



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 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, Rickey Hughes, Joe Money, Jr., and Zachary Martin were present. City Manager Janice Galloway and City Attorney Albert Palmour were present.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey requested Council review the meeting agenda. Mayor Harvey asked if any changes are needed to the agenda. Council Member Rickey Hughes requested the wording on item (j) be changed from city funds to COVID funds. Mayor Harvey stated, "We will look at that when we get to that item." Mayor Harvey explained when we have the discussion on that item, it can be changed to COVID funds at that time. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. The approval of the meeting agenda passed 4 to 1, with Council Member Rickey Hughes voting in opposition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Harvey gave the following announcements:

- Christmas in the Park is rescheduled for Friday, December 17, 2021, at Dowdy Park. The hours will be 6 pm-9 pm.
- Mistle Toe Market will be held on Saturday, December 18, 2021, at Dowdy Park from 10 am to 3 pm.
- City offices will be closed Thursday, December 23, and Friday, December 24, for Christmas Holidays.
- City offices will be closed for the New Year Holiday on Friday, December 31, 2021.
- Chattooga River Fest will be held on April 30th and May 1st at Lyerly Park.
- Christmas Trees are available for sponsors, and they will be set up in Dowdy Park.
- The City of Summerville provided a letter of support to Chattooga County for Atrium Health Emergency Care Facility.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS: Mayor Harvey greeted guests and offered them the opportunity to introduce themselves and to speak if they were not listed on the agenda.

Mayor Harvey announced Council meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 5:00 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2021.

Mayor Harvey announced CDC guidelines continue to be followed with the recent increase in COVID cases.

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Albert Palmour reported he had documents prepared for item 8 (a) Quitclaim Deed for Archibald Farrar and item 8 (b) Deed for Mr. and Mrs. Pledger.

CITY MANAGER: City Manager Janice Galloway reported revenues of \$1,373,787.01 and expenses of \$1,146,568.94 for the month of November.

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Mayor Harvey explained the 2020-2021 audit is still ongoing and should be completed by the end of the year. Mayor Harvey explained the fiscal year begins in July and ends in June, and the audit seems to be going well. Mayor Harvey reported staff is currently working on the mid-year budget.

OLD BUSINESS

QUITCLAIM DEED BETWEEN THE CITY OF SUMMERVILLE AND ARCHIBALD A FARRAR AND NELL W. FARRAR: Mayor Harvey stated the first item of old business is to consider approving a Quitclaim Deed between the City of Summerville and Archibald A. Farrar and Nell W. Farrar. Mayor Harvey requested City Attorney Albert Palmour to provide more information on this item. City Attorney Palmour explained Mr. and Mrs. Farrar would like to close the portion of the streets contained within a part of the Houston Hawkins Farm Subdivision that they own. While reviewing the tax map, City Attorney Palmour explained that the portion of the property Mr. Farrar owns is not reflected on the tax map as part of the subdivision. City Attorney Palmour explained he modified the deed to identify the adjacent property owners. City Attorney Palmour explained the city is not giving a portion of an alleyway that adjoins some other property owner, and no city utilities would be affected. Mayor Harvey asked if all of the property was within Mr. Farrar's property line. City Attorney Palmour explained Mr. and Mrs. Farrar own both sides of the street. Council Member Joe Money, J. made a motion to approve the Quitclaim Deed between the City of Summerville and Archibald A. Farrar and Nell W. Farrar. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously. A copy of the Quitclaim deed is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

111 ALLEN STREET: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of old business is to discuss the alleyway behind 111 Allen St. City Attorney Albert Palmour explained Savannah Pledger had requested a variance at a previous meeting due to a gazebo being constructed behind her home. The contractor that constructed the gazebo did not consider the required setbacks in the subdivision when building the gazebo. When a survey was done, a ten-foot alleyway was discovered at the back of their property, and a portion of the gazebo was in the alleyway. The Pledgers request the city to convey the alleyway to them, so the structure does not exist within the alleyway and meets the setback requirements. They have contacted Mr. Wyatt, who owns the property behind them, and he has agreed to let them have his portion of the ten-foot alleyway. City Attorney Palmour stated he would recommend for the city to convey any interest in the alleyway. Mayor Harvey interjected, stating he had received information before the meeting tonight concerning a gas line. Code Enforcement Joey Norton explained he had spoken with Utility Director Terry Tinney, and it is a gas easement and not an alleyway. Terry noted the gas line is a two-inch main with eight or ten meters on the line. Mayor Harvey requested the Pledgers to talk with City Manager Galloway and Terry Tinney to find a solution.

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is the approval of the November meeting minutes. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the minutes. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 2022 ALCOHOL LICENSE: Mayor Harvey explained approval is needed for the renewal of the 2022 alcohol licenses. Mayor Harvey asked City Clerk Angie White for more information concerning the renewals. City Clerk White explained all fees had been paid, and Police Chief Harold Tucker had approved background checks.

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APPROVAL OF THE 2022 ALCOHOL LICENSE CONT: City Clerk White noted she is still working on some outstanding pouring permits from the servers. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the 2022 alcohol license renewals. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously. A copy of the alcohol licensee is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

APPROVE PAYMENT TO FIRELINE, INC.: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving payment of \$13,223 to Fireline, Inc. for fire hoses and various adapters. Mayor Harvey noted this would be paid from the Tillotson Grant the fire department recently received. Mayor Harvey congratulated Chief Robbie Lathem and the fire department on the award of the grant. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to approve payment of \$13,223 to Fireline, Inc. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously.

APPROVE PAYMENT TO WILLIAM D. PATTY: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider payment of \$6002.82 to Willam D. Patty Construction for chert, blue rock, and crusher run. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment of \$6002.82 to William D. Patty. Council Member Rickey Hughes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy of the invoice is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

APPROVE PAYMENT TO CARTER & SLOOPE FOR ENGINEERING FEES AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Mayor Harvey explained the next item of business is to consider approving payment of \$6,000 to Carter & Sloope for engineering fees at the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Harvey requested Chris Tuggle to provide more information on this item. Chris explained this is for engineering fees to meet the 2022 NPDES permit renewal application deadline. Council Member David Ford asked if it was a yearly fee. Chris stated, "Every five years." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment to Carter & Sloope for engineering fees at the wastewater treatment plant. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CALGON CARBON: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider payment to Calgon Carbon for GAC media replacement at the water treatment plant. Mayor Harvey requested Jason Greene to provide more information on this item. Jason explained this is to replace the media in filters three and four. Jason explained in the beginning, there was no guarantee how long the carbon would last, but we have had excellent results. Filters three and four were installed on October 9, 2020, and filters five and six were installed in March of 2021. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the media had lasted over a year. Jason stated, "Yes." Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to approve payment of \$65,695 to Calgon Carbon. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

REPAIR OF A RAW FLOW VALVE ACTUATOR AT RACCOON CREEK: Mayor Harvey explained approval of payment in the amount of \$8,340.80 is needed to R&W Contractors, Inc. for the repair of a raw flow valve actuator at Raccoon Creek. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the repair of the raw flow valve actuator at Raccoon Creek in the amount of \$8,340.80. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

REPAIR AND REBUILD OF HIGH SERVICE MOTOR AND PUMP #1 AT LOWE SPRINGS: Mayor Harvey explained approval is needed for payment of \$7,461.08 to R&W Contractors to repair and rebuild the high service motor and pump #1 at Lowe Springs. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve payment to R&W Contractors for the repair and rebuild of pump#1 at Lowe Springs in the amount of \$7,461.08. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosely and carried unanimously.

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PURCHASE OF FIRE HYDRANTS, VALVES, AND ACCESSORIES FROM WALTER A. WOOD: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the purchase of fire hydrants, valves, and accessories from Walter A. Wood in the amount of \$10,468.32. Council Member Rickey Hughes made a motion to approve the purchase of fire hydrants, valves, and accessories from Walter A. Wood. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE BONUS: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving a bonus from city funds of \$500 to full-time employees and \$250 to part-time employees. Council Member Rickey Hughes stated we have some of the best workers around. I have visited every department since becoming a council member, and they are very deserving of a bonus. Rickey stated when I originally submitted the request for this item to be on the agenda, I requested it come from the CARES fund, but I was told they were earmarked for other things, even though I don't know when the Council did that. Council Member Hughes explained if it comes from city funds, we ask residents to give the bonus, which is not what I am doing. I am asking to follow suit with what the County and the school system have done and take them out of COVID funds. Rickey stated surely, out of \$750,000 in funding, we can find \$49,519 to give our employees a bonus. Council Member Dana W. Mosley commented when we originally talked, it was coming out of the CARES funds, but we have since found out those funds are gone. Then it got moved to the ARPA funds, which can be used for essential workers, water, sewer, broadband, or infrastructure. Council Member Mosley stated We are not against the sewer line repair, but I am with Rickey. The employees that worked through COVID deserve something, as well as the employees who got paid that was out that had COVID. Council Member Mosley stated, "I am not taking anything away from the employees that had COVID, but the people that stepped up and worked extra because someone was out deserve a bonus." Council Member David Ford asked Council Member Mosley, "Are you saying not give it to all of them?" Council Member Mosley stated, "I'm saying to give it to all of them." Mayor Harvey explained ARPA funds can be used for essential workers, and there are rules and guidelines for the use of the funds. Mayor Harvey stated, "I am the one that said those were earmarked." We are using the ARPA funds for water, wastewater treatment, and some of the equipment we purchased came from that money. We also have flooding issues downtown and may need to use that money for that, or we may have another pandemic surge soon. Mayor Harvey stated, "I am for a bonus and for workers, but now is not the time, nor are these the funds to use that for." Mayor Harvey explained we will know where we will be with the water and wastewater treatment over the next few months. It will be around six or seven million to take care of the transmission lines and the wells. Mayor Harvey stated we are trying to set money aside for that now, but we are going to need more money than what we have set aside. We can look at bonuses, but it needs to be done later. Mayor Harvey explained a bonus was not in the budget, and we need to follow what's in the budget. We need to budget these items. We do not need to pull them out of various funds. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked for clarity as to whether the Council did or did not earmark the funds. Mayor Harvey stated, "It was in the planning session. We have talked about it for six months." Council Member Hughes questioned what meeting the Council voted to earmark the funds. Mayor Harvey stated, "We did not vote on it. It was agreed what we would do with the funds." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked where the money will come from if we approve the bonus? City Manager Janice Galloway explained we had several positions that had not been filled for a good while. That was my suggestion to use city cash because we do have all of the infrastructure problems. Even with grants and loans, it will be a tremendous amount, and a lot of the loans are matching loans. City Manager Galloway stated, "I was hoping we could use the ARPA for the Mohawk sewage line." Council Member Money asked do we know how much it would cost to replace the Mohawk line? City Manager Galloway stated, "We have a tentative amount from the engineers, and it is over two million dollars. We won't know if we get those funds until April."

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EMPLOYEE BONUS CONT: Council Member David Ford asked will we have the money in March or April? Mayor Harvey stated, "It's a possibility, but we may not. It will be a lot clearer in March or April." Mayor Harvey stated we do not need to do a bonus at this time, especially before we research and take care of the essential things. Council Member Rickey Hughes made a motion to give employees a bonus out of ARPA funds. Council Member Dana W. Mosley seconded the motion. The motion failed three to two, with Council Member David Ford, Council Member Joe Money, Jr., and Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin voting in opposition.

CITY MANAGER VEHICLE: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango for the City Manager, not to exceed \$25,000. Mayor Harvey requested Chief Harold Tucker and City Manager Janice Galloway provide additional information on this item. Chief Tucker explained he has been working with Trucktown and Jacky Jones Dodge on the purchase. Chief Tucker explained Dodge offers rebates on new vehicles to government agencies. Chief Tucker stated with the trade-in of the current City Manager vehicle and rebates, we should be able to get a new 2022 Durango around \$24,000 to \$25,000. Council Member David Ford asked if this would be a new vehicle. Chief Tucker stated, "Brand new." Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango for the City Manager, not to exceed \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rickey Hughes and carried unanimously.

APPROVE TEMPORARY ASSISTANT FOR PURCHASING AGENT TREY GOBLE: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving Nicki Diggs as a temporary assistant for purchasing agent Trey Goble. The City Manager is requesting a three-step increase. City Manager Janice Galloway explained the purchasing job has been advertised. Trey has been doing IT and purchasing, and he needs help entering items into the computer, which is time-consuming. City Manager Galloway noted the three-step increase would be an increase of \$36.83 weekly. Council Member David Ford asked if she would be doing her job in addition to assisting Trey. City Manager Galloway stated, "Yes." Council Member Rickey Hughes asked if the three-step increase was common when employees take on extra duties. City Manager Galloway stated, "When we get in a bind. She already knows the program and understands how to do it." Council Member Hughes asked if Trey got a pay increase when he took over purchasing. City Manager Galloway stated, "He did. He will go back to whatever his salary was. I don't remember what it was, but we can look it up. It wasn't much of an increase when he took it over." Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked if Nicki could do it permanently and not hire another person. City Manager Galloway stated, "No, not with what she already does." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if it has been advertised in-house. City Manager Galloway stated, "Yes, and it was in the paper last week." Council Member Joe Money, Jr made a motion to approve Nicki Diggs as a temporary purchasing assistant. Council Member David Ford seconded the motion. Council Member Dana W. Mosley and Council Member Rickey Hughes voted in opposition. The motion passed three to two.

DISCUSS HAULING SLUDGE FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO A LANDFILL: Mayor Harvey requested Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Chris Tuggle to provide information pertaining to the removal of sludge. Chris explained since the plant was started in 1967, the sludge has always been applied to land. 180-185 tandem truckloads are currently hauled yearly and applied to land. Mayor Harvey explained the contract with Cross Farms is expiring, and we are looking at another way of applying sludge. Mayor Harvey noted having the sludge hauled to a landfill would be more costly than the land application. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked what else could be done with the sludge. City Manager Galloway stated, "It would go to a landfill." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if it would go to Collinsville. Chris stated, "Collinsville or Ranger, Ga."

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DISCUSS HAULING SLUDGE FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO A LANDFILL CONT: Council Member Rickey Hughes questioned if the city is required to test the sludge. Chris explained to be able to land apply, we do quarterly 503 regs and fecal testing. We apply 400 dry tons a year, so we are required to test four times a year. Chris stated if we go to landfill vs. land application, I was told by the EPD to do one set of samples a year, so the sludge management plan stays in place. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked if the city would contract the hauling of sludge or would the city do it? Chris explained one dump truck would need to be purchased, possibly two, and hire a driver. Council Member Mosley asked if special qualifications would be needed for the driver. Chris stated, "I haven't checked into that. It should be Class B CDL." Council Member Mosley questioned if they would need special qualifications for hauling the sludge. Chris stated, "It might be hazmat." Council Member Mosley asked if any bids had been received. City Manager Galloway explained we are just making Council aware of what is forthcoming, including the possibility of having a roll-off dumpster. Chris noted the 20-yard roll-off dumpster would cost twice as much. City Manager Galloway stated, "We would bid it out." City Attorney Albert Palmour asked how many loads are hauled a month? Chris stated, "On average, it is about 15 loads a month." City Attorney Palmour asked how long can it be stored? Chris stated, "We have no storage." City Attorney Palmour asked if it would be possible to have a storage pad? Chris stated, "We could. We would have to build a storage pad with a roof over it." Mayor Harvey asked for any other questions or comments. No other questions or concerns were addressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPEN: Mayor Harvey stated an Executive Session is needed to discuss possible litigation and land acquisition. Council Member David Ford made a motion to enter into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously. The regular meeting was closed at 6:10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED: Mayor Harvey closed the Executive Session and re-opened the regular meeting at 6:19 p.m. Mayor Harvey reported no action was taken during the Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey asked for questions, comments, or concerns.

JASON ESPY: Jason Espy with *The Summerville News* questioned how much the city is paying for sludge removal at this time. City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "It's over \$4,000 a month." Jason asked if the city could haul it and hire employees cheaper than \$4,000 a month. City Manager Galloway explained it would probably be more expensive due to distance, but the EPD is leaning toward landfills instead of land applications for everyone. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked if the city would have to hire employees. City Manager Galloway stated, "If we could contract it out, it would be better." City Attorney Albert Palmour suggested checking with the Town of Trion to see what they would charge. Jason asked if it would be possible for Summerville and Trion to bring their sludge together and dry it. City Attorney Palmour explained it would require a drying bed and a covered area to store it, and then someone would haul it out in larger quantities.

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 6:25 p.m.

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HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK