



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
SPECIAL CALLED
COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 6, 2022
5:00 pm**

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Harvey called the special called 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 was also present.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Rickey Hughes led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if there are any additions or deletions needed to the meeting 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 Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Mayor Harvey welcomed everyone to the special called meeting. Mayor Harvey stated a bid opening and a discussion of the FY 2022-2023 budget would occur. Mayor Harvey thanked visitors for attending the special called meeting. Mayor Harvey thanked staff for their work on the FY 2022-2023 budget. Mayor Harvey requested visitors sign in, listing their name, address, and reason for attending.

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN SEALED BIDS FOR GAS MAIN RELOCATION: Mayor Harvey requested Carter & Sloope Engineers Chad Sipe and Mark Hain to conduct the bid opening for the Hwy 48 gas line relocation. Chad stated two bids were received, and Carter & Sloope has worked with both companies. Chad announced the first bid is from Southeastern Natural Gas. Additionally, Chad announced they acknowledged receipt of addendum item #1, a 10% bid bond from the Cincinnati Insurance Company is included, and they have submitted a total base bid of \$199,890.00.

Chad announced the second bid is from D Lance Souther, Inc. Chad stated a 10% bid bond is included from FCCI Insurance Company, acknowledgment of addendum item #1, and the total base bid submitted is \$288,697.25.

Chad explained a review would be completed on the bid documents, and a recommendation would be made to city staff.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL MEAL MONEY FOR ALL-STARS: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve \$6,000 in meal money for baseball and softball all-stars. Bo explained the request is for meal money for children traveling to play all-stars. Council Member David Ford asked where all-stars will be held. Bo stated Dalton, Whitfield, Paulding, and Bartow County. Council Member Rickey Hughes made a motion to approve \$6,000 in meal money for 8u-12u baseball/softball all-stars. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

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FY 2022-2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to review the FY 2022-2023 proposed budget. Mayor Harvey announced a 2% water rate increase has been removed based on the Council's request.

City Manager Janice Galloway explained the 2% proposed rate increase would have been \$109,580.00. The IT Assistant, custodian for city hall, seasonal recreation department worker, maintenance worker for water distribution, and part-time position for water treatment have been cut from the budget for a total of \$102,000.63. In addition, City Manager Galloway stated that \$7,579.37 in cuts were made from the following departments:

- \$279.37 from City Manager expenses
- \$100.00 from IT uniforms
- \$200.00 from recreation tools and small equipment
- \$500.00 from recreation computer hardware
- \$500.00 main street event services
- \$2,000 water building maintenance
- \$2,000 water maintenance pumps and pump station
- \$2,000 gas building maintenance

Mayor Harvey stated the Public Works Assistant position is still in the budget, and the departmental cuts are a way to keep the position without the rate increase.

Council Member Rickey Hughes stated I thought we had agreed that position was not necessary. Mayor Harvey responded, stating I want to hear from everybody. We need to have a consensus if you want to take it out. Mayor Harvey stated I would like to discuss it again.

Council Member Hughes stated based on the information I received from Mr. Tinney, I don't feel like the position is necessary. Council Member David Ford asked what information Mr. Hughes had been provided. Council Member Hughes explained we have been without this position for years, and when questions arise, and Terry is unavailable, his supervisors can answer questions. Council Member Ford questioned if Terry retires in two years don't we need someone trained and in that position? Council Member Hughes stated we have people here that may be interested in moving up. Council Member Ford stated that is the only department we don't have a backup. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked who is each department's backup employees. City Manager Galloway stated we need a Water Treatment Plant Supervisor and Assistant right now. Council Member Hughes commented I feel like the structure we have now in that department is sufficient for what we need. Again, we have been without this position for several years. City Manager Galloway stated that if everyone had certification and a license, I would agree with you, but they don't, which is my concern. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked have we ever had anyone in that position except during Tony's illness.

Terry Tinney stated, "I am the only one." City Manager Galloway stated Johnny Edwards. Terry interjected, stating he was the Superintendent. City Manager Galloway stated there was also Tony Carroll. Again, Terry interjected, explaining Tony was over the water, David Carroll was over the gas, and Andrew Pierce was over the street. Mayor Harvey asked Terry what was your position when Tony took over. Terry stated I was over the water, John Stanley was over gas, and Larry Cook was over the street. City Manager Galloway stated I am concerned about licensing. As long as nothing happens, the city should be fine, but if it does, you will have problems.

Council Member Ford asked Terry if he was also over the gas department. Terry stated, "Yes." Council Member Ford asked do you have a gas license. Terry stated, "I have qualifications for gas. You don't have to go to school. It is taught in-house. There is no state license." Terry stated that GUTA helps keep the records up to date and provides training. Deed Price does the qualification and keeps the paperwork. City Manager Galloway asked if Deed Price holds a gas certification. Terry explained Deed does not hold a certification. Each gas employee has to be qualified, and Deed keeps the records and administers the test. City Manager Galloway asked Terry why he is against having help. Terry stated I am against losing a laborer for another supervisor. My supervisors do a fine job. City Manager Galloway stated you gave up a position, and no consideration has been given to removing anyone.

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Terry stated the position was removed, and a supervisor was kept. City Manager Galloway stated because we need an Assistant that has all of the licenses that are required. Terry stated we've had six or eight people get the license, and they stay for a little while and leave. Terry explained that a previous City Manager changed the incentive the employees receive when receiving a certification from a \$1.00 an hour to a five percent raise, which will not keep them here. Mayor Harvey stated we need to be sure personnel is trained, and we have someone to stay on top of the training. Mayor Harvey asked if anyone else holds a water or sewer distribution license. Terry explained we have had them, but they leave because of the pay. Mayor Harvey stated we need to have licensed people in those positions. Terry explained all new personnel is trained, and Deed has all the documentation on training. City Manager Galloway asked Terry who would fill the position to assist Deed. Terry stated I have not hired anyone yet. Council Member Hughes commented it seems we should work harder to take care of the people here that would be interested in what they need instead of hiring an Assistant.

Terry explained I was here in 2012 when jobs were cut. It didn't affect the fire, recreation, water, or wastewater departments. We lost four police officers and the rest from public works. City Manager Galloway interjected, stating water and wastewater each lost one position.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if anyone could be groomed for the position. Terry stated we have several who knows their job well. Mayor Harvey asked if something was being done to groom them. Terry stated, yes, we work with them all the time. I show them what they need to know. Some of them have taken the test, and they did not pass it. It is a very hard test, and they get discouraged. Mayor Harvey asked Terry do you have a solution. Terry stated we will get someone to pass the test. Mayor Harvey asked when will that take place. Terry stated, "Within this next budget." City Manager Galloway asked Terry if he had applied to take the distribution collection test. Terry stated, "I have not." City Manager Galloway commented you can understand my frustration with the city not being in compliance with every category just in case something happens that might be hard to resolve. Terry stated, "I'm going to stop. I'm not going to sling mud because there is a lot to be slung. Whatever you decide or the Council decides to do, I'm okay with it. However, if you are going to get me an Assistant, I should be the one that hires them, and they report to me, not the City Manager." Mayor Harvey interjected, stating everyone reports to the City Manager. That is the structure we have in every department.

City Manager Galloway stated everyone wants people to advance from within, but they need to meet the qualifications on the job descriptions. Unfortunately, in some cases, that is not happening.

Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked if the city is in compliance now. City Manager Galloway stated, "No." Terry asked City Manager Galloway what am I out of compliance on. City Manager Galloway stated, "Your wastewater distribution and the gas department needs help." Terry asked have we ever had a licensed sewer distribution person. City Manager Galloway stated, "I don't know. You said some of your people had and didn't stay." Terry stated, "We've never had anyone with a sewer collection license."

Mayor Harvey stated we need to have someone else that is licensed. Terry stated we need to be willing to pay them if they pass it because they can leave here and make more money. Mayor Harvey stated we need someone to do a salary study, and it usually takes six to nine months to do that.

Council Members Dana W. Mosley, Rickey Hughes, Joe Money, Jr., and Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin requested the Assistant Public Works Director position be removed from the budget. Mayor Harvey stated we need to ensure we have certifications and people in place. So I think it needs to stay, and we have someone moving into that position and working on getting those certifications for water, gas, and wastewater. We want qualified people, and we want to pay qualified people.

Mayor Harvey stated that the staff had done an excellent job on the budget, and it is a tight budget. There are areas where we will have to make cuts since we are not doing an increase to ensure we make it through the year.

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Mayor Harvey explained if the Assistant Public Works position is removed, City Manager Galloway has come up with some ways to allocate those funds. City Manager Galloway explained she had met with Arch Farrar concerning the Summerville Cemetery. He requested an additional \$7,500 added to the current budget of \$7,500 for a total of \$15,000 for mowing the cemetery. City Manager Galloway stated Mr. Farrar also requested the city begin paying for any tree-cutting in the cemetery. The tree removal cost depends on the difficulty and location within the cemetery. City Manager Galloway stated I would like to allocate \$30,000 to the small works department, under maintenance and material for tree cutting for the cemetery. City Manager Galloway stated the remaining \$21,508.96 would be added to the water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant budgets for chemicals.

Council Member Rickey Hughes asked City Manager Galloway how did you rule out the purchase of a Gator for the recreation department. City Manager Galloway explained he has two Kubota's that he might be able to use for the ballfields, and the city already owns one that can be shared. City Manager Galloway expressed concerns if the 2% water and sewer rate increase is not passed and we have a warm winter and low gas sales, and I don't want us to get to the point where we have to cut employees. Mayor Harvey commented it would be dependent on that, I don't know if the amount of money set aside for chemicals will be enough. Purchasing Director Lynn Rowland stated It's not. In less than ninety days, there was over a \$7,000 increase in chemicals for the wastewater treatment plant.

Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked who has the other Gator and what is it used for. Terry stated I do, and I use it for mowing regulator stations in Floyd County. Council Member Hughes explained people use Gators to groom and maintain the fields at other facilities. Council Member David Ford asked Bo Chamlee how often do you need a Gator. Bo stated during ball season, when they spray weed killer, special events, and it could be used to pick up trash, I think it would be used a lot. City Manager Galloway asked Terry if his Gator would be available for the recreation department to use. Terry stated we use it two or three days a week, but if we are not using it, they are welcome to it. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked if that was a yes or no on the Gator. Council Member David Ford commented that I think that is a luxury, and we don't need it right now.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked where is the money for the wells coming from. How are we going to pay for that? Finance Director Carla Rutledge explained it's a construction in progress account, an asset account that doesn't show up on the budget. It will be a GEFA loan and a Grant from the USDA for one million dollars. We already have the GEFA loan, and we have started the drawdowns. When the USDA money comes in, it will show on both revenues and expenditures to wash.

Council Member Money asked to go back to the discussion concerning purchasing a Gator for the recreation department. Mayor Harvey commented I don't think we need one. We won't need one until next summer. Council Member Rickey Hughes stated I say yes to the Gator.

Mayor Harvey asked City Manager Galloway to review the changes in the SPLOST items. City Manager Galloway discussed the items removed, including a vehicle for the Police Department for \$27,000 and the reduction of \$45,000 for a flat roof vs. gable roof on the recreation department which will be allocated to the water and gas utility line relocation on Hwy 48. Mayor Harvey commented the city would be responsible for relocating the water line on Hwy 48. Mayor Harvey asked if there was an estimated cost to relocate the water lines. Terry stated, "About \$60,000." City Manager Galloway commented we will have some engineering fees as well. Mayor Harvey noted we also have the forthcoming CDBG project on Highland Ave. Mayor Harvey asked for any comments or questions.

Mayor Harvey explained if we make the changes requested, we will advertise the revenue and expenditure page, and the changes are in place. If any category amounts change, the process starts over. If we don't meet the July 1, 2022, deadline, we will have to do a spending resolution, and there will be no changes until the new budget passes. Mayor Harvey reviewed the timeline and process for adopting the budget. Mayor Harvey asked for any changes the Council would like to see.

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Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if anyone had been in contact with the Chattooga County Fair Committee. Finance Director Carla Rutledge explained funds are allocated under public relations, which covers the Chamber, Top of Georgia, and the Chattooga County Fair.

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

JASON ESPY: Jason Espy with the *Summerville News* asked what happened to the Water Superintendent. City Manager Galloway explained he took another job but has asked to return.

Mayor Harvey stated there are several things we need to look at and budget in the future. We have extremely high insurance and changes we need to make. We need to make some changes to our buildings and other things. Mayor Harvey encouraged Council to be looking at things that need to be done.

City Manager Galloway announced on June 15th, 16th, and 17th the new generator will be installed at the water treatment plant.

Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked if the patrol car could be added back to the budget. City Manager Galloway commented this is a backup vehicle. City Manager Galloway asked Police Chief Harold Tucker if he could get by with one or do you need two. Harold stated, "I really need two, but it's whatever you want to do." Council Member Money asked if the officers driving them home make us short on vehicles. Harold stated, "We have a take-home policy." Council Member David Ford asked Harold can you get by with one car. Harold explained I have a spare car, which stays in the shop. Maybe we could look at it at mid-year. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked how we went from \$25,000 to \$30,000 for a City Manager vehicle. Harold explained we placed an order for a vehicle and the Dodge place kept telling us it would be available anytime. They finally came back and said they were not making that car right now. I have been looking for something around that price, and we have not had any luck.

ADJOURN: Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to adjourn. Council Member David Ford seconded the motion and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK