



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
SPECIAL CALLED
COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 17, 2021
5:30 p.m.**

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Harvey called the special called meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

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. City Manager Janice Galloway was also present.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harvey gave the invocation.

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

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if any additions or deletions are needed to the meeting agenda. With no changes requested, Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Kristy L. Dennis and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey welcomed guests. Mayor Harvey announced the primary purpose of the meeting is a budget meeting to make recommendations or changes to the proposed budget. Mayor Harvey reported new CDC guidelines have been released, and there is an improvement in hospitalizations and rate of infection. Mayor Harvey stated everyone still needs to remain vigilant and continue to follow guidelines. Mayor Harvey announced a zoom meeting would be held in the upcoming week concerning guidelines for the American Rescue Plan. Mayor Harvey offered guests the opportunity to ask questions or address concerns. Mayor Harvey announced due to technical difficulties, the meeting is not available online.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments, questions, or concerns were addressed by guests.

CITY MANAGER: City Manager Janice Galloway reported balances in the operating account as \$2,931,209.39, \$1,000,000 in the restricted fund, and \$136,307.91 in the water & sewer project fund account.

NEW BUSINESS

GPM EQUIPMENT SALES: Mayor Harvey stated the first item of business is to consider approving payment of \$6,250 to GPM Equipment Sales for 250 gallons of natural gas odorant. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the payment to GPM Equipment Sales in the amount of \$6,250. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

BLOUNT CONSTRUCTION: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving payment to Blount Construction in the amount of \$21,229.12 for asphalt for the 2021 LMIG Grant. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the payment of \$21,229.12 to Blount Construction. Council Member Dana W. Mosley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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VIDEO INDUSTRIAL SERVICES: Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for payment to Video Industrial Services in the amount of \$32,620 for labor, equipment, and supervision to clean & video sewer lines. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment to Video Industrial Services. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

DISCUSS PROPOSED FY 2021- 2022 BUDGET: Mayor Harvey explained he would review the proposed budget, and there would be an opportunity to ask questions as the budget is discussed. Mayor Harvey reviewed the schedule for advertisements dates, first reading, and second reading and adoption. Mayor Harvey noted once the budget is set and advertised, changes would be limited. Mayor Harvey explained most items remain the same. The most noticeable changes are in the S.P.L.O.S.T. Fund, Water Fund, and General Fund.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the revenue highlights for the General Fund, Water Fund, and Gas Fund. Mayor Harvey noted that the second portion of the water rate increase approved on June 2, 2020, is included in this budget.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the expenditures highlights, including a 1.75% raise for all full-time employees Grade 22 and below. A 1% increase for all employees Grade 23 and higher. Mayor Harvey explained Grades 9,10 and 11 would no longer be used for salaries. In addition, administration had increases in dues and registration, travel and training, office supplies, and IT expenses for the purchase of a business license module and cloud hosting and \$25,000 in capital outlay for a City Manager vehicle.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the business license module was a software upgrade. IT Director Trey Goble explained the item was previously brought before Council for approval, but Tyler Technologies' deployment calendar has become long, so it will be deployed in the next fiscal year. Mayor Harvey asked Trey to provide more information on the Cloud hosting service. Trey explained the current servers are outdated by technology standards, and as the service has expanded, an upgrade is needed. If we purchase the hardware to upgrade, the cost would be around \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Mayor Harvey explained a change is included to reclassify the patrol position from a Grade 16 to a Grade 17. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked Chief Stan Mosley if the city would be competitive with the proposed raise. Chief Mosley stated, "The base pay and starting out, No." The senior officers are doing okay, but the base pay to recruit is too low. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked what the average starting pay is. Chief Mosley stated, "15.80." Council Member Dana W. Mosley commented the younger generation does not take into consideration insurance or retirement.

Mayor Harvey reported auto repairs and equipment remains up due to the aging fleet, equipment replacement, and computer hardware and software upgrades, including the purchase of Firehouse software. Chief Robbie Lathem explained he and City Manager Janice Galloway had discussed the possibility of applying for the AFG Grant when it is time to apply. Council Member Money asked when the grant would roll around. Robbie stated, "Around the end of the year."

Mayor Harvey stated there was an increase in the recreation building maintenance due to repairs and updates and IT cost due to the computer lab and recreation app.

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Mayor Harvey explained the proposed budget includes a full-time building inspector position with benefits and an allotment of \$15,000 for a vehicle. Mayor Harvey stated a full-time building inspector had been discussed several times over the years. With the full-time position, someone would be available during the day and may improve fees and services. Mayor Harvey commented the current Inspector does an excellent job. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked if Joey would like to stay. City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "It would have to be advertised." Mayor Harvey explained the position would be posted in-house, then advertised. Council Member Money asked City Manager Galloway if the building inspector could use her vehicle. City Manager Galloway stated, "That was what I was thinking."

Mayor Harvey noted the Main Street Director position would change to Main Street/Horticulture Director. Mayor Harvey explained the Main Street Director would be responsible for the city activities and events and plants and trees that continue to be planted. Also, event services were increased to pre COVID level. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked if the salary will remain the same. Mayor Harvey stated, "There will be an increase in the salary."

Mayor Harvey reviewed the proposed changes to water distribution, including salaries for two full-time positions added at mid-year, no longer purchasing water from Chattooga County and Town of Trion, GEFA Loans budgeted for a full year and no longer deferred, and the water & sewer project account increased to \$200,000.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the increase in technical services to cover additional testing at the water treatment plant, increased chemicals for carbon replacement, and increased IT costs to cover data backup. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the pumps at the well site would be run off diesel. City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "I think the specs call for electric." Council Member Money asked if the city will be able to purchase the generator at the water treatment plant from Parker anytime soon. City Manager Galloway explained she does not think he wants to sell it, but we have started looking at the cost associated with a new or used one. Council Member Money asked if the 2020 CDBG would still be available for use. Finance Director Carla Rutledge explained it was the 2019 CDBG, and normally, it has to be spent within the year. However, they are aware of our PFAS issues, and they will be more patient with us. Mayor Harvey asked if we would be eligible to apply this year. Carla explained we could, but since we haven't spent the money, they recommended applying next year.

Mayor Harvey reported chemical cost has increased for the wastewater treatment plant due to rising costs.

Mayor Harvey discussed the changes in the gas fund, including the new Regulatory Compliance II position, which was approved on May 10, 2021. In addition, Mayor Harvey explained the Natural Gas Connection program is included in the gas budget, and the rate has been reduced to \$50,453, which can be included in gas fees. Mayor Harvey stated he strongly recommends this program. Other increases include maintenance and material costs to replace rectifiers and travel and training for all gas personnel.

Mayor Harvey asked Finance Director Carla Rutledge to provide more information on the 2020 S.P.L.O.S.T. Carla explained \$525,000 is usually budgeted, and the last few years, it has been higher. This year we budgeted \$696,526.72, and if anything is left at mid-year, we can do the fund balance, so it may be higher then. We have budgeted what we think we can get without having to come back and cut. We have tried to be conservative when budgeting. Carla explained the EPD mandates the sewer improvements and extensions because of a consent order.

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The \$250,000 for gas improvements and extensions is much higher due to a gas utility relocation cost because of a bridge replacement on Hwy 48. According to Public Works Director Terry Tinney, the water line can be done in-house, but the gas is a high-pressure line, and it will possibly need to be bid out. Mayor Harvey reviewed the remaining 2020 S.P.L.O.S.T items.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the service charges and fee schedules. Finance Director Carla Rutledge noted that the only change to the fee schedule was the garbage rate, and it was just updated on the service fee sheet to reflect the approved changes from last year.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the water and sewer rate increases but noted that the gas base rate would remain the same.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the forecasted results, including Natural Gas Connection (NGC) cost only. Mayor Harvey commented the return on revenue is about the same as in the past.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the outstanding debt. Mayor Harvey questioned if some of the debt could be paid off early. Carla explained if the Bond is paid off early, there is a penalty.

Mayor Harvey reviewed the budget highlights for each department. Mayor Harvey pointed out each department now has an IT line item. IT Director Trey Goble explained it is the same expense, but it gives us a place to put the reoccurring cost to separate from other repairs that may be needed.

Mayor Harvey noted the Library and Cemetery funds remain the same. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked how much it cost to mow the cemetery each time. Mayor Harvey explained, at one time, the city was paying around \$12,000 a year, but they have increased the amount they charge for plots, but I don't know how much it cost Council Member Money expressed concerns over the way the cemetery looked on Mother's Day.

Mayor Harvey asked for questions, comments, or concerns from Council or visitors.

Council Member David Ford asked Chief Mosley if Probation was losing money. Chief Mosley replied it has been off a good bit since COVID, but it should start coming back up.

Mayor Harvey thanked staff for their efforts on the budget. Mayor Harvey requested that Council review the budget again, and if there are no major changes, the first reading will be held at the Regular Council Meeting on June 14, 2021, and the second reading and adoption will take place on June 28th.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked what areas in downtown would have cameras installed. Trey explained it is under review, but any public location that is unmanned is being considered. Council Member Kristy L. Dennis asked who would monitor the cameras and how long will they record. Trey stated, "That is all questions we are looking to answer." It will probably be a phased approach with each location. Trey stated I want to be sure we don't put a lot of infrastructure in and have no plan to maintain it or utilize it properly. Council Member Money recommended checking with the Commissioner to see what the county uses because 911 can monitor them.

City Manager Janice Galloway commented she recently attended the Georgia Rural Water Association training, and Summerville is well known for PFAS.

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ADJOURN: With all business concluded, Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to adjourn. Council Member David Ford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK