

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2018  
10:00 A.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 (c.)

A special council meeting was held on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. at the City Municipal building with the following present:

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

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Adam Harris - Assistant Utility Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director and Rebecca Lance - Accounting Supervisor

**NEWS MEDIA:** None

**OTHERS:** None

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. BUSINESS**

**A. ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – RELATING TO THE RECOVERY OF COLLECTION COSTS AS PART OF DELINQUENT DEBTS COLLECTED, PURSUANT TO THE SETOFF DEBT COLLECTION ACT**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that since 1993, the City of Union has participated in the Debt Setoff Program offered by the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Delinquent utility bills have been the primary type of debt that has been submitted to the Municipal Association for Collection taxes through the Debt Setoff Program. In recent years, the City has submitted delinquent property taxes, police fines, and inmate prescription debt as well, and as the collecting agency, the Municipal Association has collected this debt when funds are accessible on the City's behalf. For program year 2018, the Municipal Association is requiring each City to adopt an updated ordinance concerning the collection costs associated with the debt collection. The Municipal Association charges the City a \$25 fee per collection item. The City can pass this fee along to the customer or citizen, per the Debt Setoff Collection Act. City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance at its December regular meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – HEATING & COOLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RENEWAL PROGRAM**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that this is additional discussion on the issues that was brought up at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting concerning the "Community Change Program". Some questions came about as far as extending the program beyond the program's months that were already in place. Presently the heating season is from January 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> and the cooling assistance from July 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Another question that came up was sending out an insert in the bill to participate in the “Community Change Program” beginning with January’s bill. The Finance Director’s recommendation is to extend the heating from November 1st to April 30th and the cooling from May 1 to October 31<sup>st</sup>. That would include the whole year and keep it seasonal so that funds stay available.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation on the dispensing of the “Community Change” funds

**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council meeting adjourned at 10:08 A.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

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