

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 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, September 17, 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, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn

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

**NEWS MEDIA:** Charles Warner – Union Times; Graham Williams – Union County News and Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio

**OTHERS:** Robbie McGee, Kevin Powers, Kyle Brannon, Patty Arthur, Melissa Kershaw, Sallie Jones, Curtiss Hunter, Melody Porter, Jerry Kingsmore, Jamie Trammell, Jean Harris, Donna Anthony, Karl Pendergrass, Katherine Pendergrass and Modest Keenan

**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. August 20, 2019 | Public Hearing          |
| B. August 20, 2019 | Regular Council Meeting |

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

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information  
**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Alzheimer's Association - Katherine Pendergrass

Katherine Pendergrass spoke on behalf of her husband, Karl Pendergrass regarding the Alzheimer's Association. Mr. Pendergrass wanted people to be more aware of Alzheimer's and the impact that it has on people and communities and families. There is a Alzheimer's Walk that they participate in each year in October. They want more Union representation during the Walk.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – SALARY CHANGE AND BENEFITS CLARIFICATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that this is a clarification of the Mayor's salary and his benefit package going forward. This will be the second reading. The salary is reduced to \$15,000 a year. The mayor will be entitled to the same thing as the other council members do; get the cell phone allowance and also he will be paid for all his travel to the meetings. The recommendation is to pass second reading to change the Mayor's salary and to change the benefit package as stated

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance to change the Mayor's salary and benefit package

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED** 6 to 1

**OPPOSE:** Councilmember Morgan

B. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF UNION ZONING FOR 215 RAVENCROFT STREET**

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that this ordinance passed first reading at the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 council meeting. This is a rezoning request for property located at 215 Ravenscroft Street. A motion is needed from Council to pass second reading.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to pass second reading of the rezoning ordinance for 215 Ravenscroft Street

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON PINCKNEY STREET**

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union would like to transfer a 0.334 acre tract of land located on Pinckney Street to a Ms. Sonja Hardy for the amount of \$4,000. Any other expenses for this transfer will be borne by the Grantee, Ms. Hardy, as required by the City Procurement Policy. The land adjoining Ms. Hardy was acquired by the City of Union Tax Deed from the Delinquent Tax Collector. The recommendation is to authorize the City Administrator to execute any documents needed to transfer the Pinckney Street Property as described on the Quit-Claim Deed to a Ms. Sonja Hardy for payment of \$4,000 and any additional charges.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. **TAKE FROM TABLE AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF UNION ZONING ORDINANCE – 1008 WEST MAIN STREET**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to take from the table and bring back to the floor

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING - AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF UNION  
ZONING ORDINANCE 1008 WEST MAIN STREET

Mayor Thompson states that there is a rezoning request for property located at 1008 W. Main Street (tax map parcel # 073-14-02-003) from A-2 (Highway Commercial to R-6 (Residential) . The Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve. The recommendation is to approve first reading.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

F. RESOLUTION – MASC HOMETOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT  
APPLICATION MATCH RESOLUTION; IN-KIND MATCH OF AT LEAST  
\$25,000

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that several years ago the business at 119 West Main burnt down. It was actually given to the City after it was cleaned up. During the City's budget session, \$100,000 was appropriated to put some type of breezeway at that location. Staff went back and looked at some additional items that were needed. Robbie Moody, Senior Planning with CRPC has been assisting with the issue. Mr. Nichols further states that the Municipal Association of South Carolina offers Hometown Economic Development Grants to South Carolina cities and towns to implement economic development projects that will make a positive impact on the quality of life in their communities. It is a \$25,000 grant and there is a \$25,000 match for in-kind services. The grant program also promotes and recognizes innovation in economic development practices. The grants fund projects that can be replicated in other cities, will produce measurable results and can be maintained over time. After going back and reviewing budget and estimated cost, the entry archway is \$25,000; the concrete pavers is around \$12,000; all the concrete and seal will be around \$60,000; the façade, demolition has to be torn down and it is somewhere around \$125,000 and some contingency design. This is roughly a budget cost and it depends on the timeframe of the project which possibly could increase. Also the City Administrator discussed having restrooms in the area. Council is asked to adopt a grant match resolution to file with the grant application to the Municipal Association of South Carolina for the Hometown Economic Development Grant.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass resolution for matching grant from the Municipal Association for \$25,000  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan

Councilmember Morgan asked if it would cause problems having restrooms in the area and also who would keep it clean.

The City Administrator states that this was one of the things they talked about. He thought that with the Tourism Facility building being so close and it being a public building, there could be access to restrooms and maybe restrooms would not have to be added right now. Councilmember Anthony suggest putting a unisex restroom in breezeway if we did put in restroom.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UCHS BASS FISHING TEAM SPONSORSHIP

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the Union County High School Bass Fishing Team is seeking sponsorships for the upcoming season. The group is self-

funded and depends on the community for support. Levels of sponsorship are as follows: \$300 Business name featured on front of jersey; \$240 Business name featured on back of jersey and \$150 Business name featured on sleeve of jersey. Any and all donations are accepted and greatly appreciated. Last year the City donated \$250. A motion from council to sponsor the USCH Bass Fishing Team is needed.

Councilmember Morgan asked if the school donated anything to UCHS Bass Fishing.

The City Administrator states that he did not know.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to donate \$250 to the UCHS Bass Fishing Team

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### H. AWARD/BID - REPLACE TELEPHONE

Laura Hembree states that the City of Union will be required to upgrade its phone system by next year, due to the discontinuation of support and service on the Toshiba phones that are in place City-wide. Two proposals for IP telephone systems have been received to replace and upgrade the phone system for the City as a whole. These proposals are based on the current needs of the City and also take into account the technology needs that will be beneficial to the City in the future. The bids are as follows:

<u>Solution (formerly Teleco)</u>	<u>Piedmont Municipal Power Agency (PMPA)</u>
60-month equip. lease = \$699.54	60-month equip. lease = \$812.47
Line lease = \$302.94	Line lease = \$345.00
Service/Maintenance = \$205.00	Service/Maintenance = \$ 0.00
\$1,207.48/month	\$1,157.47/month

With the PMPA option, the City can budget to buy out the remainder of the lease at 7/1/20. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Piedmont Municipal Power Agency.

Councilmember Harris asked if the phone system will be similar to the one we already have such as going through an automated service or go straight to the office. Laura said that it would go straight to Mayor's or Clerk's office, etc. but with the Utility Department it will go in a que and be answer in the order of the call

Councilmember Morgan asked the City Administrator wouldn't it be good to have someone at the front of the building that is information and they can direct people personally and help with the phone as far as directing the calls where they need to be. She also states that a hole needs to be cut in the Clerk's office so that right when citizens come in, there is an information desk.

The City Administrator states that he does not have an issue with someone being up front directing people because we do have people walking down the hall not knowing where to go. He further states that we just have to make sure that the person that directs people has enough duties to do and maybe that person can answer calls personally because we have a ton of calls.

**MOTION** by Mayor Thompson to award bid to PMPA to upgrade the City's phone system

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### I. DISCUSSION/MOTION – COMMUNITY CHANGE PROGRAM, GUIDE; REINSTATEMENT

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that on May 1, 2019, the City of Union had to

temporarily discontinue the issuance of Community Change Vouchers, due to the depletion of available funds. At this time, City Finance staff had discussions with Salvation Army and Carolina Community Actions, the two local organizations who approve and issue the assistance vouchers for this program. Based on the discussions, and the recommendations of City Staff, new guidelines for the Community Change program has been drafted. Once put into place, the guidelines will help prevent the funds from being depleted in the future, and help ensure that there will be enough available funds for assistance vouchers to be issued year-round. The recommendation is to approve the guidelines for the Community Change Program and reinstate the program on October 1, 2019.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to reinstate the Community Change Program  
**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**  
**ABSTAIN** Councilmember Sloss due to being on the Carolina Community Action Board

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Craig asked if City Council could give some kind of incentive account (medium section) for utilities for small businesses that want to open on Main Street due to utilities being so high and that can't stay open. The City Administrator states that during the next budget worksession they could look at water and sewer rates but do not have economic development rates like so of the other utilities. He states that he could look at something. Mayor Thompson states that he and the City Administrator could come up with some type of small business incentive package. The City Administrator states that the City did it with the apartments such as business license break, tap fee breaks, etc. that was paid back to the developer. Mayor Thompson also states that the City could come up with some type of grant, maybe in the amount of \$5,000

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kyle Brannon, 211 Webber Lake Road, addressed City Council regarding the hiring of Utility Director Mark Brown. Mayor Thompson states that according to City Code Section 2-23 –Appearance of Citizens - Personnel issues cannot be addressed.

Curtiss Hunter announced that the Environmental Festival will be held at USC Union Campus September 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – DISCUSSION OF CONTRACTUAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to go out of executive session back into regular session  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

No action taken

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

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