



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022
5:00 PM**



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

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harvey gave roll call. Council Members David Ford, Dana Mosley, Rickey Hughes, Joe Money, Jr., and Zachary Martin were present. Also present was City Manager Janice Galloway and Attorney Albert Palmour.

INVOCATION: Mayor Harvey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Dana Mosley led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA: Mayor Harvey asked if there were any changes needed to the agenda. Mayor Harvey asked if Council needed the executive session. The executive session was removed from the agenda. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Mayor Harry Harvey welcomed everyone to the council meeting, including those attending online. Mayor Harvey asked that all visitors sign in listing their name, address, and reason for attending the meeting. Mayor Harvey explained that everyone will be given an opportunity to address Council now and again at the end of the meeting. Mayor Harvey requested that anyone addressing the Council limit their comments to three minutes each. Mayor Harvey asked if anyone wanted to address the Council at this time.

Mayor Harvey recapped the items he went over in the question and answer session, thanking City staff, businesses, churches, and all the agencies for the help provided after the flood. Mayor Harvey explained the City is still under a Boil Advisory as a result of the Water Treatment Plant being underwater and out of commission for five or six days. The Water Treatment Plant sustained damages that are still being assessed, and while most everyone has water at this point, the plant is still not operating at full capacity.

CITY ATTORNEY: City Attorney Albert Palmour did not have anything that wasn't on the agenda.

CITY MANAGER: City Manager Janice Galloway presented the financial information. The Operating account balance was \$1,656,942.02. Ms. Galloway presented information concerning the water reservoir levels. Ms. Galloway explained there were 3.2 million gallons leaving the Water Treatment Plant, and Lowe Spring Plant is up and running.

MINUTES: Mayor Harvey stated the first item for business is to consider approving the minutes from the previous meeting. Council member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 2
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

INCREASING THE TECHNOLOGY FEE FOR COURT CITATIONS AND MODIFYING COURTSWARE CONTRACT: Mayor Harvey explained the next item of business is to approve increasing the technology fee for court citations and modifying the Courtsware contract. Mayor Harvey explained, the fee has increased and the increase will be passed along to those that use it. Public Safety Director, Harold Tucker provided additional information stating Governor Kemp enacted a bill where information has to be reported to the State. The current software is unable to provide the information, but an upgrade is available for an additional cost. Council Member David Ford made a motion to increase the fee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rickey Hughes and carried unanimously.

APPROVE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SUMMERVILLE AND GEORGIA PROBATION SERVICES TO PROVIDE PROBATION SERVICES FOR CITY COURT PROBATION: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve a contract with Georgia Probation Services for the City Court Probation. Public Safety Director, Harold Tucker explained the reason for the contract is to switch to a private organization since the Probation Director resigned. Georgia Probation Services currently handles State Court, Magistrate Court, and court for other local municipalities. Council member David Ford made a motion to approve the contract. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rickey Hughes and carried unanimously.

OPEN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A CLASS A FIRE ENGINE: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is open the Request for Proposals for a new fire truck. The proposals will be opened, but nothing will be decided tonight. Staff will look at the proposals and make a recommendation. The proposals opened were: Rosenbaur - \$730,618, Spencer - \$789,456, Marion Body Works, Inc. - \$758,226, FireLine Inc. - \$762,842. No action was taken.

OPEN CURBSIDE SOLID WASTE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Mayor Harvey explained, the next item of business is to open the Curbside Solid Waste proposals. One proposal was received from Wrights Environmental with varying prices depending on the size of the receptacle and the frequency of pickup. Mayor Harvey stated staff would look over the proposal and give a recommendation. No action was taken.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$6,130.00 TO PHOENIX PROCESS EQUIPMENT CO. FOR ROLLERS FOR A BELT PRESS FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Mayor Harvey stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the payment of \$6,130.00 to Phoenix Process and Equipment Co. for rollers for a belt press for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mayor Harvey asked if Council had any questions or comments. Council Member, Rickey Hughes asked if the items that keep having to be purchased by Wastewater can be repaired. Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, Chris Tuggle explained that the rollers had been sent in to be refurbished, but there was not enough metal on the roller for a repair. The current state of the rollers are damaging the belts that cost \$3,500.00 each. Mayor Harvey stated the environment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is very corrosive. If anyone wants to see, Chris Tuggle will take them on a tour of the facility. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 3
CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

APPROVE PURCHASE OF A NEW BOD INCUBATOR FOR THE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT: Mayor Harvey asked Chris Tuggle to explain what a BOD Incubator is. Chris Tuggle explained that a BOD incubator is an incubating refrigerator that you put your five day BOD test in to let it incubate for five days before reading the final test results. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the payment. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

**APPROVE THE PAYMENT OF \$11,134.50 TO POLAR ENGRAVING FOR
4"X8" BRICKS FOR THE POCKET PARK:**

Mayor Harvey asked Main Street Director, Susan Locklear to give more details on the bricks. Ms. Locklear explained the money is not part of the City General Fund. The money is from donations and funds raised for the engraved bricks. Bringing this to Council is to follow the City's purchasing protocol. Main Street obtained prices from four companies, and Polar Engraving was the best price and is a reputable company. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. emphasized that the City is not buying bricks after a 500 year flood. The money is coming from Main Street. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the purchase of bricks for the pocket park. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

APPROVE IT POSITION STARTING SALARY UP TO \$47,500:

Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve increasing the starting salary for the IT position. The proposed amount is above the current range for starting pay. Ms. Galloway would like to increase the starting pay up to \$47,500. Council Member, Rickey Hughes asked if there was a particular person in mind. City Manager, Galloway stated there was a guy from Rome, Georgia with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Information Systems and 20 years' experience. He is the most reasonable, all the others wanted between \$50,000 and \$72,000. Council Member Hughes asked if hired, would he be comfortable with this salary instead of like the previous one wanting a raise every six months. Ms. Galloway responded she hoped so. Council Member Hughes asked what happened with the discussion with Parker. Ms. Galloway explained that Parker wanted to switch the City over to the cable system that he runs and he never provided a quote. Council Member Hughes asked why not get a quote. The City manager asked if he would like a quote from Parker. Council Member Hughes stated he would like to see one to have something to compare. Mayor Harvey explained the City was at a point where an IT person was needed and getting a quote may take weeks and the City needs to move ahead with the IT position. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked if the City had advertised the position with the higher starting amount. City Manager Galloway said "No". Mr. Money asked if the position needed to be re-advertised with the higher pay. Ms. Galloway stated the previous candidates had wanted between \$50,000 and \$70,000. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. questioned if one of the qualified candidates that had wanted \$50,000 was offered \$47,500 if it would have made a difference since there is a big difference between \$43,000 and \$47,500. City Manager, Galloway stated the person the City was interested in was the most qualified.

PAGE 4
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

APPROVE IT POSITION STARTING SALARY UP TO \$47,500

CONTINUED: Council Member Dana Mosley asked Council Member Money if he wanted the position re-advertised if the pay increase was approved. Council Member Money explained he would suggest that. City Manager Galloway told the Council it was up to them. Council Member Money reiterated re-advertising would be the fair thing to do. City Manager Janice Galloway explained the City has sent the candidate for a background check and are waiting for the results of his drug test. With no other comments Mayor Harvey asked for a motion. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to raise the starting pay for the IT Administrator up to \$47,500. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ford and passed four to one with Council Member Hughes voting in opposition.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF \$6,796.84 TO SUPERIOR RELIEF SERVICES, INC. FOR DRYING AND SANITIZING OF THE MAINTENANCE BUILDING DUE TO FLOODING:

Mayor Harvey explained the recent flooding impacted the maintenance building with water getting into the walls. The company came in to dry the water out of the building and sanitize. In the future changes may need to be made to the maintenance building. Council Member Mosley asked if the payment would be able to be recouped if the City was able to get some help. Mayor Harvey stated it was a possibility and he or the City Manager would go into more detail during the public comment portion of the meeting. Mayor Harvey asked for a motion to approve payment of \$6,796.84 to Superior Relief Services, Inc. Council Member David Ford made the motion. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey asked if anyone had any public comments they would like to make or questions they would like to ask. The City is still trying to assess damages as far as the City Government is concerned. The City is working with the insurance company on flood damaged items and other City property. GEMA and FEMA may possibly have funding, but there is a process for that. The City will be able to recoup some damages, but we don't know how much at this point. The City is continuing to work at the Water Plant and to look at drainage issues and will keep the public informed on those on the City's website.

A concerned citizen commented that the dam in Hair Lake in Teloga has broken. And while the area is not inside the City the dam does have an impact on the City and Raccoon Creek. Mayor Harvey explained, he was not aware of the broken dam and appreciated the information. The citizen stated he was not an engineer, but thought it might be possible that the water from the dam break could have contributed to extra water in Raccoon Creek, worsening the flooding. Lauren Jarrett stated they were not looking for the City to repair the dam, however, if there were funds available through FEMA or GEMA the cost to repair the dam would be between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Mayor Harry Harvey asked the City Manager to check on the dam issue.

Council Member Rickey Hughes asked if there would be any credit given to customers on their water bills. Mayor Harvey stated it would need to be looked at, get a recommendation from staff, and then make a decision.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked the City Manager what the time frame was to get the damage estimates to GEMA. City Manager Galloway explained the City has 30 days. Ms. Galloway also stated she was trying to get a meeting set up with the Small Business Administration.

PAGE 5
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED: Business Owner Nick Casey spoke concerning the flooding. Mr. Casey explained it was the fourth time it had flooded in the last few years, and he specifically wanted to address the Council. Mr. Casey lost about \$50,000 worth of inventory in last year's flood. Since he didn't think it would get any worse they purchased \$50,000 in flood insurance. During the most recent flood they had lost \$200,000 worth of merchandise, furniture, and equipment between The Market and Dirt because of a drainage problem. Mr. Casey stated it was a big flood, but it could have been reduced had the drainage been addressed. Mr. Casey responded to a press conference in which Mayor Harvey stated the City had made a lot of progress over the last four months. Mr. Casey questioned why work had not been done sooner. Mr. Casey mentioned that at a previous Council meeting they had asked for someone from the City to be contacting GDOT every single day because they have \$4,000,000 tied up in the businesses and the property owner has at least that much or more invested there. Mr. Casey said, "And we are the ones suffering because you guys will not get this problem fixed". Mr. Casey requested the City file a claim on the City's insurance on behalf of the businesses and admit the City has a drainage problem. Mr. Casey stated the next time it floods they are gone. Mr. Casey said, "Starting tomorrow we will be talking to other businesses and local attorneys, litigation is coming." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked Mr. Casey how the water drained so quickly. If drainage is so bad, how did that much water leave by 11:30. If the drainage is so bad the water would have been there much longer.

Lauren Jarrett stated she had \$50,000 worth of damage outside of the City, explaining that the flooding was not isolated to downtown Summerville. Mayor Harvey explained the flooding was unprecedented and it was a once in a 500 year flood. Mayor Harvey stated Public Works Director, Terry Tinney has been working on the creek, but there are limitations to what can be done. The City has to work with GDOT, other agencies, and property owners.

Business owner Heather Casey stated one of the problems is debris blocking the drains. Mrs. Casey explained they had gotten out during the flood and moved debris to allow the water to drain. Terry Tinney explained the process to clean the creek out takes time. The permit was just received a month ago. The permit took a year to get. Permission has to be given by the property owners, and some will not give permission. Mr. Tinney pointed out a representative from Marjorie Taylor Greene's office was present and might be able to assist in getting GDOT moving. The representative responded by saying there was nothing that could be done directly through GDOT, but their office could contact state representatives. The representative further explained that if a declaration is made by FEMA the office of Marjorie Taylor Greene can serve as a facilitator between the individuals or small business with other agencies.

Council Member David Ford asked why the Army Corp of Engineers couldn't just come in and take care of the issue with the creek themselves since the City has to go through them.

Business owner Heather Casey stated she wants the Council to feel her frustration. Ms. Casey explained she doesn't know when their business can open again. There is no merchandise. There is no drinkable water for baking. Two thirds of our income comes from October, November, and December.

PAGE 6
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED: It is wrong that all we can get is a loan. Mrs. Casey said, "Businesses only get the options of loans that is wrong!" "Here I am pouring my whole life into this City because I was called back here to make a difference, and I get nothing! Nothing in the midst of disaster after disaster after disaster. Except being told it is nobody's fault." Mrs. Casey exclaimed life for her right now is trying to figure out how her 30 employees will be getting paid. The only resource she had was Pam with EMA, no Small Business Administration personnel, no City personnel. Mrs. Casey stated she had seen no one and heard nothing and that was not ok. Mrs. Casey explained the impact of their businesses in downtown and the number of people who stop, some of which did not know it was a City before. She does not feel supported or that they matter.

Council Member Joe Money, Jr stated his appreciation for Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Jason Greene, Utilities Director Terry Tinney, and the City crews. It is a miracle we have water right now.

ADJOURN: All current business having been concluded, Council Member Dana Mosley made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

CARLA RUTLEDGE – ACTING CLERK