

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016
6:30 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).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 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 C. Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss, and Sonja J. Craig

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

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

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

OTHERS: Dan O’Shields, Bruce Morgan, Judy Castor, Sue Keith, Elise Ashby, Jean Harris, Michael Todd Harris, William Browning, Cathy Bradshaw, Charles Craig, Curtiss Hunter, Margie Ruff, Ann Stevens, David Lance, Rebecca Lance and others.

1. OATH OF OFFICE: MAYOR & COUNCILMEMBERS

Harold Thompson - Mayor; Vicki Morgan – District 3; Ricky T. Harris – District 4 and Sonja Craig – District 6 was seated on City Council in a General Election held on November 8, 2016. The oath of office was given by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

2. 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.

3. MINUTES

A. October 18, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

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

- B. October 27, 2016 Joint City/County Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Union County Carnegie Library/Fund Raiser

Dan O'Shields, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Union County Carnegie Library addressed council. He thanked council for the opportunity to speak this evening. Mr. O'Shields states that the Union Carnegie Library has been serving Union County since 1905, over 110 years. The Carnegie Library will be kicking off a fundraiser event for a renovation, their first since 1984. They are requesting \$1,000 from the City of Union to help sponsor the fundraising event that will be held on December 9th at the Main Street Junction. The funds will be used to cover the cost of renting the Main Street Junction, plus cover the required \$300 for damage deposit and \$100 for security. So actually, all the money other than the \$100 will be going back to the City for paying for renting the building. The main goal of the project is to help involve the community in the library renovation project. Mr. O'Shields then stated that Ms. Judy Caston has a bit more of information about the library. Ms. Caston thanked Mayor and council for letting them come today. She gave council a few ideas of what the library is doing and what they are trying to accomplish. The library has brought in about \$48,000 in grants in the last 6 months which is being used to diversify technology, improve the outreach and target teens who are reluctant readers. They now have an animation club that's been formed that meets regularly at the library and they will be putting together a gaming club, as well, which will target teens and help teach them graphic design and game development. They are lending library with reading glasses and magnifying glasses in programs at the Union, Buffalo and Jonesville Senior Citizens Centers. Early literacy kits through First Step Partnerships have been given out and right now they have twelve kits for families that are currently available which have been popular with the families. They have three kits available for daycare centers and they will have twenty kits to circulate very soon. The daycare is working with children who may have issues at home that interfere with their ability to learn. The library is supporting local agricultural through the Catawba Fresh Market and planning to use their new technology to help show farmers how to market and sell online. These are just a few of the things that the library is trying to accomplish. Next Ms. Caston turned over the presentation to Elise Ashby. Ms. Ashby again indicated they are seeking \$1,000 to rent the Main Street Junction. Ms. Ashby states that the library has played an important role in the Catawba Fresh Market. The library is not a place where people just get books. The library is one of the hubs for the market; people can pick up their food there; they can pick up and drop off their food there. Residents who purchase food can pick up their food at the library. The library is also providing an opportunity for farmers to learn how to broaden their marketing to beyond the Farmer's Market and beyond their farm stands. Again, the fundraiser

will be held December 9, 2016 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Tickets are being sold for the fundraiser at an advance cost of \$25 for individual and \$45 for couple.

Mayor Thompson asked if there were any suggestions from council. Councilmember Craig states that they should accept recommendation to fund the request.

Mayor Thompson states that council cannot act on this request at tonight's meeting because it is under the communication section of the agenda. He recommends that council address this request under the business section of the agenda at the next regular council meeting which will be re-scheduled to be held in early December.

5. **BUSINESS**

A. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Mayor Thompson states that in accordance with state and city code, council must elect a Mayor Pro Tempore to serve for a term of not more than two years. The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as Mayor during the Mayor's absence or disability. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore serves as Mayor until a successor is elected. This should be done at council's first meeting after the new council is seated. Council voted by ballot to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore. Councilmember Robert Garner received 6 votes and Councilmember Tommy Anthony received 1 vote. Councilmember Garner was elected as Mayor Pro Tempore.

B. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – APPOINTMENT AND TERM-MUNICIPAL JUDGE

Mayor Thompson states that the municipal court shall be presided over by the municipal judge appointed by council for a term of neither less than two nor more than four years or until a successor is appointed and qualified. The compensation of the municipal judge shall be fixed by council at the time of appointment. This section of the city code has been amended to correspond with S.C. Code Ann. 14-25-15(A) of the state code. City Council passed 1st reading at its September regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading of amendment of Section 15-2 of the Code of the City of Union.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to approve recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – WBCU “OPERATION STOCKING STUFFER”

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU will be hosting their annual “Operation Stocking Stuffer” again this year. Items such as hats, gloves and socks will be delivered to our local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. WBCU is offering the following levels of opportunity to help and participate this holiday season, the Angel level with a total investment of \$900 and the Tree level with a total investment of \$600. Mayor Thompson asked for a motion to fund WBCU “Operation Stocking Stuffer”.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to fund WBCU “Stocking Stuffer” in the amount of \$600.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – DECEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Thompson states that the regular city council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The December 2016 meeting will fall on the 20th which is the week of Christmas. If council decides to change the date of the December 2016 meeting date a motion is in order. Mayor Thompson recommends changing the December regular council meeting date to December 6, 2016.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. AWARD BID – WATER STORAGE TANK MAINTENANCE

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on October 11, 2016, at City Hall for Water Storage Tank Maintenance and rehabilitation for four (4) elevated water tanks and one (1) standpipe. The contract term is for four (4) consecutive years. Only one (1) bid was received for this project – Utility Service Co., Inc. of Perry, Georgia in the amount of \$1,015,825. A recommendation letter from engineer was presented. The recommendation is to accept bid from Utility Service Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,015,825.00. This bid includes all the tanks. Utility Service Company painted Sonoco the last time it was bided out and they were low bidders. They looked at all the bids on the tanks. The City feels like they are qualified bids. In order to hold the bids for four years, Utility Service Company request that the whole contract be given to them which staff does recommended, but it is left up to council’s approval. Also there is language in bid documents that says the City reserves the right to delete work on any site and schedule when the work should be performed. The contractor shall receive no compensation for deleted work. Mayor Thompson asked council if there were any questions. Councilmember Harris asked why there is only one bid. The Utility Director feels that other contactors were just busy and did not bid. It would cost more to go back and re-advertise it, pay the engineer, redo the package and send it back out than to accept bid. It was advertised for over a month. Councilmember Morgan asked if the City still offers the local contractors bid preference even if they are 5% higher, would they still be considered as the low bidder? Mr. Nichols states that the City changed the wording several years ago; contractor would have to be within \$10,000 of the lowest bid.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. AWARD BID – ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – FOSTER STREET AREA

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on October 20, 2016 at Catawba Regional Council of Governments for Engineering Services for the Sewer System Rehabilitation Improvements in the Foster Street Area. Six (6) engineering bids were submitted – Alliance Consulting Engineers - \$54,000; Joel E. Wood & Associates - \$35,355;

Rogers & Callcott - \$74,000; Summit Engineering Group, Inc. - \$55,000; Hulsey McCormick & Wallace - \$55,000 and Hybrid Engineering, Inc. - \$55,042. A letter of recommendation from Catawba Regional Council of Governments along with an engineering firm evaluation rating summary was presented to council. The recommendation is to award bid to Summit Engineering in the amount of \$55,000.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Mayor Thompson asked if there were any questions or comments from council.

Councilmember Morgan states that she attends the meeting at USC-Union when they discussed building student housing. She wanted to know where the City of Union stands on the process.

The Mayor states that the City of Union is looking at supporting the project but first of all it will have to go before the Zoning Board. The area will have to be rezoned. Robby Moody, Senior Planner for Catawba Regional is working on this.

Councilmember Morgan asked when South Boyce Street will be repaired. The street has been closed for 3 years. Mayor Thompson states that there is a completion date of April 2017.

Mayor Thompson gave council an update on the Train Mural. Blue Sky has come in and looked at the Mural a couple of times trying to find a way to repair what he can. The Mayor will get a figure of repair cost and bring it back to council at the next meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2016