



CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 12, 2021 5 PM

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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harry Harvey gave roll call. Council Members David Ford, Dana W. Mosley, 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 Council if changes are needed to the agenda. With no changes requested, Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the regular council meeting. Mayor Harvey encouraged guests to visit the city's website for a list of upcoming events. Mayor Harvey announced the next regular council meeting would be held Monday, August 9, 2021. Mayor Harvey requested Susan Locklear, Main Street Director, to provide more details about the upcoming Friendship week festivities and the Jazz Fest.

Susan reported International Friendship Day is July 30, 2021, but the city will be observing this day with a Friendship Festival on July 31, 2021. Susan explained that the city would host a week of friendship activities, beginning July 25, 2021, culminating on July 31, 2021, in Dowdy Park. Susan explained sister cities in friendship had been invited to participate in a parade of banners and flags around Dowdy Park. In addition, there will be free activities for children, music, crafts, and food vendors.

On August 7, 2021, Susan explained a Jazz festival would be held on E Washington St. Activities will begin around 3:00 p.m. and will end around 10:30 p.m. Saturday. There will be two stages set up for entertainment, and the River Arts District (RAD) will perform the musical *Ain't Misbehavin*. Special tickets can be purchased through RAD, and general seating will be available.

FRIENDSHIP PROCLAMATION: Mayor Harvey read the Friendship Proclamation establishing July 25, 2021, through July 31, 2021, as Friendship week for the City of Summerville. A copy of the Proclamation is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST AND VISITORS: Mayor Harvey offered visitors the opportunity to speak. Mayor Harvey requested comments be limited to three to five minutes.

DUANE RICKETT: Mr. Rickett explained he is attending the meeting to request a variance.

MORRIE WELLS: Mr. Wells stated he has been living in Summerville for thirteen years, and he has questions about speed bumps. Mayor Harvey explained that the city has procedures concerning speed bumps, and City Manager Janice Galloway could provide that information to him.

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RICKEY HUGHES: Mr. Hughes announced he is attending the meeting because he plans to seek Council Seat #3, and he would like to familiarize himself with the proceedings.

CITY MANAGER: City Manager Janice Galloway reported June Revenues as \$1,041,360.75 and expenditures of \$856,873.94. City Manager Galloway reported a balance of \$2,439,432.29 in the operating account, \$1,000,000.00 in the restricted fund account, and \$156,863.34 in the water/sewer fund. A copy of the financials is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

IT Administrator Trey Goble announced Building Inspector Joey Norton and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Chris Tuggle is attending the meeting virtually.

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES: Mayor Harvey stated the first item of new business is to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2021, and June 28, 2021 meetings. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

234 DOWDY DRIVE: Mayor Harvey stated the first item of business is to consider approving a request from Jimmy Duane Rickett to rezone his property at 234 Dowdy Dr, Summerville, to allow a mobile home to be placed on the property. The parcel # for the property is listed as #0004900000087.

PUBLIC HEARING – OPEN: Mayor Harvey opened the public hearing and read the zoning variance request provided by Building Inspector Joey Norton. Mayor Harvey explained Mr. Rickett is requesting a zoning variance from the City of Summerville for the property located at 234 Dowdy Dr. The request would allow a new mobile home to be placed on the property and the older mobile home that is currently on the property to be removed once the new one is established on-site. The property is currently zoned R-1, and mobile homes are not allowed in R-1 zones.

Joey Norton explained Mr. Rickett had contacted him, and he started the variance process. As a result, the adjoining neighbors have been contacted, the notice was posted in the Summerville News, and there has been a sign posted on the property. Joey explained that Mr. Rickett would like to place a new mobile home on the site to assist his aging parents. Once the new mobile home is established, the old mobile home will be removed.

Mr. Rickett explained he was not aware the property had been rezoned, and his parents are getting older, and they need assistance. So, if approved, Joey will go to the site and get with Mr. Rickett and discuss the requirements.

Cheryl Rickett commented she needs her brother nearby to help with her parents.

Mayor Harvey explained he looked at the property and verified with Mr. Rickett which lot it would be and which mobile home would be removed.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked Joey when the property was rezoned. Joey explained the current map the city uses was from seventeen or eighteen years ago. When the map was drawn up, it included the old Dowdy Trailer Park, but across the street to Alexander St is zoned R-2.

City Attorney Albert Palmour clarified this is a variance request to allow a mobile home not to rezone. Joey stated, "Correct. This is just a variance request to allow them to place a mobile home on the property due to hardship, not to rezone the property."

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234 DOWDY DRIVE CONT: Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve a variance request at 234 Dowdy Dr to allow a new mobile home to be placed on the property. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously. Joey Norton stated he would contact Mr. Rickett to get everything set up.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM TO ALLOW THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR THE PACKAGE SALE OF DISTILLED SPIRITS: Mayor explained the next item of business is to consider the adoption of a resolution to authorize a referendum to allow the issuance of licenses for package sales of distilled spirits. Mayor Harvey offered the opportunity for visitors to ask questions. No questions or concerns were addressed from online or in-person guests. Mayor Harvey requested City Attorney Albert Palmour to provide more information on this item. City Attorney Palmour explained the Legislature changed the statute to decrease voters' signatures, requiring a municipality to have a referendum. They also changed the statute to allow the governing body of a municipality to call a referendum by resolution. These would be the two ways to get the referendum on the ballot to allow the public to decide if they want package sales of distilled spirits in the city. Then, it can go on the ballot for the November Election. If it passes, changes to the alcohol ordinance will need to be made to address zoning and conditions. Mayor Harvey announced several things need to be considered. Mayor Harvey asked do we want to have the question on the ballot on November 2, 2021? Mayor Harvey explained an effective date would also need to be established. City Attorney Palmour explained the alcohol ordinance would need to be amended. The Council can act as the alcohol board, or a board can be appointed. You will need a first reading and second reading of the ordinance. City Attorney Palmour explained consideration would need to be given for size, staffing, inventory, and taxation. Mayor Harvey recommended March 1, 2022, as the effective date if the alcohol referendum passes to allow time to make changes to the alcohol ordinance. Mayor Harvey read the alcohol resolution. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the resolution to authorize a referendum to allow the issuance of licenses for the package sale of distilled spirits. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously.

GEORGIA INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING (GICH) 2022: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving a resolution of the City of Summerville to support Chattooga County's Joint participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) 2022 Cohort. Mayor Harvey explained this is a three-year program that is designed to assist communities with housing needs. Mayor Harvey reported this program would consist of Chattooga County, City of Lyerly, City of Menlo, City of Summerville, and The Town of Trion and housing will be discussed and how the GICH program and the benefits for each city. Mayor Harvey noted Chattooga County would administer the program, and there will be no monetary cost to the city. Still, the city will support and work with the county to improve housing. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked if it would be volunteer work. Mayor Harvey explained there would be a committee from each of the cities, and they will look into housing and housing programs to make improvements. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to approve the resolution of the City of Summerville to support Chattooga County's Joint participation in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) 2022 Cohort. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

FLUXUS F721 STRAP METER: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider purchasing a FLUXUS F721 strap meter and installation materials in the amount of \$10,503 from FLEXIM. The meter would measure the flow from the Raccoon Creek Tributary Spring. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Janice Galloway to provide more information on this item.

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FLUXUS F721 STRAP METER CONT: City Manager Galloway explained before the EPD will issue a permit for the well, they are suggesting we monitor the water the Fish Hatchery uses. The Fish Hatchery does not have anything to monitor their usage. The EPD has also suggested that if the Fish Hatchery runs short on the water, the city could provide them with water because the well is in the same aquifer The Fish Hatchery is removing water from. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked what the Fish Hatchery uses for a water source. City Manager Galloway explained it is her understanding they have a spring on their side of the road and then one across the road from the Hatchery. City Manager Galloway explained the one across the road would be the one we would monitor. There is a lot of leakage on the one that is on their side, but they do not have to account for the water used. Council Member asked if the hatchery water has to be a certain temperature. City Manager Galloway stated, "It does. The water on the left side of the road is too hot for the fish, but they will start using it again in the fall." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the purchase of a FLUXUS F721 strap meter and installation materials in the amount of \$10,503 from FLEXIM. Council Member Money asked if the meter would be used to monitor the Fish Hatchery water. City Manager Galloway explained the EPD is wanting us to measure what the Hatchery is using. If we take from the lower aquifer, it may not affect them at all, but we have to prove it. If they case out the upper streams and we are withdrawing from the bottom of the well, which is a lower aquifer, it may not be tied to the Hatchery's water. We won't know until the production well installed. Council Member Money asked if this had just come up with the Hatchery. City Manager Galloway stated, "It has been fairly recent." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

TYLER SOFTWARE HOSTING SERVICES: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the purchase of Tyler software and related hosting services in the amount of \$25,810. Mayor Harvey requested IT Administrator Trey Goble to provide additional information on this item. Trey explained that the software license costs us around \$15,000 each year, and the main change would be moving from the city maintaining the software to Tyler Technologies maintaining the servers. The current hardware is approximately five years old, and it will need to be updated soon. The fee to update our servers will be approximately \$30,000 in hardware. If we go to a hosted system like Tyler, it is \$10,000 more than we have been paying per year, but it allows a cost that stays flat from a budgeting standpoint. Also, another benefit will be if we add software, the hosting services will scale up and down with our needs. Mayor Harvey asked if Tyler would maintain the service. Trey stated, "I would work hand in hand with them. There would be some things I maintain now that they will maintain." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the city was up to speed on all of the software. Trey stated, "We are doing well. We have been making steady improvements across the board." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the purchase of Tyler software and related hosting services in the amount of \$25,810. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

AQUA JET AERATOR: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the purchase of two 25HP model SS Endura Series Aqua Jet Aerator from Aqua Aerobix Systems in the amount of \$26,998 for the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Harvey requested Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Chris Tuggle to provide more information on this item. Chris explained the two aerators had been repaired multiple times, and it is no longer feasible to repair them. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the purchase of two 25HP Aqua Jet aerators in the amount of \$26,998. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

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SPECIAL ALCOHOL PERMIT FOR GEORGIA MOUNTAIN THEATER, INC: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving Georgia Mountain Theater, Inc. to purchase a special alcohol permit in the amount of \$200 for the sale of beer and wine at the JazzFest on August 7, 2021, and the Renaissance Festival on November 6, 2021, pending proper documentation. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve Georgia Mountain Theater, Inc to purchase a special alcohol permit for the Jazzfest and the Renaissance Festival. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey opened the meeting for public comments.

MORRIE WELLS: Mr. Wells introduced himself and explained he purchased a house on Seventh St, and he is concerned about the speeding. Mr. Wells stated it is important to have speed bumps around the park and the housing community. In addition, Mr. Wells stated there are kids and elderly people in the area, and in some areas, sidewalks are not available, and it is scary. Mayor Harvey explained procedures are in place for requesting speed bumps and requested Mr. Wells to speak with the City Manager on the process of installing speed bumps. Mayor Harvey stated we can also increase patrol in the areas.

TRACY HELLRIEGEL: Ms. Hellriegel provided a brief overview of the RAD Playhouse in Rome and the shows they produce in Rome and Chattooga County. Ms. Hellriegel stated they are excited to bring the JazzFest, Ain't Misbehavin, and the RenFest to Summerville.

JASON ESPY: Jason Espy with *The Summerville News* asked who the current water provider is for the Fish Hatchery. City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "I don't know. As far as I know, we would have to run a line to them to provide them with water." Jason asked if they get their drinking water from Summerville. City Manager Galloway stated, "I don't know." Mayor Harvey commented, we can get that information for you. Jason asked if the Hatchery indicated how many gallons they use for their facility. City Manager Galloway stated, "They don't know." Jason asked why the cost is so high for the water meter. City Manager Galloway stated, "It goes on a 16' or 18' inch line. The larger the meter, the more the cost." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked City Manager Galloway, once the meter is installed, how long will it take to get the needed information. City Manager Galloway explained we would want data during the drought season and a normal rainy season. Jason asked why the city will have to supply them with technology to figure out what they are using when this is something that should have already been in place. City Manager Galloway stated, "That is between them and their governing body with the State." Jason asked if the EPD was forcing the city to install the meter. City Manager Galloway stated, "Yes, in order to get the permit to drill a production well." Jason asked why the EPD didn't force the Fish Hatchery to know how many gallons they are using. City Manager Galloway stated, "It is a different division, from what we have been told."

MORRIE WELLS: Mr. Wells asked how he would obtain information on city-owned property that is for sale. Mayor Harvey directed Mr. Wells to the City Attorney and City Manager.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK