



**CITY OF SUMMERVILLE
SPECIAL CALLED
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2022
5:30 p.m.**

CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Harvey called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Harry Harvey gave roll call. Council Members David Ford, Dana W. Mosley, Rickey Hughes, Joe Money, Jr., and Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin were present. Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt and City Attorney Albert Palmour were 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 any changes are 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 Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin and carried unanimously.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey stated the annual audit would be completed by December 30th, and we will need to transfer 2 million dollars from the water/gas fund to the operating account. Copies of the audit will be available, and we hope to have a presentation at our January meeting. Mayor Harvey thanked staff and visitors for contributing to a successful Christmas in the Park on December 16th. Mayor Harvey announced city offices would be closed for the holidays on December 23, 26, and January 2. Mayor Harvey discussed the forecasted cold temperatures predicted during the holidays and reminded everyone to be mindful of the Flu, Covid, and RSV. Mayor Harvey announced the City Manager search would begin on January 2, which is expected to take approximately four months.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND VISITORS: Mayor Harvey welcomed guests and visitors and offered them the opportunity to address the Mayor and Council. Mayor Harvey requested visitors limit comments to three to five minutes and advised them they would have an opportunity to speak if it was concerning a specific agenda item at the time the item is discussed and again at the end of the meeting during public comments. Guest introduced themselves, and the majority were in attendance supporting the youth wrestling program.

CITY MANAGER: Mayor Harvey introduced Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt. Ms. Surratt thanked the Mayor and Council for entrusting her with the Interim position and for the support they provide to staff. Ms. Surratt stated she looks forward to meeting staff over the next few days.

Mayor Harvey asked Council or staff if they wanted to address anything. Purchasing Agent Lynn Rowland commended the youth on their introductions.

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OLD BUSINESS

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF THE FY 2022-2023 MID-YEAR BUDGET: Mayor Harvey stated the first item of old business is the second reading of the FY2022-2023 Mid-Year Budget Ordinance. Mayor Harvey announced the second reading and adoption had been advertised, and a public hearing will be held for comments, questions, or concerns.

PUBLIC HEARING – OPEN: Mayor Harvey opened the public hearing and asked for questions, comments, or concerns. No concerns were addressed.

PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSED: Mayor Harvey closed the public hearing. Mayor Harvey read the FY 2022-2023 Mid-Year Budget Ordinance. Mayor Harvey reviewed the proposed revenues and expenditures of \$23,437,384.91 and announced the mid-year budget is balanced. Mayor Harvey announced if the mid-year budget is passed, it will be adopted effective December 19, 2022. Mayor Harvey asked for a discussion from Council concerning the FY2022-2023 budget. Council Member David Ford made a motion to adopt the FY2022-2023 mid-year budget. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING: Mayor Harvey explained the next item of business is to discuss options to remodel the public works building or build a new building in the Industrial Park. Mayor Harvey requested Public Works Director Terry Tinney to provide additional information on this item. Terry explained the public works building was flooded with eight to ten inches of water throughout the building. All the flooring has been torn out, and the walls have been cut to dry them out. Terry explained the estimate for just the electrical work is \$38,000, and the estimate to remodel the entire building is \$150,000. Terry stated we would recommend building a new building about the same size with a shed out back with an estimated cost of \$200,000. Terry stated we have about \$90,000 in insurance money and need direction as to which way to go. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked where are you talking about in the Industrial Park? Terry stated, "Below the Purple Tiger people." Council Member Rickey Hughes asked what kind of time frame are you looking at. Terry explained it's been that way for three months. We just need a direction to start moving in. If we order a new building, we are looking at five months before we receive the structure. We are looking at the end of next year for the complete project. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked do you plan to tear down the current building? Terry stated, "No, I recommend using them for storage." Terry explained I've talked to Robbie, and they don't have a place for the new fire truck. You could put a roll-up door in it and use it until they get the new fire hall. Mayor Harvey asked if you build in the Industrial Park, will there be a place for offices? Terry stated, "Yes, and all the fittings would be stored behind the building." Mayor Harvey asked if there would be a big difference in getting to job sites. Terry stated, "I don't think there will be a big difference." Mayor Harvey asked for the total cost. Terry stated, "Around \$200,000 for the metal building." Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked Finance Director Carla Rutledge can we work this in somehow. Carla stated, "We can, depending on where you want to take it from. There are different options." Mayor Harvey recommended having the City Manager and staff look at options for buildings and funding and what needs to be done. Mayor Harvey stated we might be better served by looking at another facility. Mayor Harvey requested the City Manager and staff gather more information if Council is in agreement. Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt stated the process would require bidding out and procuring the building correctly. It sounds like it is an urgent situation because Terry is working out of his truck. We will put together a timeline and a cost as soon as possible.

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BUILDING INSPECTOR: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to discuss the possibility of partnering with the Town of Trion in hiring a building inspector. Council Member Rickey Hughes explained the subject had previously come up about hiring a full-time building inspector, and a suggestion had been made to consider partnering with Trion. Council Member Hughes stated I would like to have the City Manager and Human Resources reach out to Trion to see how much they would contribute financially. I am just not 100% convinced we need a full-time building inspector. However, that is my idea, and I would like to get everybody's idea and see where we can go with it. Council Member David Ford stated I thought the point was to hire a full-time building inspector. Council Member Hughes questioned if there was enough work for a full-time inspector. Council Member Hughes stated it still doesn't seem we are so far behind to justify a full-time inspector. Mayor Pro Tem Zachary Martin asked if someone would be able to do both places full-time. Council Member Hughes stated I think the conversation with Trion would be worthwhile to make that determination, at least to see if it is something we want to move forward on. Mayor Harvey requested Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt and staff get more information concerning this item by the January or February meeting.

SUMMERVILLE YOUTH WRESTLING PROGRAM: Mayor Harvey stated the next item of business is to discuss contributing to the Summerville Youth Wrestling Program. Mayor Harvey thanked visitors for coming and explained he has questions concerning the program. Mayor Harvey stated I would like to know how it is affiliated with the City of Summerville and if we are contributing, we need to have some idea of what is happening with the money and a few other things. Mayor Harvey asked Recreation Director Bo Chamlee to provide more information on this item. Bo explained the city has been supporting this program for the last twenty years, and the money is used for kids that can not afford tournaments or uniforms. Mayor Harvey asked Bo if he was involved in the accounting. Bo responded, stating no, but I'm sure they would give us any paperwork we need. Christian Carlton explained she is responsible for registering the kids in tournaments, and her husband is the coach. City Attorney Albert Palmour ask do you have sponsors. Christian stated, "Sometimes, if they can get them. City Attorney Palmour asked if it is a private group and are you part of a wrestling federation. Christian stated, "Yes." Andy Stivers asked are we saying it is a private entity because the City of Summerville recreation department could not fund it in their budget. City Attorney Palmour explained it is not a program that is part of the City of Summerville Recreation Department. It has become a line item placed in the budget, and someone has written a check for a donation to the program. Mayor Harvey explained we need to have some accounting for where the money is going. If we have money going in, we need to know what's going on and have a hand in it. Mayor Harvey stated I know we have been contributing for some time, but one of the reasons it was not funded this time is because there was no explanation of what and where the money is going, and we need to have that. Mayor Harvey explained there are stipulations concerning public money going to private organizations, not under the city's direct control. Mayor Harvey asked for questions from the Council. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked how it can be private when it is open to the entire County. Christian commented it is a non-profit. Council Member Mosley asked if it was a 501 3 C. Christian stated, "No." Felecia Foster asked should we not invest in the kids. Mayor Harvey stated, "I understand, and I agree, but we have public funds, and we need to make sure it is being invested where it needs to be invested." Council Member Rickey Hughes stated I don't understand the difference between contributing to this program and the Fair. Mayor Harvey commented City Attorney Palmour might be able to provide more information concerning that. Mayor Harvey stated the Fair is a public entity where the city serves as a sponsor. City Attorney Palmour explained the process in which you could provide monies to private entities would require a budget to be created by the city that would provide grants or sponsorship to groups.

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SUMMERVILLE YOUTH WRESTLING PROGRAM CONT: Groups would need to apply, and there would be a vetting process, but just putting a line item in the budget and making a voluntary contribution to a private entity discriminates against other groups that may have a similar need that didn't get funding and that is the problem with placing it in the recreation departments budget. City Attorney Palmour stated if you decide you want to do this, there is going to be a mechanism you will need to create to make it a legal mechanism to do it, I think. The way it is currently done by putting in a line item in the recreation department and paying the money appears to be a problem, and I could not recommend it. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked who is your biggest sponsor. The group responded the City of Summerville. Randall Abernathy questioned the process to apply for funding. City Attorney Palmour explained we would have to create a group of grants that would be available, and there would be a vetting process, and either the Council would appoint a group to approve and select the people, or they would be the ones to do it. City Attorney Palmour stated that would be a method that you could do that would meet what I deem to be legal requirements. I believe that is the way it would have to be done. Randall asked how the Fair requests contributions. Mayor Harvey stated they sent us a letter requesting funds, and the Fair is through the County, which is a Governmental entity, making it much easier for us to contribute. Mayor Harvey stated my recommendation would be to come up with a group to vet the amounts we have. Mike Jarrett explained this program has been run like this for years because the recreation department does not have a facility to run this program, and you can not go out and build a wrestling room and everything for \$2,500. Mayor Harvey explained if we are going to donate, our recreation department should be more hands-on, and we should know who is in charge. Council Member David Ford asked what the yearly budget is. Christian stated, "This past year, we spent \$3,600." Mayor Harvey stated we need to have our Attorney and City Manager look at this, and the recreation department needs to be more hands-on. David Cordell asked what the process would be to get this program funded through the program and if it would be feasible. Mayor Harvey responded, stating that is one thing I don't know. Council Member Dana W. Mosley asked when is the check normally written. Christian stated, "It was January 4th last year." Mayor Harvey stated we will be meeting in January. Interim City Manager Andrea Surratt stated there are a lot of elements to consider, a budget amendment to identify. Mayor Harvey interjected, stating we do have money that is available. Interim City Manager Surratt explained if it is a public purpose, there needs to be a process, and they would need to apply, and we would open it up like bids for the Council to consider all of the applications, I would not want them to think they would have the money by January 9th. Mayor Harvey asked can we have the process in place. City Attorney Palmour stated I don't think that it is possible to have it done by January 9th. It sounds like it will require you to have a couple of meetings. I will get back with the City Manager and you by the end of next week. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. asked can we do this as a sponsorship. Rebecca Ward commented there will be many disappointed kids because their parents can't afford it. Council Member Dana W. Mosley stated I am with Joe for a sponsorship for now, and we can have this discussion and have more time to come up with a solution as to how we can help them and all work together to continue this program. Council Member Rickey Hughes stated I think we should continue to do it for this year and do as Council Member Mosley said and do something different next year. Council Member Hughes stated I am going to make a motion. Mayor Harvey interjected, stating wait, wait, wait. Council Member Hughes stated I am going to put a motion on the floor before we leave here today. Mayor Harvey stated that after we finish the discussion, you can make a motion, but discussion is still taking place. Mayor Harvey stated each Council Member and Mayor could donate \$425, which would take care of the \$2,500 and buy the city some time. Christian stated I would like to say thank you to anyone donating. Bradley Ward asked do we need to make a proposal before the process is created. Mayor Harvey stated at a minimum, you need to send a letter requesting a donation.

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SUMMERVILLE YOUTH WRESTLING PROGRAM CONT: Mayor Harvey stated we are still dealing with public money, and if we have been doing it for twenty years, we have been doing it wrong for twenty years, and we need to get it straightened out. Mayor Harvey asked Christian when do you need to have the money turned in. Christian explained by the first of January because they have to be registered a week before January 8th. Mayor Harvey stated I am not going to make a recommendation that is not legal. Council Member Rickey Hughes motioned for the City of Summerville to contribute \$2,500 immediately to Summerville Youth Wrestling. The motion was seconded by Council Member Joe Money, Jr. The motion was passed 4 to 1, with Council Member David Ford voting in opposition. Mayor Harvey stated this deals with expenditures, I will look at it, and I'll make a determination as to what we do when we talk about expenditures. I can pull it out and Veto it, and I probably will because I don't think it is legal. Council Member Mosley stated I think before next year, we need to work together to come up with a solution.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Harvey asked for questions or comments. Randall Abernathy thanked Mayor and Council for their time.

FELECIA FOSTER: Ms. Foster asked are we going to get the \$2,500. Mayor Harvey explained City Attorney Palmour and the City Manager will look at that, and I need to look at it. Mayor Harvey stated since it is an expenditure, the Mayor can veto it, and if it is not legal, I will veto it.

ANDY STIVERS: Mr. Stivers asked if it was not the understanding from the beginning the money was donated since the recreation department did not have the facility or the equipment for the program. Bo explained it had been a donation for all of these years. If the recreation department did the program, we would have to do wrestling at a different time because our gyms are full with basketball games. Mr. Stivers stated I thought that was the compromise, we receive the \$2,500 through the recreation department. Bo stated it really is because it would cost a fortune if we started our own wrestling program.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, Council Member Dana W. Mosley made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Joe Money, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

HARRY HARVEY – MAYOR

Attest:

ANGIE WHITE – CITY CLERK