



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 9, 2022  
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, Rickey Hughes, Joe Money, Jr., and Zachary Martin were present. City Manager Janice Galloway and City Attorney Albert Palmour were also present. Council Member Dana W. Mosley was absent.

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Harvey gave the invocation.

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

**AGENDA:** Mayor Harvey requested Council to review the meeting agenda. Mayor Harvey asked if any additions or deletions are needed to the agenda. With no changes 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.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mayor Harvey requested visitors sign the visitor's sheet listing their name, address, and reason for attending. Mayor Harvey offered visitors the opportunity to speak at this and announced they would also have the opportunity to comment on the agenda items if they wish.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mayor Harvey announced several events and activities will be held in May and June, and more information will be provided during reports and presentations. Mayor Harvey announced monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. Budget meetings will be forthcoming for the FY 2022-2023 budget. Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. Mayor Harvey encouraged everyone to continue to be cautious with the ongoing pandemic.

**CHAMPION OF GEORGIA'S CITIES AWARD PRESENTATION:** Mayor Harvey explained the City of Summerville is a member of the Georgia Municipal Association and will present Representative Eddie Lumsden with the Champion of Georgia's Cities Award from the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA). Mayor Harvey explained that Representative Lumsden has been representing the City of Summerville since 2012, serving on many committees. Mayor Harvey announced at the end of every biennium the Georgia Municipal Association honors legislators who have defended home rule principles in their communities and under the Gold Dome with the Champion of Georgia's Cities Award. Ryan Bowersox with the Georgia Municipal Association presented the award to Representative Eddie Lumsden.

Representative Eddie Lumsden accepted the award and stated it is a privilege to serve in the legislature and to be able to use my experience to help people at the local level.

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**MEGAN OTWELL:** Mayor Harvey announced Megan Otwell with the City of Rome would provide a presentation concerning the entertainment district in Rome. Megan introduced herself as the City of Rome's marketing and events coordinator and a Chattooga County resident. Megan discussed the procedures the City of Rome used when establishing the entertainment district, and it was used as an initiative to support small businesses and grow downtown. Megan provided statistics from downtown businesses that support the entertainment district. Megan reported the City of Rome had no issues since allowing open container and implementing the ordinance. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked how large is the zone? Megan stated, "It is about six blocks plus the river district across the river." Mayor Harvey asked for the times and days it is allowed. Megan stated, "Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m." Council Member David Ford asked if Police presence was increased. Megan stated, "Not at all." Mayor Harvey offered visitors the opportunity to ask questions. Earl Parris asked Police Chief Harold Tucker if there had been any problems in the past when selling alcohol for events? Chief Tucker stated, "No." Earl asked if the City of Rome started on a small scale to begin with on the district. Megan explained it was scaled back to Broad St. and six blocks on one side of the river and three blocks on the other, but it is still a very large area compared to what the City of Summerville is proposing.

**WORLD FRIENDSHIP ROCK POCKET PARK:** Mayor Harvey requested that Main Street Director Susan Locklear provide more information concerning the World Friendship Rock Pocket Park Project. Susan stated Main Street Board Member Nicki Benefield has designed a beautiful park. Susan explained John Turner and Dan Lipscomb donated \$1,800 in seed money for a world friendship park. Susan and Nicki shared the concept with attendees and explained the park would be a pocket park located across from the Depot around the Jon Payne pavilion. It would be a focal point for visitors and locals to take pictures. Susan explained that Nicki had spent many hours researching this area, and Main Street will be selling brick pavers for \$100.00 to offset the cost of the project. A copy of the proposed park is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

**REPORTS AND PRESENTATION**

**MAIN STREET – SUSAN LOCKLEAR:** Main Street Director Susan Locklear reported Ducky Derby will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Main Street and businesses are currently selling ducky adoption tickets. A cruise-in will be held in conjunction with the ducky derby on E. Washington St. Susan reported the Main Street Board has been working on planters in the downtown area. A copy of Susan's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT – JOEY NORTON:** Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton reported he is still working on property maintenance issues, and several homes are targeted for court. Joey reported the new convenience store next to the old Hardees building is progressing. Joey announced he would be working with Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Chris Tuggle on the procedures local restaurants use when cleaning grease traps to ensure it is not going into the sewer system.

**WATER TREATMENT PLANT – JOHN BARES:** John explained the water treatment plant is operating well. John reviewed the report submitted to the Mayor and Council, which listed samples pulled, daily maintenance, and monthly rainfall totals. A copy of the water treatment plant report is attached and becomes part of the minutes.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – CHRIS TUGGLE:** Mayor Harvey requested Chris Tuggle provide the report for the wastewater treatment plant. Chris reviewed the report of activities at the plant for the month of April. A copy of Chris's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

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**PUBLIC WORKS:** Mayor Harvey reviewed the report submitted in the absence of Public Works Director Terry Tinney. A copy of the public works report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT – BO CHAMLEE:** Bo reported the regular baseball and softball season would be ending soon, with all-star games to follow. Bo announced the new website for scheduling has 11,369 views. Bo's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**POLICE – HAROLD TUCKER:** Chief Harold Tucker reviewed the monthly report submitted to Mayor and Council for the police and probation department. Chief Tucker reported \$3096 in city court fees, \$6,099 in state court fees, and \$80 in magistrate fees were collected during April. A copy of the police and probation report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT – ROBBIE LATHAM:** Chief Latham reported his department responded to 62 calls during the month and had 74 training hours. A copy of the fire department's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**IT ADMINISTRATOR – TREY GOBLE:** Mayor Harvey requested Trey Goble review the month's IT report. Trey discussed the projects he has completed and upcoming projects he is preparing to complete. A copy of Trey's report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

**CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Janice Galloway reported a balance of \$3,392,036.99 in the operating account. City Manager Galloway announced \$1,518,996.70 in revenues and \$1,518,996.70 in expenditures. City Manager Galloway reported that \$13,000 in donations had been collected for the annual Fourth of July Celebration. City Manager Galloway noted that two quotes had been received for tree removal from the old part of the cemetery. A copy of the financial report is attached and becomes part of these minutes.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked wastewater treatment plant superintendent Chris Tuggle if he was getting more grease downstream than in the past. Chris stated, "Yes, it has picked up over the last couple of years."

Council Member Money asked what kind of issues did we have at Lowe Springs? John stated, "It was a chlorine issue. There was a valve we had to replace."

**OLD BUSINESS**

**DISCUSS ENTERTAINMENT ZONE:** Mayor Harvey stated the first item of old business is to discuss the entertainment zone downtown. Council Member Rickey Hughes explained he requested IT Administrator Trey Goble to create a PowerPoint with the map and information of the proposed area. Council Member Hughes explained two restaurants and a developer who intends to build in the area are interested in establishing an entertainment zone. Council Member Hughes explained he has decreased the original map due to concerns on Commerce St. Council Member Hughes explained the area would cover an area from Jefferson's on Commerce St to Los Maguey, down Washington St, extending to Economy St. which would include all of Mr. Benefield's property, past the Depot and it would cut off at the railroad, with no open container allowed in Dowdy Park. Council Member Hughes stated the hours I am proposing would be Fridays 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturdays from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. except for a child's event (such as the Halloween walk). If such an event occurs, the city will email the vendors that the sale would not be allowed on that specific date.

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**DISCUSS ENTERTAINMENT ZONE CONT:** Council Member Hughes stated we would ask the participating vendor to post a map of the zone in the front window. In addition, council Member Hughes stated I am proposing the city sell the vendors a 16 oz cup, and the vendors would be required to put a date on the cup.

Council Member Hughes explained we have an individual interested in developing a cigar bar. Our current ordinance requires a 50/50 food to alcohol ratio, and I would like the ordinance to be relaxed and allow tobacco to be sold in lieu of food. Mayor Harvey asked for a discussion from Council on the entertainment zone. Council Member David Ford stated I think the times are good. I would like to include in the ordinance if someone is on the outskirts, they could annex into the zone later if they choose to. Council member Joe Money, Jr. asked if alcohol would be going in the Depot? Main Street Director Susan Locklear explained it has been in the Depot at past city events, and if someone is having a private event at the Depot, they can have alcohol if they have a security guard on site. Mayor Harvey stated I still have concerns about the Depot. City Attorney Albert Palmour explained currently, you only have two locations that sell alcohol, and as Mr. Benefield develops his property on Economy St., he wants to know if the city will allow the entertainment zone in the area, but one of the questions is, will the Depot be included. City Attorney Palmour pointed out Rome has bars, restaurants, and other activities conducive to an entertainment district. City Attorney Palmour stated if we zone this area as an entertainment zone, we certainly want the developers to develop this area consistent with this zone. City Attorney Palmour stated I don't know if this is something we need next week, but we are working on it. City Attorney Palmour noted we can relax open container for events, whether sponsored by Jefferson's or Los Maguey. Megan Otwell stated, to me, it is about the quality of life and the vibrancy to downtown. Council Member David Ford commented I don't think you are going to see someone go into a restaurant and get a beer in a cup and walk around drunk in town. Council Member Hughes stated at the appropriate time, I want to put a motion on the floor. City Attorney Palmour explained you would have to hold a public hearing then we would draft the ordinance. I was just going to amend the alcohol ordinance to include that. Mayor Harvey stated we need to get things ironed out as far as what, where, and how we are going to do things. Mayor Harvey questioned the map and the areas included. City Attorney Palmour stated it is my understanding it would be the sidewalk fronting US 27, down the street to the Depot. It looks like it includes Jefferson's, Mr. Benefield's property on the corner, excludes Regions Bank, and includes the Depot property, continues up the railroad track to Economy St and goes to Los Maguey, but the Montgomery Knitting Mill property is excluded. City Attorney Palmour stated you could include the park for special events and only include the Depot for special events. City Attorney Palmour stated I could prepare a proposed ordinance to make that area a restaurant zone or special district to allow activities like the City of Rome. Council Member, Hughes asked do we need to vote for him to do that? City Attorney Palmour stated you would need to set a public hearing, and I will have it ready for a public hearing, and it can be posted. Council Member David Ford commented we waste time talking about it. Mayor Harvey stated this is not a waste of time. There are people who are for it, and others who are not. Council Member Hughes stated they've had and will continue to have the same opportunity to voice their opinions. I just don't want it stalled. It has stalled and stalled and stalled. We need to move forward or forget it. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked how many public hearings would be required. City Attorney Palmour stated just one. Council Member Hughes made a motion to move forward and have a public hearing at the next Council meeting. Council Member David Ford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**MINUTES:** Mayor Harvey stated the first item of business is the approval of the minutes of the previous council meeting. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by David Ford and carried unanimously.

**OPEN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HAULING AND DISPOSAL OF WASTEWATER BIO-SOLIDS:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to open request for proposals for hauling and disposal of wastewater bio-solids from the City of Summerville wastewater plant. City Attorney Albert Palmour announced only one bid was received from Gary and Tommy Cross. City Attorney Palmour reported the bid is for \$86,400 per year based on a maximum of 3,200 tons of sludge per year at \$27.00 per ton. The bid also states any sludge over 3,200 tons would be an additional \$27.00 per ton. A fuel surcharge of .20 cents per gallon, per ton, over the bid price of \$5.00 per gallon of diesel fuel would be applied. City Attorney Palmour stated we will have staff review it and make a recommendation at the next meeting. Mayor Harvey asked staff to evaluate the bid and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

**SUMMERVILLE CEMETERY:** Mayor Harvey requested Arch Farrar and Earle Rainwater to provide information concerning the Summerville Cemetery. Mr. Farrar provided a brief history of the cemetery and the development of the cemetery. Mr. Farrar explained the Summerville Cemetery worked out a deal with the City of Summerville years ago to maintain the city's section. Mr. Farrar stated Earle, and I are the last two active members to attend board meetings or do anything with the cemetery monthly. I pay the bills, and Earle sells the lot. Mr. Farrar stated currently, the city contributes \$7,500 yearly to the cemetery, and the quote to cut one tree is \$4,000 to \$5,000, so the \$7,500 doesn't go very far. Mr. Farrar stated it cost us around \$2,500 monthly for grass cutting from April through October, plus other maintenance. Mr. Farrar noted as long as we are selling lots, we are doing alright. Mr. Farrar stated we have not sold but eight to ten lots per year because everyone has a family plot. So we are in a position right now that is going to be tough for us to get through this year. Mr. Farrar stated I think the City of Summerville should take it over. We are getting to the point we need more help from the city, or you all need to take it over. Mayor Harvey thanked Mr. Farrar and stated I appreciate all that you do. I know it is tough to maintain. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked what would be a number for us to contribute to get you through the year? Mr. Farrar stated, "We are paying \$22,000 to \$23,000 per year, and we have \$22,000 in the account, assuming we do not have an emergency expense come up." Council Member Money asked what would you like for us to contribute? Mr. Farrar stated, "I think it is going to take between \$15,000 to \$20,000." Mr. Farrar explained we would need to talk about cutting trees. We have five or six trees that have been struck by lightning and will need to come down in the next year or two. City Manager Galloway asked who is the contractor that is cutting the grass? Mr. Farrar stated, "Mike Albertson. He has been doing it about four years." Mayor Harvey requested Mr. Farrar to get some figures together for the City Manager. Mayor Harvey asked for discussion from visitors concerning the cemetery.

Earl Parris commented it is a challenge to get people to mow and weed eat. However, on certain holidays, the cemetery always looks nice. Earl suggested working out a private/public relationship to donate to the cemetery. I would like to see the City of Summerville work through it. Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Galloway to see what can be budgeted. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked does this mean we are going to give extra money in the budget? Mayor Harvey stated, "We will look at it." Council Member Hughes stated, "I know. We look at everything. I don't like the procrastination. I want to know if we are going to give them extra money or not." City Manager Galloway stated, "The tree will be cut." Mayor Harvey stated, "We will look at this through the budget. It needs to come through the budget."



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**REDUCTION IN SETBACKS FOR 170 E. WASHINGTON ST:** Code Enforcement Officer Joey Norton explained the public notice did not get published in the paper, so this will need to be postponed. City Attorney Albert Palmour asked if the adjacent property owner has agreed to it? Joey stated, "The owner lives in Menlo, and they don't have a problem with it."

**FIRST READING OF THE AMENDED ALCOHOL ORDINANCE:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is the first reading of the amended alcohol ordinance to allow package sales of distilled spirits. Mayor Harvey opened the public hearing.

**PUBLIC HEARING – OPEN:** Mayor Harvey opened the public hearing. City Attorney Albert Palmour asked City Clerk Angie White if the ordinance was advertised on the city's website. The City Clerk stated, "Yes." Mayor Harvey asked for questions or comments from visitors. Earl Parris asked how many package stores would be allowed. Mayor Harvey stated, "Two." Earl asked how that number was determined? Mayor Harvey explained it was based on a recommendation by Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), one per 5,000 in population, we looked at our area, and two seem to be a good number. Earl suggested using the money from the alcohol license fee to be used for the cemetery.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSED:** Mayor Harvey closed the public hearing and reviewed chapter four of the amended alcohol ordinance concerning the package sale of distilled spirits. In addition, Mayor Harvey discussed the requirements and restrictions outlined in the ordinance, including distance regulations, the application selection process, zoning requirements, and building requirements. Mayor Harvey encouraged everyone to read the full ordinance that is posted on the city's website and announced a copy could also be obtained at city hall. Mayor Harvey asked for questions from Council. No concerns were addressed.

**DISTRICT ONE OFFICERS:** Mayor Harvey stated authorization is needed for the Mayor to vote on behalf of the City of Summerville for the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) District One Officers. Mayor Harvey announced the ballot is due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Mayor Harvey asked for a discussion from Council. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to authorize Mayor Harry Harvey to vote on behalf of the City of Summerville for the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) District One Officers. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**CARTER & SLOOPE:** Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for payment in the amount of \$13,750 to Carter & Sloope for engineering services from December 12, 2021, to March 27, 2022, for FY 2019 CDBG Sanitary Sewer system improvements. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment to Carter & Sloope in the amount of \$13,750. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

**CONSOLIDATED PIPE:** Mayor Harvey stated approval of payment of \$10,150 is needed to Consolidated Pipe for potable water & gas lines for the well site. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment of \$10,150 to Consolidated Pipe. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr, which carried unanimously.

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**BLOUNT CONSTRUCTION:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve the payment of \$59,302.56 to Blount Construction for LMIG paving for the following invoices:

- Invoice # RM-22-04-43 Lee St. \$ 8,765.57
- Invoice # RM-22-04-11 Blake St. \$19,755.00
- Invoice # RM-22-04-44 Georgia Ave. \$30,781.99

Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to approve payment to Blount Construction in the amount of \$59,302.56. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**INFLUENT COMPOSITE SAMPLER:** Mayor Harvey stated payment is needed to USA Blue Book for an influent composite sampler in the amount of \$8,925.66 for the wastewater treatment plant to be paid from SPLOST. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve payment to USA Blue Book. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

**SONG FARMERS OF SUMMERVILLE:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve Song Farmers of Summerville Music Chapter to use Dowdy Park April-October and the Scout Hut November-March the first Saturday of each month. Susan introduced David Sipsy and requested he provide additional information about the Song Farmers of Summerville. Mr. Sipsy provided the history of the Song Farmers group and its purpose. Mr. Sipsy explained he had been designated to start a chapter in his community. Mr. Sipsy explained that the gathering the Song Farmers host is to play music for family enjoyment and is free to anyone who would like to attend. Mr. Sipsy stated we would like to do this once a month at Dowdy Park during the warm months, and we would like to use the Scout Hut in the winter. Mr. Sipsy stated this is a good time of fellowship. Susan explained this would be free to the public, and you do not have to sing or play. Susan stated they would allow a couple of vendors to set up and sell food, and Main Street would be in charge of that. Mayor Harvey asked will this be the first Saturday of the month? Mr. Sipsy stated, "Yes, sir. To start with, that depends on the community." City Manager Janice Galloway noted the Scout Hut is already reserved on most Saturdays, but we might work it out to use another city facility. Mayor Harvey asked if the vendors would be charged a fee? Susan stated the vendors would be charged if Main Street was in charge. Council Member Rickey Hughes made a motion to approve Song Farmers of Summerville to use Dowdy Park and the Summerville Scout Hut when available. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**DOG PARK:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to discuss pricing for establishing a dog park in Summerville and select a location. Council Member Rickey Hughes explained he had provided a map of an area, but this morning he was made aware of some right-of-way issues, and the property can not be considered. Council Member Hughes asked for the item to be tabled until the next month. Mayor Harvey stated I provided some information on dog parks, and we need to be cognizant of those items as we plan this. Mayor Harvey stated as we go through this, we need to be mindful of location, finance, maintenance, and the area as far as neighbors are concerned.

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**DISCUSS PERSONNEL/JOB VACANCIES FOR THE CITY OF SUMMERVILLE:**

Mayor Harvey stated, as you know, we still have several job vacancies, and there has been concerns about filling the vacancies, and we need to look at things we can do to fill those vacancies. Mayor Harvey asked for questions from Council. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked how many openings do we have? City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "Customer service, Wasterwater Treatment Plant Operator, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, and the Assistant Public Works Director that hasn't been filled in several years." Chris Tuggle commented Kim put the job on Indeed, and we've had numerous applicants. Council Member Money asked if the Superintendent's job is on GMA's website? City Manager Galloway stated, "Yes." Mayor Harvey asked have we got anything from GMA on any of those? City Manager Galloway stated, "No, not yet." Council Member Rickey Hughes asked do we not have anyone in-house to do that job? City Manager Galloway stated, "No." City Manager Galloway stated Kim did well by putting it on Indeed. We have received more applicants through that than any other way. Council Member Hughes asked what brought about the Assistant Public Works Director? Did we lose somebody? City Manager Galloway explained that when Tony Carroll became City Manager, Terry was his assistant and moved up to Tony's position as Public Works Director. The assistant job was never filled. Council Member Hughes asked why the need for it now? City Manager Galloway stated, "The city is growing, and you don't want to wind up in a position where no one else knows where things are at."

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPEN:** Mayor Harvey stated an Executive Session is needed to discuss personnel and litigation. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to close the regular session and enter into an executive session. Council Member David Ford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The regular meeting was closed at 7:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED:** Mayor Harvey closed the Executive Session and opened the regular meeting, stating no action was taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mayor Harvey asked for questions, comments, or concerns. No concerns were addressed. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. commented the city limit sign looks great.

**ADJOURN:** Council Member David Ford made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin seconded the motion and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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**HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR**

Attest:

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**ANGIE WHITE-CITY CLERK**