

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 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, January 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 Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss, and Sonja 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

OTHERS: Terry Fant, Neil Valentine, Elise Ashby, E. Oliver, Randy Spencer, Rieta Drinkwine and others.

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. December 6, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

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

B. Rocky Creek Water Company - Randy Spencer, Mgr.

Randy Spencer, Manager of Rocky Creek Water Company addressed council. Mr. Spencer states that he has been with the Rocky Creek Water Company for 13 years. The Board Members asked Mr. Spencer to address council regarding their contract with the City. There is a clause stating that if the Rocky Creek Water Company signs a contract for ten years; they could not tie into another source of water. Rocky Creek Board Members are requesting a language change regarding clause just in case there is a new council later on down the road. Also he states that Rocky Creek has been doing business with the City for 36 years and wants to continue. They are also requesting better rates due to issues going on with DHEC and the fact that they had a bad water leak about 6 or 7 months ago that ran into the creek and the lost approximately a million gallons of water. They will have to spend around \$40,000 or \$50,000 to get water tank repaired. Mayor Thompson states that he will take the requests under advisement.

C. FY2016 Audit Presentation - Terry Fant, CPA

Terry Fant, CPA presented the FY 2016 Audit.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – LAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF UNION AND CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS

City Attorney Larry Flynn states that Land Lease Agreement was presented to council at its December regular meeting. Council passed 1st reading of the ordinance. Staff recommendation is to pass 2nd reading.

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

B. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING - AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF UNION ZONING ORDINANCE

Robby Moody 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. The Planning Commission met prior to regular meeting and made the following recommendation: “The Planning Commission for the City of Union recommends that City Council approve the Amendment to the City of Union Zoning Ordinance, Sections 109.12 and 109.13 to allow multi-family residential as a special exception in the A-1 (Central Business District) zoning district. Lynn Eaves – Chairman; Oscar Gist, Sr. – Vice Chairman; Bobby Joe Gibbs and Hutch Hall.

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

C. RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE MUTUAL AID BETWEEN THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE AND THE CITY OF UNION PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Chief Sam White presented a resolution to authorize the Mayor to negotiate, enter into, and execute law enforcement assistance and support agreement with the Union County Sheriff Department. Staff recommendation is to pass the resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement to provide mutual aid between the Sheriff's Office and the City of Union Public Safety Department.

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

D. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENTS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Mayor Thompson states that City Council will fill (2) vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals for expired terms. The positions are three-year terms to expire December 31, 2019 and are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Zoning Board of Appeals works closely with the City of Union Planning Department. This board hears and decides on variance and special exceptions requests dealing with the City of Union Zoning Ordinance Regulations. This position was solicited by public record in the local newspaper November 7, 2016. Request to serve letters, voting ballot and public notice was presented to council. City staff recommends that council appoint qualified candidates to fill these most important board vacancies. Ballot results are as follows: Neil Valentine – 6 votes; Quandra Jeter – 6 votes and Lauren T. Gratenstein – 2 votes. Neil Valentine and Quandra Jeter were re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

E. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – CITY OF UNION ANNUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES - MARCH 28, 29 & 30**

Mayor Thompson states that the 2017-18 annual budget work session has been tentatively set for March 28, 29 & 30, 2017. Due to conflict in work schedule for one of the councilmember's, tentative dates for the budget work session are set for April 4, 5 and 6, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

None

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

No action taken.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2017