

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2017
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, February 17, 2017 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, Pamela Sloss, and Sonja J. Craig. Councilmember Ricky Todd Harris was absent due to illness.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn was absent.

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 Michael Stevens – WBCU Radio

OTHERS: Kathy Woods, Harry Woods, Princess Edwards, John Walton, Martha Walton, Lindy Wicker, Rebecca Lance, David Lance, Bruce Morgan, Rebecca Rochester, Bill Rochester and Novella Garrison.

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. January 17, 2017 City Council Workshop

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve minutes.
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. January 17, 2017 Public Hearing

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

C. January 17, 2017

Regular City Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to approve minutes.
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports.
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Retirement Awards - John R. Walton; Lindy T. Wicker; Kathy K. Woods

Utility Director Joe Nichols presented John R. Walton with a retirement award for 20 years of service with the City of Union and Lindy T. Wicker with a retirement award for 25 years of service with the City of Union. Finance Director Walker Gallman presented Kathy K. Woods with a retirement award for 29 years of service with the City of Union.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING - AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF UNION ZONING ORDINANCE

Mayor Thompson states that apartments are not permitted in the A-1 (Central Business District) zoning district. Amendment of Zoning Ordinance Sections 109.12 and 109.13 is to allow multi-family residential as a special exception in the A-1 (Central Business District) zoning district. City Council passed 1st reading of the ordinance at its January regular meeting. Staff recommends passing 2nd reading of ordinance to amend zoning ordinance Section 109.12 and 109.13.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Craig.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENTS TO MAIN STREET JUNCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Thompson states that the Advisory Committee will be a collection of individuals who bring unique knowledge and skills to more effectively help guide the operations of Main Street Junction; serve to make recommendations and/or provide key information and materials to the Mayor's office; play an important public relations role as well as provide oversight and provide a fresh prospective on programmatic issues. The Advisory Committee may evaluate the operations of Main Street Junction, gather input from/serve as a liaison, provide feedback from the community and provide an independent/unbiased sounding board, and assist staff in determining the activities at the Main Street Junction. The recommendation is to authorize the Mayor to appoint an Advisory Committee for the Main Street Junction. Mayor Thompson named the following Advisory

Committee for a one year term: Andrena Powell- Baker; Graham Williams; Curtiss Hunter; Debbie Woodard and Tommy Anthony- Ex- Officio and one vacancy that will be appointed at a later date.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept Advisory Committee recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Anthony (MSJ Committee Member)

5. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Mayor Thompson gave an update on projects in the City of Union:

- Standard Textile has purchased the old “Her Majesty” building for warehouse space; grade parking lot and taking down fence
- Problems with Bantam Chef Sign replacement; contractor did not pull permit or get prior approval. Building Inspector had to halt the work until it went through the Zoning Board in an effort to work within the guidelines of the ordinance.
- Mayor & Utility Director met with the S.C. Department of Transportation regarding South Boyce Street; there are some environmental issues
- Construction for multi- family housing called Keenan Oaks is underway. Apartments will feature a community building; computer center; exercise room; laundry facility; playground and a covered gazebo with seating for families living there
- USC – Union is asking the City to help with building permits, water and sewer taps, meters, lines, construction, trash service, and sidewalk along Academy Street. City Attorney will address during budget worksession to discuss infrastructure the City can provide.
- CDBG grant to aid in demolition of dilapidated houses is underway
- NIP (Neighborhood Improvement Project) is underway for demolition of dilapidated houses

Mayor Thompson asked council if there was anything they would like to add.

Councilmember Morgan states that she has a list of goals/strategic plan and future vision/bucket list to present. It is as follows:

- Requesting council have Melissa Youngblood post form on City website where citizens can submit their thoughts/vision
- Print forms to be completed by citizens /committees/organizations/businesses/ City Departments, etc. Have these forms available at City Hall, newspaper offices, radio station, etc.
- Each councilmember complete form with their personal visions
- Set a deadline of March 16th for thought/vision forms. Councilmembers Craig and Morgan will consolidate and present at March meeting; during budget sessions council will know what they are working toward. This does not mean the City will fund it this year or next year or ten years; it gives something to work toward/gives direction. These goals will put everyone on the same page. As a Team, City will focus and be in a direction that may generate more ideas and as a Team accomplish things.

- Boyce Street has been closed for over 3 years. The State needs to receive a letter from Mayor and Council requesting beginning and completion date. This street has been in the City for many years and this street also reduces time for EMS to transport patients to hospital.
- Hotel/USC Union -Request Mayor to contact Developer of apartments being built on Union Mill Site to see if City or University can obtain the hotel; if those apartments could be Section 8 so all occupants of hotel can have a new apartment to move into. This would be a dual project to result in having student housing at the hotel. The hotel was beautiful at one time and could become a beautiful student housing. If this is a possibility, research must be done for funding.

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that a lot of agreements were put together by a Private/Public Partnership years ago. It would take attorneys to go over to see if the City can get out of agreement. The Partnership has asked the City of Union to take over hotel but there is a loan issue of 1.3 million dollars and the S.C Housing and Home Loans through the State of South Carolina.

Mayor Thompson states that this is something the City needs to take a hard look at because it would be ideal for the master plan of the University because they are interested in the old American Federal Bank building. The hotel would be a key piece of property for the University long range plans for a School of Nursing. He states that the City can take a look at this to see if anything can be done.

- Filming Meetings - Have all City Council Meetings filmed even though at this time the City does not have the equipment to film live (Maybe that can be a goal). Requesting meetings be filmed and made available within a few days or a week for citizens to see what the City is working on.

Mayor Thompson states that the City will take a look at this. This was done in the past but there were issues.

- Hospital – Councilmember Morgan talked with Curtiss Hunter (Tourism Director) and Cindy Fore (County Veteran Affairs Office). They discussed having a VA Clinic to be located on bottom floor of hospital once new facility is complete. In addition to that, she has talked with the Mayor and Frank Hart (County Supervisor) about having a VA Nursing Home or a VA Retirement Center located on upper floors. This is something City and County Council needs to work on together. This would create jobs and benefit many Veterans. To get something like this done, work should start now. Councilmember Morgan requests that the Mayor set a joint meeting with County Council to discuss this and hopefully other projects before the budget worksession.

Councilmember Sloss states that there are some pros and cons dealing with the Veterans Affairs right now. She has some concerns.

Mayor Thompson states that County Supervisor Frank Hart will present two items during the budget worksession and that would be something to discuss with him to see if it is possible; hospital is still tied up in litigation with bankruptcy and also see what the hospital owners want to do with the building.

Councilmember Morgan thanked council for their patience during her presentation.

Mayor Thompson states that he, along with Councilmembers Craig and Morgan, are attending the 2017 S.C. Governor's Conference on Tourism & Travel in Spartanburg on February 20-22, 2017.

Councilmember Craig added that she attended a session on social media.

Mrs. Craig states that the City really needs to get a Facebook page and calendar because that is where 99% of the people look to find out what's going on. She also state that they had a really interesting session on social media.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Craig.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2017