

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017
6:00 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).}

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 6:00 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 (arrived at 6:14 p.m.), Pamela Sloss (arrived at 6:19 p.m.), Ricky Todd Harris and Sonja J. Craig (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director and Joe Nichols – Utility Director.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

NEWS MEDIA: Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio

OTHERS: Kimberly Herndon, Larry Robinson, Alise Ashby and others.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

2. Business

A. Hearing To Solicit Comments In Connection With The Needs Assessment For The City of Union

Mayor Thompson states that each year a Needs Assessment Hearing is held to solicit comments in connection with the Needs Assessment for the City of Union. Kimberly Herndon of CRPC addressed council. Ms. Herndon states that she would like to mention a few things before she discussed Needs Assessment. She states that the City of Union participates each April in declaring April as Fair Housing Month and the City does support Fair Housing measures although currently CDBG funds are not utilized to fix houses in S.C. The City also participates in the Citizens Participation Plan. This plan is available through the Mayor's Office. It basically states that we abide by the Federal guidelines; in that the City is very proactive in utilizing funds to support low to moderate income neighborhoods and is responsive to many and all complaints or concerns with regard to handicap accessibility in City facilities and support "Section 3" businesses when at all possible. Next she reviewed the March 2016 Needs Assessment list:

1. Infrastructure improvements to the Monarch, Ottaray, and Buffalo Mill Village areas in cooperation with Union County and infrastructure improvements in the Foster Street area.
2. Continue revitalization efforts in the Union Mill Village.
3. Demolition of dilapidated houses in the City of Union.
4. Upgrade of sidewalk, water, sewer services, and drainage and street problems in the city.
5. Seek ways to conduct neighborhood improvements in the Carson and Cornwell Street neighborhoods.
6. Continue revitalization efforts in downtown Union such as streetscape, building renovation, and beautification projects.

7. Increase available affordable housing for low and moderate income, disabled and elderly citizens.
8. Continue activities to support economic development in order to create jobs for low and moderate income persons.
9. Roadway safety improvements
10. Improve and expand recreation, health care and cultural facilities.
11. Construct parking and pedestrian improvement adjacent to planned events center in downtown.
12. Implement a gateway and beautification plan
13. Promote fair housing opportunities to all citizens.

Ms. Herndon states that this is the list that is used when picking projects for CDBG application; items can be added or list can be edited. Typically when a CDBG project application is made, the item that is requesting funding is in the top 4 or 5 of priorities on list. Mayor Thompson states that one of the projects that need to be prioritized is the fire truck. Ms. Herndon states that the City would be eligible for up to \$500,000 and there would be a 10% minimum requirement match of \$50,000 if the City applies for the entire \$500,000. It was the consensus of council to make application for funding for new fire truck to be placed as number 1 on the list and former item number 1 and 2 be combined and become number 2 on the list and former item 2 will became number 3. Mayor Pro Tem Garner states that he would like to see Number 6 - "Revitalization efforts in downtown Union such as streetscape, building renovation and beautification project" stay near the top of the list. Mr. Herndon reviewed the changes on the list and the 2017 Needs Assessment list will be discussed at tonight's council meeting.

3. Adjournment

Public hearing adjourned at 6:28 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2017