, and it is just a matter of time before it breaks. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked how long the drum screens usually last. Chris stated, "Ten years. That screen is about thirteen or fourteen years old." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment to WestTech in the amount of \$28,164 for the replacement of a rotary drum screen. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr., which carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE TAKE HOME VEHICLE POLICY FOR THE SUMMERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the take-home vehicle policy for the Summerville Police Department. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the take-home vehicle policy. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy of the policy is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SUMMERVILLE AND NGC: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the contract between the City of Summerville and NGC and authorize the use of the City's Municipal Gas Authority's portfolio funding to cover the expense. Mayor Harvey stated he knows there is concern about the benefits the city will receive from NGC. Mayor Harvey pointed out the city is losing gas customers, although it is a slow decline. Mayor Harvey explained Council had expressed concerns about passing the charge to customers by increasing gas rates. One way to keep from passing the rate to customers would be to use the city's Municipal Authority's portfolio money. It would cost between \$65,000 and \$70,000 each year, but that could be recouped if 50 to 100 new customers sign up for gas each year. Mayor Harvey asked for discussion from Council. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked about the success rate in gaining customers or if the information was available from other locations. Public Works Director Terry Tinney stated, "We are the pilot program. They have started one in South Georgia, but it is in the preliminary stages." Mayor Harvey explained NGC has an appliance showroom in Trion and Adairsville. Council Member Dennis asked way the city was losing gas customers. Mayor Harvey explained it is easier to purchase, install and work on electric appliances, and electric companies offer better incentives, and that is some of the issues NGC would address. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. commented he would like to see numbers from other areas. Council Member Dennis asked if everyone would pay \$70,000. Mayor Harvey stated, "No, you pay per gas customer." Council Member David Ford noted NGC would help promote the sale of gas in new areas or new subdivisions.

City Attorney Albert Palmour explained it is a pilot program for Trion, Lafayette, Adairsville, and Summerville. There is a showroom located in Trion and Adairsville. The purpose of the contract is to allow the four cities to have the pilot program, and the cost has been allocated by the number of customers per municipality. The original cost was much higher, but the cost has been negotiated to reduce the cost per meter.

Mayor Harvey explained they would work with the city on expanding gas lines, grants, loans, and services. It is a good program, and with more direction, we should see improvements. Mayor Harvey noted it is a 15-month contract, and after that, it would be subject to review. Terry Tinney commented he is currently working with them in the Floyd Co. area on a gas extension.

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APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SUMMERVILLE AND NGC CONT:

Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked how much money the city has available. City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "We got around \$250,000 last year." Council Member Dennis asked Finance Director Carla Rutledge if it would be difficult to receive the funds and disburse them. Carla explained it is her understanding they would still send the check, and the city would just have to pay it on the gas bill. Council Member Dennis asked if the money is available in the portfolio so that it does not put another department in a bind. Mayor Harvey stated, "It would not be reflected in any gas rates." Council Member David Ford stated, "We need to do something to improve the city." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the contract between the City of Summerville and NGC. The motion died for lack of a second.

APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THREE SETS OF TURN OUT GEAR AND ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE SUMMERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Mayor Harvey explained the next item of business is to consider approving the purchase of three sets of turn out gear and additional equipment items for the Summerville Fire Department from Bennett Fire Products Co., Inc. for \$13,423. Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to approve the purchase from Bennett Fire Products Co. of \$13,423 for three sets of turn-out gear and additional equipment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kristy L. Dennis and carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE HUMAN RESOURCE JOB DESCRIPTION:

Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the Human Resource job description. Mayor Harvey asked for questions, comments, or concerns from Council. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked if it would be two separate jobs. Mayor Harvey stated, "Yes." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the Human Resource job description. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy of the job description is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

APPROVE THE PURCHASING AGENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

Mayor Harvey explained the next item of business is to approve the Purchasing Agent job description. Mayor Harvey noted the human resource position has been separated from purchasing. Mayor Harvey asked Council for questions or concerns. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the Purchasing Agent job description. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy of the job description is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

APPOINT A NEW DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) BOARD MEMBER:

Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to appoint a new board member for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to fill the unexpired term of Council Member Joe Money, Jr. Mayor Harvey asked for discussion from Council. Mayor Harvey stated he would like to have a Council member on the board, but it is not necessary. Mayor Harvey tabled this item to a later date.

AUTHORIZE MAIN STREET DIRECTOR SUSAN LOCKLEAR TO HOLD OUTDOOR EVENTS:

Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider authorizing Main Street Director Susan Locklear to hold outdoor events in Dowdy Park, Willow Springs Park, the Depot, and surrounding areas. Mayor Harvey explained the city should consider the guidelines for events and be mindful of the events that are held to ensure the city does not host a COVID super spreader event. Mayor Harvey requested Susan Locklear to provide more information on the events.

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AUTHORIZE MAIN STREET DIRECTOR SUSAN LOCKLEAR TO HOLD OUTDOOR EVENTS CONT:

Susan explained Mrs. Rachel Groce would like to host an outdoor runway show, benefiting the Diane Marie Jones Memorial Scholarship Fund. The proposed event dates would be Friday, April 30, 2021, or Friday, May 14, 2021, and would be held on E Washington St, depending on Council approval. She is requesting E Washington St from Commerce St to the railroad tracks at the Depot be blocked, and she is also requesting Economy St to be blocked from 5:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. She will rent the Depot the day of the event for a dressing area, and she plans to use the Open Air Pavillion as well. Susan stated Rachel is asking permission from the city to hold the event, and she has spoken with Captain Tucker, and the Police Department will work with her. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked if people will be able to access the ATM at Regions Bank. Rachel stated, "Yes, and they will still be able to access the back parking lot for Los Maguey." Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked if there would be any vendors. Rachel stated, "If the local businesses would like to do something, depending on Council approval, they could." Mayor Harvey asked where the show will be held. Rachel stated, "In the middle of the street, on the sidewalk." Susan explained the event is not a Main Street event, and Rachel is aware she can not plan anything until she gets Council approval. Mayor Harvey stated that if the city moves forward, he would like it to be held Friday, May 14th. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked if there was an alternate date. Rachel explained she was leaning toward Friday, April 30th, due to May being a busy month with graduations and proms. Mayor Harvey stated, "He would prefer Friday, May 14th." Rachel asked Mayor Harvey if there was a particular reason for recommending the month of May. Mayor Harvey explained it would be later on in the year, and more people would have their COVID vaccine. Rachel responded, stating she is extremely cautious, and the models, hair, and makeup artist will all be wearing a mask and practicing social distancing when possible while in the Depot. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked how many people will be participating. Rachel stated, "We are not sure what kind of response we will get. I am anticipating 15 or 20." Council Member Kristy L. Dennis made a motion to approve an outdoor runway show on Friday, April 30, 2021, and a rain date of Friday, May 14, 2021. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously.

Main Street Director Susan Locklear explained she is in the process of planning a Shop N Hop on March 27th, and it would be CDC guideline approved. Susan provided information on the event and noted this would be a good alternative to an Easter egg hunt, and it will bring people to the downtown area but should not be congested. Susan noted this would be a good way to promote the downtown businesses. Susan stated she would also like to have Spring Market on Saturday, April 17th, in Dowdy Park while following CDC Guidelines in conjunction with a pet appreciation day. Susan stated she would also like to hold a Ducky Derby on Saturday, May 15th. We are not looking at a train arrival until July 3rd due to railway construction, and we would like to plan an event on this day and more events moving forward as long as we follow CDC guidelines. Mayor Harvey asked for questions or comments from Council. Council Member Dana W. Mosley stated she is in favor of the dates mentioned and others. Council Member Mosley commented you can be outside and be able to social distance. Council Member David Ford asked if any information has been provided on the Christmas train rides. Susan explained Tennessee Valley Railroad would not give a definite answer, they have dates, but they are not ready to share that information. They are only advertising rides for three to four weeks out at this time. Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to plan and approve March 27th, April 17th, and May 15th for Main Street events as well as other dates. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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APPROVE A DATE FOR THE ANNUAL FIREWORKS CELEBRATION: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve a date for the annual fireworks celebration. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked City Manager Janice Galloway what dates Parker was available to shoot the fireworks. City Manager Galloway stated, "He is available Friday, July 2nd and Saturday, July 3rd. Mayor Harvey commented other things to consider are other activities and staff. City Manager Galloway explained that if staff works on Saturday, it would either be overtime or they would need to take a day off. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked if that is how it is done every year. City Manager Galloway stated, "If the employees are not already obligated to something else." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve Saturday, July 3, 2021, as the annual fireworks celebration date. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT TO PYRO SHOWS FOR THE ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION: Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for payment to Pyro Shows not to exceed \$15,000 for the annual Fourth of July Celebration. Mayor Harvey noted this would be a smaller show than usual. Public Works Director Terry Tinney explained ten-inch shells are no longer available. The same show from last year without the ten-inch shells would cost \$18,750, and if we stay under \$15,000, we lose 160 shells. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked if the city received grant money. Carla stated, "Yes, \$5,000." Mayor Harvey asked about donations. Carla responded, stating, "We normally send out donation letters." Carla noted the event's cost would be dependant on the other activities that will be held in conjunction with the fireworks. Mayor Harvey asked for questions or concerns from Council. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment to Pyro Shows not to exceed \$15,000 for the annual Fourth of July Celebration. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPEN: Mayor Harvey stated an Executive Session is needed to discuss litigation and personnel. Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The regular meeting was closed at 6:16 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED: Mayor Harvey announced no action was taken during Executive Session. Mayor Harvey closed the Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. and reopened the regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey asked for public comments. No questions, comments, or concerns were addressed.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Dana W. Mosley seconded the motion. Council Member David Ford voted in opposition. The motion passed 4 to 1. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK