

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019  
6:30 P.M.**

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{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

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal Building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki Morgan, Pamela Sloss, Ricky Todd Harris and Sonja Craig.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn was not in attendance

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Human Resource Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edwards– Maintenance Shop Director; Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor; DeWayne Hardy – Assistant Public Service Director; Melissa Youngblood – Media IT Director and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator

**NEWS MEDIA:** Graham Williams – Union County News and Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio

**OTHERS:** Robby Moody; Annie Smith; Lois Moorman; Ben Powles; Bob Love; Curtiss Hunter; Katherine Pendergrass; Elise Ashby; Libby Oliver; Dave Lance; Rieta Drinkwine; LeAnne Arthur; John Carson; Jim Vaughan; Michael McLeymore; Lois Moorman; Tiara Good and & her children

**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.

**2. MINUTES**

A. April 16, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. April 22, 2019 Special City Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve minutes  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. May 7, 2019

City Council Workshop

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. 1. Jeff Shacker - MASC

MEO Honor Roll Recognition

Jeff Shacker, Field Service Manager with the Municipal Association of South Carolina presented Mayor & City Council with the Municipal Elected Official Honor Roll Award for 2019. Mr. Shacker states that the Honor Roll annually recognizes city councils where all members are graduates of the MASC MEO Institutes. The City of Union is one of the eleven cities in the state that has completed the MEO Honor Roll.

2. Ben Powles

Property Acquisition

Ben Powles addressed council regarding a dispute over an alley access. Mr. Powles states that he has been maintaining the property for over 20 years such as keeping it cut and maintained. He states that he doesn't mind people going through it; it's only a 10' x 6' access but people don't pay attention to this. They drive all the way over in his yard and tear it up. Mr. Powles wants to get property access cleared up so that he can monitor who can go through property and who can't. He also states that County tax records show that there is no registered owner of the property; therefore, code enforcement does not have anybody to send letter to in order to clean up the property. Mayor Thompson states that there are alley ways that go through properties that are considered right-of-way. The City can give property to each side by splitting it down the middle; however, this would have to be channeled through the City's Attorney and let him give directions on how this can be done if the City can do this.

3. Bob Love -

Habitat for Humanity

Bob Love, President of Habitat for Humanity Board addressed council. He informed council of the board which consist of ten members. Two members are with in attendance at tonight's meeting; John Carson and Jim Vaughan. Mr. Love states that their purpose is to be an ecumenical Christian ministry that changes lives by building decent affordable homes and partnership with families in our county that are in need. He further states that since 2001, they have built 3 homes and renovated 4 homes. The families are selected for the program based on need, income and their willingness to partner with Habitat. Each family has to go through financial training, home ownership training and put in 200 hours of "sweat equity" into the home. When that is all done, the family receives an affordable mortgage, averaging about \$400 a month that includes their insurance and taxes. Mr. Love states that because of the Timken Foundation and several other generous individuals in the community, they raised enough money to build another new home. They have selected a family for this new home, Ms. Tierra Good and her children.

Mr. Love is in attendance tonight to ask the City of Union to consider donating a lot on 510 South Pinckney Street for the Habitat home. Mayor Thompson states that he will have it on the agenda for consider at the next month's meeting.

4. LeAnne Arthur Ag & Art

Ms. LeAnn Arthur of the Ag & Art Tour addressed council. She states that she is coming back to council regarding the original request for the \$3,000 at the budget meeting. She is requesting that the \$3,000 to remain in the budget. They did find the \$1,500 from last year that was given by the City of Union and it was paid on the 2018's Ag & Art Tour. She is asking for the \$3,000 to remain because she would like to have the \$1,500 for this year's tour so that they can finish out their payment. She would like to have the other \$1,500 for next year's Ag & Art Tour that she would not request until April 2020

5. Michael McLeymore Prodigal Home

Michael McLeymore, Director of the Prodigal Home, thanked council for letting him speak at tonight's meeting. He states that they are a men's addiction treatment center. Mr. McLeymore states that they have been doing this for six years. They first operated out of Cherokee County and Spartanburg County. He states that he had an addiction problem nine years Ago and states that for the past six years, they have been reaching out to men dealing with addiction. Mr. McLeymore further states that not only do they council men to get sober but provide shelter for the men and provide them with a job while they are staying there. Their primary focus as a faith-based mission is through Jesus Christ to help men seeking to overcome addition. He further states that they are 501(c) (3). They are funded by donations from individuals. Mr. McLeymore is requesting the City donate the building used for a storage building beside the Main Street Junction or some other City owned, preferably on Main Street for a thrift store.

Councilmember Morgan suggest the old Salvation Army building on Green Street as a possibility a Thrift store.

6. Tim Teague Gregory Pest Solutions

Mr. Tim Teague was not in attendance for an update; however, Mayor Thompson states that he got an email from Gregory Pest Solutions informing him that they will be spraying on Thursday and the beekeepers need to be notified.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – APPROPRIATE FISCAL 2018-2019 MONIES FROM GENERAL FUND FOR THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that at the June 5, 2018 City Council meeting, a contract was entered into between the City of Union and DataMax Corporation. This is a company that discovers revenue sources and collects on those sources. Since August 2018, the City has utilized this company for the collection of unpaid business licenses. DataMax is performance-based company that provides results prior to earning their fees. Since August 2018 DataMax has recovered unpaid license revenues in the amount \$146,774.68. The fees charged to the City of Union during the City of Union during the first year of the contract are 50 percent of the revenue collections. Total fees to date are \$73,387.34. Since DataMax's business license collections did not begin until after second reading of the FY 2019 budget, there were no funds budgeted in the Planning

Department to cover these fees. The ordinance provides an appropriation from the General Fund to adjust the FY 2019 budget.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance to allow transfer of funds to accommodate payment to DataMax

**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – APPROPRIATE FISCAL 2018-2019 MONIES FROM GENERAL FUND FOR THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that in April 2019, the Mayor & City Council agreed to a contract renewal with Gregory Pest Solutions for mosquito treatment. The contract includes several treatments over a seven-month period, to include the placement of briquettes and the spraying of larvicide throughout the City. Gregory Pest Solutions began their treatments in April 2019. The cost for the treatments through the end of fiscal year 2018-2019 is \$20,693.00. The ordinance provides an appropriation from the General Fund to adjust the FY2019 budget. The recommendation is to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. **RESOLUTION** – APPOINTMENT ALTERNATE DIRECTOR TO PMPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that PMPA is a joint action agency organized under South Carolina's Joint Municipal Electric Power and Energy Act. Union is one member of a group of 10 participants which have a 25% undivided ownership in Unit 2 of the Catawba Nuclear Station. PMPA's Bylaws require that each member city appoint a Director and Alternate Director to serve on its Board of Directors. Assistant Utility Director, Adam Harris has served as alternate director from 2016 until his separation. The recommendation is to approve resolution appointing Tommy Anthony as Alternate Director for City of Union on PMPA Board of Directors.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to approve resolution

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris

**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember Anthony

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – REZONE PROPERTY FROM A-4 AND/OR R-10 TO A-1**

Robby Moody, Senior Planner of CRPC, states that a public hearing was held prior to tonight's meeting in regards to approve the rezoning of 11 parcels to A-1, Central Business District to ensure the eleven parcels associated with the campus are zoned A-1. Mr. Moody read the following recommendation from the Planning Commission as follows: The Planning Commission for the City of Union recommends that the City Council approve the subject properties that make up a considerable portion of the University of South Carolina-Union campus in downtown Union.

Hutch Hall – Chairman  
Bobby Joe Gibbs  
Oscar Gist

Lynn Eaves – Vice Chairman  
Mary Norman

A motion is needed from council to approve first reading of an ordinance to rezone six parcels from R-10 to A-1 and five tax parcels from A-4 to A-1.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – AUTHORIZED SIGNERS ON CITY BANK ACCOUNTS

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that since July 2008, all checks that have been printed and remitted to the City's vendors have been physically signed by two signers – one elected official and one appointed official. This was a recommendation by the Municipal Association and was discussed and voted on by City Council at the time. All bank accounts are set up to require two signatures in order for them to be honored. At the December, 2018 meeting, City Council voted to add a third elected signer to each bank account. Currently there are three (3) elected officials and two (2) appointed officials as the signer on all bank accounts. A City Administrator will be in place as of July 1, and adding this person as a third appointed signer would be appropriate.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to add the City Administrator as a signer on all bank accounts beginning July 1, 2019.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – 2019 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES/PARTY ON THE PATIO

Mayor Thompson states that Union County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a series of summer music concerts called "Party on the Patio". They will take place the first Thursday of each month during the summer months on the patio at the Main Street Junction with food vendors on hand. Patio rental has been secured by an anonymous donor for all three months. This is an opportunity to highlight our historic and beautiful downtown and provide some much needed entertainment for the community. If council would like to sponsor these events, a motion is needed.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to approve Band Sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – STEM PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP SUMMER CLUB 2019

Dr. Latonya Means, Principal of Sims Middle School, addressed Council. She states that The STEM Program will take place at Sims Middle School in June for four weeks. Last year the program only had funding for a two week program. The teachers stated that they needed four weeks to address the summer slide along with the robotics portion of the class. Fundraising has begun early in order to secure the \$15,000 needed to fund the program for the four-week program. A total of \$4,100 has already been secured toward that goal. The Upstate Workforce Board is the main sponsor of the STEM Summer Club and is donating in-kind employee time by providing staff members to organize the activities, serve as chaperones for field trips, give presentations and help with logistics. Sponsors will be honored at the Graduation Luncheon at Sims Middle School. If council

would like to sponsor the STEM Summer Club 2019 program, a motion and a second is needed.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to sponsor the STEM Summer Club in the amount of \$500

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

H. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – JUNE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Thompson states that the regular city council meetings are scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month. Due to scheduling conflicts with the Mayor and council, the June 2019 meeting needs to be moved to another date. The recommendation from the Mayor is to move the June regular council meeting to Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

I. **AWARD/BID – FINANCIAL STATEMENT PREPARATION AND AUDIT SERVICES**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that on April 23, 2019 the City solicited proposals for Financial Statement Preparation and Audit Services for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. Seven (7) proposals were received. The proposals were reviewed separately and independent by three (3) members of City Staff. The reviews consisted of assessing past performances, ability of professional personnel, willingness to meet time and budget requirements, and references and related experience with organizations compatible to the City. The staff recommendation is to award the Financial Statement preparation and Audit Services to McKinley, Cooper and Co, LLC for fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022 in the amount of \$29,000 per year.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to accept staff's recommendation

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Anthony announced that Gregory Pest Control will be spraying for mosquitos Thursday night from 8: 30 pm until 9:00 pm.

Councilmember Harris asked everyone to check on their neighbors because of the hot weather.

6. **COMMENTS**

Alise Ashby announce that the Farmer's Market will open Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 7:30 am until 12:00 noon for the season.

Rieta Drinkwine announced that there will be summer programs at the Union County Library this year.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Regular Council Meeting  
May 21, 2019

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn  
**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2019