

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010
2:00 P.M.**

{Summary minutes of City Council meeting. Audio tapes of the meeting are on file and are included by reference as part of this meeting. An agenda of this meeting has been either mailed or made available to persons, organizations and local news media as per their request. The agenda gives the date, time and place of the meeting as well as the order of business. This disclosure is in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e).}

A council workshop was held on January 12, 2010 at 2:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson, Councilmembers Tommie L. Hill, Robert Garner, Ricky Todd Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Andy Bailey.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney was absent.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor, Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director and Joe Nichols – Utility Director.

NEWS MEDIA: Graham Williams – Union County News and Steve Ramsey – WBCU.

OTHERS: Brian Blackwell.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. He gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given by all present. The roll was called by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

Mayor Thompson states that he will need to add an item to the agenda (executive session).

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to add an executive session to the agenda.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Thompson states that he contacted the County on several occasions on joint projects with the City but never got a response. This item will be struck from the agenda.

2. Business

A. DISCUSSION – SOUTHHILLS COMPLEX

Public Service Director Perry Harmon discussed the South Hills Complex. The City of Union owns this property but has been managed and maintained by the County for many years. City Council discussed whether this land should be deeded over to County. The County has received PARD funds in the amount of \$121,000 for the complex upgrade from State Recreation Department. Staff feels that it would be in the best interest to deed this land to Union County.

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to deed South Hills Complex property to City.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. DISCUSSION – FOSTER PARK PICNIC SHELTERS

Public Service Director Perry Harmon discussed the Foster Park Picnic Shelters. These shelters have City meters that the County is presently responsible for the monthly cost and the reservation of the picnic shelters. The Recreation Department is turning over the picnic shelter meters to the City and also the maintaining of reservations for the shelters. After Council's discussion on the subject, Mayor Thompson and Mr. Harmon will come back with a structure plan for the picnic shelters reservation for Council's approval.

C. DISCUSSION – UNION COUNTY FOUNDATION REPORT

Mayor Thompson states that there was no one in attendance to make a report from the Union County Foundation. A few years ago the City donated funds in the amount of one million dollars to the Foundation. The Mayor will contact this organization to ask them to make a periodic report to City Council.

D. DISCUSSION – RETIREE INSURANCE

Finance Director Walker Gallman addressed Council on retiree insurance. He discussed the Actuarial Valuation Results from a study performed in July 2007. This is the implicit subsidy cost for City to maintain retirees on their insurance. City Council also reviewed and discussed the current policy the City of Union has for retiree insurance and a proposed policy developed by staff. Also information was presented to Council regarding how other municipalities handle retiree's insurance.

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to revisit the retiree's insurance at the budget worksession.

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION – CITY HOLIDAYS

Personnel Director/City Clerk Gloria Rogers discussed City of Union Holidays vs. County Holidays. The City presently has 10 paid holidays and the County has 13 paid holidays. Staff feels that the City and County should have the same holidays. This will be beneficial to the citizens. City Council discussed the City and County holidays. Council will revisit at the budget worksession.

F. DISCUSSION – FORM NEW BOARD FOR ARTS CENTER

Mayor Thompson states that with the new Arts Center coming, a Board will need to be in place. The Mayor states that the Board should be a cross section of citizens in the community. The Board should consist of about 7 to 9 members. The Arts Center will be available for use to the community. There will be a fee for the use of the Arts Center. He asked City Council to bring back a recommendation for the Board at the next council meeting. He also states that the Board should have at least one councilmember.

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – ANIMAL SHELTER CONTRACT

Mayor Thompson has contacted County Supervisor Tommy Sinclair on the City/County Animal Shelter Contract. There has not been a response. The Mayor will wait to hear from the County Supervisor before any action is taken.

H. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CITY DUMPSTER CONTRACT

Perry Harmon discussed the City's Dumpster Contract. The City's three (3) year contract with three (3) yearly extensions with Fennell Corporation will expire June 30, 2010. Fennell collects household garbage from apartment complex within the city limits.

MOTION by Councilmember Garner authorizing Mr. Harmon to send out dumpster contract for bid to insure that the City is receiving the best price for this service.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. DISCUSSION/MOTION – ANALYZE RECOVERY COST FOR SUB-STANDARD PROPERTIES AND STRUCTURES. (TAXES VS. LIENS)

Brian Blackwell with the Planning Department discussed recovery cost for sub-standard properties and structures, taxes vs. liens. He discussed Section 15.2-4. in the City's Code Book "Cost to be borne by owner; collection" on the collection of overgrown lots. It is being collected as lien only and not municipal taxes. In Section 15.2-20 it states that a lien will be placed on property and collected as municipal taxes. However, the collection of municipal taxes is not being enforced. There needs to be clarification to the public as to the cost for sub-standard properties and structures. Staff recommends enforcing the City ordinance and be payable as municipal taxes. The City attorney will review the ordinance for clarification and wording as needed and this will be brought back to City Council.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson to accept staff recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – TO DISCUSS LEGAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

MOTION by Councilmember Hill to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

SECOND by Councilmember Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to go out of executive session back into regular session.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2010