



# CITY OF SUMMERVILLE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 10, 2022 5 pm

**CALLED TO ORDER:** Mayor Harvey called the regular meeting to order at 5 p.m.

**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 also present.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Council Member Joe Money, Jr. led the pledge of allegiance.

**AGENDA:** Mayor Harvey asked Council to review the meeting agenda. Mayor Harvey asked if any changes are needed to the agenda. Council Member David Ford requested the age be changed from 65 to 55 on item O. With no other changes requested, Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Council Member David Ford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Harvey welcomed visitors to the meeting. Mayor Harvey thanked everyone for their assistance during trying times. Mayor Harvey offered visitors the opportunity to introduce themselves and address the Mayor and Council.

## **GUEST AND VISITORS**

**GARY FLOYD:** Mr. Gary Floyd addressed Mayor and Council on behalf of the Friends of the Summerville Cemetery. Mr. Floyd stated, on behalf of the friends of the Summerville Cemetery, I asked for your consideration to make the Cemetery a place of remembrance, reverence, respect, and a place of beauty. The City of Summerville is a better community if the Cemetery is properly maintained. Mr. Floyd explained that Mr. Arch Farrar and Mr. Earle Rainwater had donated their time, talents, and services to the Cemetery for many years, with the city owning a small portion of the Cemetery and the larger portion being owned by the Summerville Cemetery Corporation. Mr. Floyd explained that the Cemetery Corporation is a 501 c13 tax-exempt Corporation. It is privately owned and is not eligible for grant assistance or the use of inmate labor. Mr. Floyd stated the Cemetery had been neglected over the last few years due to a lack of funds and the account balance is around \$16,000. Mr. Floyd explained there are currently four trees that need to be removed at the cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000 in addition to mowing, weed eating, debris removal, and fence repair. Mr. Floyd stated the friends' group intends to organize a clean-up day and ask for donations, but this will be a short-term act that is insufficient for long-term results. Mr. Floyd stated there are many lots to be developed, and it can be an asset to Summerville, or it can continue to be an embarrassment. Mr. Floyd thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and the opportunity to speak. Mayor Harvey asked for questions or comments. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked didn't we agree to take over the tree maintenance. Mayor Harvey responded we did not agree to take over the tree maintenance. However, we did cut down a couple of trees. Mayor Harvey asked how many people are on the Cemetery board. Mr. Floyd responded by stating that our group has no legal authority with the Summerville Cemetery Corporation. We are not officers, nor are we on the board. We want to be friends to the board and the city. Keitha Shamblin interjected, stating Arch Farrar and Earle Rainwater are the only two members left. Mayor Harvey explained the city has always made donations, and that is based upon the amount requested.

**PAGE 2**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**GARY FLOYD CONT:** Mayor Harvey suggested the City Manager, staff, and Council Members work with the board and the friend's group to develop a plan. Mayor Harvey stated the city can and will help with the tree removal. Mayor Harvey stated I would like to see the Cemetery Board be resurrected. Keitha stated the main thing is the funding. The city's contribution is very much thankful but is that enough? We have been thinking of other ways to obtain additional funding, Keitha said. Mayor Harvey stated we may need to increase our funding and take care of some of the maintenance, but we need direction and someone to request funds. Mr. Floyd stated that when the next contract is decided upon without greater intervention from somebody, there is no money for next year's contract. Mayor Harvey stated the board needs additional members and a formal request needs to be made from the Cemetery Board for funding and what they would like. Eugene McGinnis asked if a group could be formed between the Friends of the Cemetery, the City of Summerville, and the Cemetery Board. Mayor Harvey stated that is what needs to be done, a group to come up with suggestions for funding and an idea of how much funding it will take to maintain it properly. City Manager Galloway asked Mr. Floyd are you saying we are not getting satisfactory results from the \$25,000 that is spent on mowing. Mr. Floyd stated, "That is correct."

Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Galloway, Friends of the Cemetery, and the Cemetery Committee have a meeting. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked if the money budgeted for the year had been spent. City Manager Galloway stated we cut two of the trees. Council Member Mosley stated there was a certain amount set aside, I was just wondering if it has all been spent. City Manager Galloway stated, "It was spent on the trees, I'm pretty sure. One of them was \$4,000."

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. questioned can we get a landscaping company to give us a price for one year to maintain the Cemetery, which would give us something to go by.

Mayor Harvey thanked the Friends of the Cemetery for attending the meeting.

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATION**

Mayor Harvey noted that the department heads submitted monthly reports, which are included in the agenda packets. Mayor Harvey expressed appreciation to staff over the last month for their hard work while he was under the weather. Mayor Harvey thanked Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Jason Greene and City Manager Janice Galloway for the report and timeline provided concerning the September 4, 2022, flood.

**CITY MANAGER:** City Manager Janice Galloway reported an operating account balance of \$1,015,591.33, monthly revenues of \$951,750.63, and monthly expenditures of \$1,249,467.56. City Manager Galloway provided highlights from the departmental reports submitted. The reports are attached and becomes part of the minutes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MINUTES:** Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for the minutes from the September 12, 2022, council meeting. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary martin and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 3  
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**AWARD BID FOR SOLID WASTE REMOVAL:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to award the solid waste bid. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Galloway to provide additional information on this item. City Manager Galloway explained that one bid was received from Wright's Sanitation, the current provider. Mayor Harvey asked for a recommendation from the staff. City Manager Galloway stated the staff recommends Wright's Sanitation. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to award the solid waste bid to Wright's Sanitation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dana W. Mosley and carried unanimously.

**APPROVE SOLID WASTE RATE CHANGES:** Mayor Harvey explained a rate sheet had been provided concerning an increase in solid waste charges. Mayor Harvey reviewed the proposed increases. Mayor Harvey explained the proposed increase includes the 14% increase from the sanitation company. Mayor Harvey pointed out the business billing rate was \$19.95, which is being reduced to the residential rate. Mayor Harvey stated the proposed increases of 18%, 20%, 22%, and 25% include the 14.09% increase from the provider. Mayor Harvey commented the city picks up limbs and has dumping fees they are required to pay. Mayor Harvey stated we need to do an increase which will become effective immediately. Mayor Harvey stated I recommend the 18% increase. Mayor Harvey asked for a discussion from Council. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve an increase of 18% to the solid waste fees. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Council Member Rickey Hughes voting in opposition.

**RESOLUTION ON CHANGING FIRE PROTECTION RATES:** Mayor Harvey explained the fire department is requesting to increase fire rates beginning January 2023. Mayor Harvey requested Fire Chief Robbie Lathem and Police Chief Harold Tucker provide additional information concerning their request. Chief Lathem explained his department has been looking at replacing Engine 92, a 1988 model truck, and we have been looking at ways to fund the apparatus. Robbie explained we have been looking at fire rates, and we feel we need to change some rates to align with the surrounding counties. We are looking at a \$12.00 per year increase for residents.

Robbie explained that we have determined the best fit for our department would be the Marion Pumper, and we have worked on this for almost two years. With everything increasing, we are looking at another ten to twenty percent increase over the next year. Mayor Harvey asked for questions from the Council. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked what type of financing options have been pursued. Robbie explained we have talked with United Community, BB&T Governmental, and USDA. Finance Director Carla Rutledge stated a USDA Grant might be available, but it is \$50,000, and you cannot purchase the truck until it is awarded, and it could be at least a year before it is reviewed. Council Member Hughes asked what type of interest rate are we looking at. Carla responded, stating they did not get back to me on the BB&T Governmental because she is out of the office until the 17<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Hughes asked when would we start paying. Robbie explained from what I have been told, it would be a year from when the first payment is due. Robbie continued to explain when the chassis gets delivered in ten months, and if it is financed through the company, they will make the first payment to Spartan, which is typically about ten months. Council Member Hughes asked are you planning to appropriate the excess funds from the rate increase to go strictly to the fire truck. Robbie stated, "Yes, to the apparatus account." Council Member Hughes asked if we get this truck will it fit in the fire hall? Robbie explained we have looked at extending the fire bay by about ten to twelve feet. Council Member Hughes asked can that be done. Robbie stated, "Yes, sir."

Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked what are we spending on truck repairs. Robbie stated, "On average, about \$10,000." Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked if the older truck should be on the road. Robbie stated, "According to NFPA 1901, it doesn't meet the standards."

**PAGE 4  
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**RESOLUTION ON CHANGING FIRE PROTECTION RATES CONT:** Council Member Money asked if United Community Bank provided an interest rate. Robbie stated, "She did not. She was going to contact Angie for financials and get something worked up." Mayor Harvey stated we need a new fire truck and we need to do some preliminary work on the new fire hall. Mayor Harvey discussed the new charges and recommended working with the financial staff and the City Manager regarding the charges. Mayor Harvey stated I think it can be done without anyone having a rate increase of more than ten to fifteen percent on fire rates. I think it needs to be reworked, so no one has an increase of more than 12% to 14%. Mayor Harvey stated I agree the money needs to go to an apparatus account, and some of the money should be used toward a new fire station. Mayor Harvey also stated these changes will not go into effect until January 1, 2023, and when they do, both inside and outside customers should be paying a comparable amount for fire protection. Mayor Harvey asked City Attorney Albert Palmour if a change to the fire rates could be done by a Resolution in the mid-term budget. City Attorney Palmour explained the rate increase could be added in the mid-year budget, and the Council could vote on that budget with the increase, and a Resolution would not be necessary.

Council Member Hughes stated inside residential rates were included, and I asked them to remove it. The residents of the City of Summerville elected me, and that is who I am working for, and I am not asking them to raise rates.

Staff member Lynn Rowland commented that the proposed change would not get close to what we will lose on our homeowner's insurance if we lose our rating. We have to start thinking about our safety and compliance.

Council Member Money asked if another meeting would be necessary to have the numbers worked up. Mayor Harvey explained the next item of business is to approve the purchase of a fire truck, but it will be contingent on changing the fire protection rates. Mayor Harvey continued that I would not favor the proposed rates as they are now.

Mayor Harvey stated I think it needs to be fair, and we do not need to make a dramatic increase. It can be done without doing a dramatic increase to businesses.

City Manager Galloway asked Robbie when will the chassis be delivered and how much will the payment be. Robbie explained the chassis will be delivered in ten months and the chassis payment would be about \$380,000. City Manager Galloway asked what the city would be required to pay at that time.

Council Member David Ford asked we want to do the rate increase, just not with these numbers. Right? Mayor Harvey responded by stating, that is basically what we are saying.

Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin commented that if we don't buy one now, we will have to do it later, which will cost more. Mayor Harvey stated that is a possibility.

A discussion was held concerning the proposed rates and who it would affect the most by City Attorney Albert Palmour, Mayor Harvey, and Council Member David Ford. Mayor Harvey stated this needs to be reworked, and the fire department staff and others need to have input on it. We need to have an orderly and equitable way of doing things.

Mayor Harvey asked Council if they would like to change the fire protection rate in January within the mid-year budget. Council Member David Ford made a motion to approve the rate increase and adjust when ready. Council Member Joe Money, Jr, seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Council Member Rickey Hughes voting in opposition.

**PAGE 5**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**APPROVE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE TRUCK:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to approve the purchase of a new fire truck. Mayor Harvey explained if we are going to move forward with the rate changes, this will set things in motion to move forward. Council Member David Ford made a motion to purchase a new fire truck. Council Member Dana W. Mosley seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 1, with Council Member Rickey Hughes voting in opposition.

**ATLAS ROOFING:** Mayor Harvey explained approval is needed for payment to Atlas Roofing in the amount of \$28,000 for a new roof at the recreation department. Mayor Harvey asked Recreation Director Bo Chamlee to provide more information on this item. Bo explained Baker Roofing had originally placed a bid for a new roof, but due to staffing issues, he would not be able to install the new roof, so a new quote was obtained from Atlas Roofing for \$28,000. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to approve the roof replacement at the Summerville Recreation Department by Atlas Roofing for \$28,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**CHEMICALS FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT FROM BIOCONVERSION:** Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for the purchase of chemicals for the wastewater treatment plant from Bioconversion in the amount of \$7,049. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked how long do the chemicals last. Purchasing Agent Lynn Rowland explained they last two to three months, but the reason you are seeing it now is that the amount requires Council approval due to inflation and shipping fees. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to purchase chemicals for the wastewater treatment plant from Bioconversion for \$7,049. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

**TOWN OF TRION WATER PURCHASE:** Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for payment to the Town of Trion for \$12,813.20 for the purchase of water for Hays State Prison during the September flood. Mayor Harvey thanked the Town of Trion for providing that service. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked if it would be possible to recoup some of these funds from FEMA. City Manager Janice Galloway stated, "I think we could. We can turn it in." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve payment to the Town of Trion for the purchase of water for Hays State Prison in the amount of \$12,813.20. Council Member Dana W. Mosley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**WILLIAM D PATTY CONSTRUCTION:** Mayor Harvey stated approval is needed for payment of \$8,344.37 to William D. Patty Construction for rock, chert, and sand. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to approve payment of \$8,344.37 to Willam D. Patty Construction. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rickey Hughes and carried unanimously.

**BROAD STREET:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to discuss changing Broad St to a one-way street, with traffic entering on Fourth St and exiting on Hawkins. Dr. Mayor Harvey stated a Public Hearing is necessary before voting on this item.

**PUBLIC HEARING – OPEN:** Mayor Harvey offered guests the opportunity to voice concerns about changing Broad St. to a one-way street. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked when this would be changed. Public Works Director Terry Tinney stated, "We will run it in the paper two or three weeks to give notice it is happening." Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to approve changing Broad St to a one-way street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rickey Hughes and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 6**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**HEALTH INSURANCE CHARGES FOR 2023:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to discuss the 2023 health insurance rates. Mayor Harvey stated there was an increase of \$110,000 to \$115,000 in health insurance rates. Mayor Harvey requested City Manager Janice Galloway to provide more details on this item. City Manager Galloway discussed the proposed increases and the options the employee and the city would be paying. Mayor Harvey asked for staff recommendations. Flegal Insurance Agent Tony Jones explained we tried to get a rate relief but could not. Tony continued to explain we reach out to Alliant, Signa, and United Health Care every two to three years, but they could not match pricing on the current increase or plan design.

Council Member David Ford asked how much the increase would be for employees. City Manager Galloway explained on the one percent increase, the employee would pay \$1,557.24, and on the two percent increase, it would be \$1,697.84, and the city would pay \$840,639.06 on the two percent increase, and \$850,199.98 on the one percent increase.

Council Member Rickey Hughes asked when employees enroll will they have the option to choose higher deductibles and lower premiums. City Manager Galloway stated, "That is left up to the Council." Tony interjected, explaining you are limited. In the past, the base plan and the HMO plan are what has been offered in the past, and we looked at a higher deductible as a way to reduce the rate increase to employees. Tony stated one way to reduce the cost across the board is to look at deductible modifications. Typically you get a base plan and an HMO. Council Member Hughes stated we don't know what the majority of the employees prefer. Tony stated the majority of them have the POS with a \$500 deductible. Mayor Harvey explained the recommendation is the POS 80/60, with a \$750 deductible, or the HMO, 90/10 plan, with the employee picking up most of the cost and will be a higher increase to the employee than if they chose the POS 80/60. Mayor Harvey discussed the different options provided to Council. Tony commented he appreciated city staff working with his office since August on ways to reduce the cost to the city. Mayor Harvey stated my recommendation would be option 6 or 5 and the HMO 90/10. Council Member Rickey Hughes stated I like the current plan we have now. Mayor Harvey commented that the plan has a \$500 deductible, and the city would be paying a lot more for that plan. Mayor Harvey asked for other comments. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin stated I like option 6. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Martin. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin made a motion to approve option 6. The motion was seconded by Joe Money, Jr. The motion passed 3 to 2, with Council Member Dana W. Mosley and Council member Rickey Hughes voted in opposition.

**PAY RIGHT LLC:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to consider approving a setback reduction request from Pay Right, LLC at 10024 Commerce St. Public Works Director Terry Tinney explained they are requesting a setback change so the existing business can be torn down. City Attorney Albert Pamour asked if they were going to build on top of the sewer line. Terry stated, "No."

**PUBLIC HEARING – OPEN:** City Attorney Albert Palmour asked if the request was advertised, and the adjacent property owners were notified. City Clerk Angie White stated Joey said he had talked with adjacent property owners, and there was no opposition.

**PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSED:** Mayor Harvey closed the public hearing and asked for questions from Council. Council Member Rickey Hughes made a motion to approve a setback reduction for Pay Right, LLC at 10024 Commerce St. The motion was seconded by Council Member David Ford and carried unanimously.

**PAGE 7**  
**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**TRAFFIC CONTROL ON UNIVERSITY ST:** Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to discuss traffic control solutions on University St. Mayor Harvey asked the Council for input and possible solutions. Council Member David Ford suggested traffic calming devices. Mayor Harvey requested Terry Tinney to discuss options for traffic calming devices. Terry discussed speed bumps or asphalt strips which make a loud noise and may not be as effective as speed bumps. Mayor Harvey asked is there anything we could do about the width of the road. Terry explained if you widen the road, you will be taking off part of the park. Terry stated I would recommend the traffic calming devices. Chief Harold Tucker agreed with Terry about the use of traffic calming devices. Chief Tucker stated I am not a fan of changing it to a one-way street. City Attorney Albert Pamour stated Joshua Cordle, a University St resident, would like it to be changed to a one-way beginning at the Depot. Terry recommended trying a traffic-calming device. Mayor Harvey explained there is a process and procedures to be followed, and the city needs to have input. Mayor Harvey requested Terry look at options for widening the street. City Attorney Palmour asked if the accident report was available for the person who hit the wall because it appears it is in the city right-of-way. Chief Tucker stated that it had already been turned in. Terry interjected, stating the wall was the property owner. Mayor Harvey stated we need to determine if it is in the city's right of way and if we are responsible.

**HANDICAP ACCESS NEAR MORRIS JEWELERS:** Mayor Harvey asked for a discussion concerning additional handicap access near Morris Jewelers. Council Member Rickey Hughes explained he was asked if an additional handicap spot and access ramp could be added in front of Morris Jewelers. Terry Tinney discussed possible locations for access ramp and parking spots. Mayor Harvey requested Terry Tinney to look at options but noted that it is on a GDOT Highway.

**CHANGE THE RETIREMENT POLICY FROM 30 YEARS AT AGE 50 TO 25 YEARS AT AGE 55:** Mayor Harvey requested Council Member David Ford to provide information on this item. Council Member Ford explained many places offer employees the option to retire with 25 years of service at age 55. Mayor Harvey asked how this would affect the retirement plan and if we would have any penalties if we changed it. Council Member Rickey Hughes asked if this would be an additional option, leaving the 30 years of service at age 50 or will this replace the 30 years of service at 50. Council Member Hughes asked all of these employees that think they can retire with 30 years of service at age 50 you want to take that away from them. Council Member David Ford stated, "I know of one." City Clerk Angie White explained the plan was changed in 2017 or 2018 to 30 years of service at age 50. Angie continued if Council would like to make changes, a cost study would be needed to see if it would affect the plan, and the cost of that study would be \$1,225, and it would take about four weeks. Mayor Harvey explained we need to research how it would affect our budget and the retirement amounts. Mayor Harvey asked if the information would be available at the next meeting. City Clerk White stated I will contact GMA for the exact price if someone tells me to proceed. City Clerk White stated I will try to have some information available.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – OPEN:** Mayor Harvey announced an Executive Session is needed to discuss personnel and litigation. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. made a motion to close the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session. Council Member Dana W. Mosley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The regular meeting was closed at 7:09 p.m

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – CLOSED:** Mayor Harvey closed the Executive Session and reopened the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. Mayor Harvey announced no action was taken during the Executive Session.

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

**PAGE 8  
CITY OF SUMMERVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2022**

**JASON ESPY:** Jason Espy with the *Summerville News* asked are you concerned with the city's finances. City Manager Janice Galloway stated I am concerned, but we have started getting insurance payments for items that had to be purchased on emergency bases. We are hopeful the gas sales will pick up soon. Jason questioned the difference in the numbers in the bank account now vs. back in February. City Manager Galloway explained that we transferred money to the restricted fund and the water/sewer account. Jason asked how much money is in the water/sewer account. City Manager Galloway stated I don't know the exact amount without looking. Jason questioned why the revenues are dropping. City Manager Galloway speculated that due to pricing, customers might be in the same bind as the city. Jason commented it is very concerning. City Manager Galloway explained our water revenues have not increased, but our expenses drastically increased.

Jason asked what is the solution. City Manager Janice Galloway stated purchases have to be an emergency before purchasing.

**ADJOURN:** Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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**HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR**

Attest:

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**ANGIE WHITE-CITY CLERK**