

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017  
6:30 P.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 (e).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on May 16, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal Building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki C. Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss, and Sonja J. Craig. Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner was absent.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Walker Gallman - Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director and Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor.

**NEWS MEDIA:** Michael Stevens – WBCU Radio and Graham Williams – Union County News

**OTHERS:** Brian Blackwell, Libby Oliver, Curtiss Hunter, James Hunter, Linda Casey Clark, Oscar Gist, Sr., Margie Ruff, Reita Drinkwine, Melody Porter, Harriett Bruce, Jack Kelly, Lindy Kelly, Elise Ashby, Modest Keenan, Ray Jones, Katherine Pendergrass, Jane Scarborough, Tracey Booker, Bobby Robinson, Alexander Tucker and others.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Garner called the meeting to order. Councilmember Anthony 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. April 18, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

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

B. April 24, 2017 City Council Workshop

**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 Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. ABC Ordinance - Curtiss Hunter/Libby Oliver

Curtiss Hunter, Union County Tourism Director addressed council. She is here tonight to present to council and ask for consider on revising the alcohol consumption code thus it would allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages within the city limits of Union, SC. The alcohol consumption code's last revision was 22 years ago. Mrs. Hunter states the purpose of the request is basically for tourism, but it has a revenue factor to it as well. Also it is for recruitment of a full service restaurant in Downtown Union such as a Fatz or Applebee's. The Tourism Board is hoping that if the old From building is awarded and up-fitted, they would be able to offer that building as a restaurant; however, full service restaurants do have patios or full service bars. The Union County Tourism Director states this will recruit new businesses to the Downtown area being that all small towns around are doing this. The Tourism Board will be going on a trip next Wednesday to Brevard, North Carolina to look at how they have reinvented themselves. City Council has been invited. Mrs. Hunter states that they are not trying to encourage anyone to drink; but just trying to get to a place where Union can compete. When a beer is sold, 2 pennies of every sale goes to tourism which adds up. Next Libby Oliver, Tourism Board Member gave a presentation on what Union could have on Main Street such as a Pub business. She states this would encourage others to open up establishments such as restaurants, a welcoming place for locals and visitors in a relaxing environment. Mrs. Oliver states that under the present consumption alcoholic beverage ordinance, this could not happen. Restaurants could not have any outdoor eating area the way the City ordinance is right now. Mrs. Oliver discussed the impact of craft beer, wine and spirits in South Carolina which is really huge. The impact is \$443,000,000 for South Carolina. She states that Union has a lot of good opportunities to take advantage of this kind of thing. She states that we have the expansion of Gestamp, the Ag & Art Tour that regularly features local beer and spirits; we have visitors to the City and County for events, festivals, concerts, family reunions and Main Street Junction. These are just a few things that Union could be taking advantage of if there were looser rules on the alcohol. Next the Union County Tourism Director continued by discussing the Hospitality and Accommodations Tax which is huge. Everybody wants that money for their projects. She states that hospitality tax comes from the sale of food and alcoholic beverages and any open mixed drink or beer is 2 pennies as she stated earlier. Accommodations Tax is when you rent a room, a bed or breakfast or motel/hotel. The Union County Tourism Board is asked to fund different type events or different projects and those extra funds would be helpful. Mrs. Hunter states that the revision of the alcohol consumption ordinance is necessary in order for Union to be successful as in catching up with other places. The number one complaint from adults about festivals in Union is not being able to have draft beer. The Union County Tourism Board is asking Council to consider making a revision to the ABC ordinance to make it user friendly as far as being able to do business for festivals, concerts and things like that because right now you cannot. Mayor Thompson thanked Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Oliver for their presentation. The Mayor states that Council will certainly take a look at the ordinance; the City Attorney on staff can research and maybe come up with something that is workable; however, it will still have to go through a process. Mayor Thompson will get back with the Union County Tourism Board on this.

Councilmember Morgan would like for the City Attorney to look at alcohol ordinances in other cities and see how they handle it. She states that she has been to a lot of festivals in other cities and their alcohol is expensive. They have this as part of their ordinance; that way you don't have a lot of problems, you only have people stopping and getting one or two drinks. Mayor Thompson states that after 20 years this ordinance needs to be looked at. It is very vague.

C. L.W. Long Resource Center - Modest Kennan

Modest Keenan, Chairman of the L.W. Long Resource Center thanked Mayor and Council for giving him the opportunity to speak at tonight's meeting. Mr. Keenan states that he wants to address an issue concerning the L.W. Long Resource Center building. The Board has a building that they cannot use. He presented folders to City Council with information on the International Fire Code that was adopted in 2006 and other information regarding the L.W. Long Resource Center. Mr. Keenan asked City Council to look at the information and take it under consideration so that the City and the L.W. Long Resource Center can come to some kind of agreement about what can be done about the building in order to be used. Mr. Keenan asked council why the L.W. Long Resource Center does not qualify under the grandfather clause and why is the L.W. Long Resource Center held to a different standard in regards to the grandfather clause. He further states that existing buildings are permitted to continue without change as long as they are maintained in accordance with the code under which they are constructed and he feels they have met all criteria that come under the grandfather clause. Also the utilities has never been turned off; they have maintained property insurance; which is very expensive and they are a non-profit organization that has impacted the county in regards to troubled youths. Mr. Keenan reviewed the following documents. "Document "A"- housed the University of S.C. Upstate Achieve Program in 2006; Document "B" – United Way has utilized their facilities. He continued by stating the following "the standards that are being imposed upon the L.W. violate the grandfather clause and represent a financial hardship on the organization. We cannot generate the needed funding for upgrades to the facility because the building inspector will not allow occupancy. We have had to turn away potential occupants. The building inspector has stated that the building can be utilized for retail purpose. Retail runs counter to the L.W. Long Resource Center mission statement and non-profit status. All we are asking for is an equal application of the building codes." He further states that a few years ago Mayor Thompson, himself and a few others went down to Orangeburg, SC to visit a historical site, formerly an elementary school. Except for the new construction it has been used without a sprinkler system being required. He next states that Corinth Baptist Church, here in Union, completely gutted their sanctuary and totally renovated the inside without a sprinkler system being required. Mr. Keenan states that in 1993 they were advised by the Acting Building Inspector that they had old sprinkler heads so the heads were removed and two hour sheet rock was installed and advised by the building inspector in absence of the sprinkler heads. They added exit lighting at each exit and placed fire extinguishers at the direction of said building inspector. Next he discussed Item "C" – (2) Two letters from the Secretary of State; letters certifies that their organization is duly registered in accordance with the provision of the "Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act". Item "D" – Installed new heating and air conditioner system in the building; Item "E" – In 1996 L.W. Long Resource Center was added to the National Register of Historical Places. Mr. Keenan continued by stating that he feels there is not enough communication of what they can do with the building. He states that in 1995, they installed a new heating and air conditioner system and in 2004 Glenn's Electric re-wired the whole building. In 2014, a new roof was put on building. There has been no change to the L.W. Long Resource Center mission statement; nor have they requested a change to the use of occupancy.

He states that “We the L.W. Long Resource group remains committed to drug prevention, drop-out prevention and literacy reduction and the L.W. Long Board members have used their own personal funds to keep lights turned on, as well as paid insurance”. The L.W. Long Board is asking council to take into consideration to do what they can to help keep the building open. Mr. Kennan states that before the meeting, he entertained a question from a councilmembers asking about nursing facility or bringing children into building. Mr. Kennan states that the L.W. Long Resource Center is flexible and if they can’t bring children into building, then they don’t have to bring children in the building. L.W. Long Resource Center has been asked by several entities right here in Union to come into the building. One is the “Friends of the Library” entity. Their roof is falling in on their books in the building. The L.W. Long Board cannot tell them yes because of building restrictions that has been put on them. Mr. Kennan also has also been asked about the building being a Museum because some people want to preserve the historical building and it would be a perfect location for the Museum as well. Mr. Keenan entertained questions from council.

Mayor Thompson states that he would like to see the building used and preserved but his oath and position says that he must protect the citizens by the law. He states that Brian Blackwell, Building Official has been working with this program from the start and he can explain or answer questions or maybe give some kind of idea of how to get that building open. Mayor Thompson asked Mr. Blackwell to speak on the matter.

Building Official Brian Blackwell states that he has met with Mr. Keenan over the years and the way the code is structured, it was originally a hospital when it was built in 1932. He states that the way the code is structured, it takes that as the original occupancy and the way the code is worded, if it changes occupancy, it is required to come up to today’s code. Somewhere along the way, USC moved in, anything above the 12<sup>th</sup> grade is actually business occupancy so it has changed from an institutional to a business so technically it can be used as a business and the sprinklers being removed may necessarily not be an issue as he explained when he met with Mr. Keenan. Mr. Blackwell states that at the particular time he met with him there was a 6 by 6 foot hole in the roof. He states that he couldn’t have that type of a problem and allow kids at that time because the L.W. Long Resource Center was looking to bring in an afterschool program and he could not approve that so they eventually had several more meetings and he was able to learn more and more about the building and that it was truly a business occupancy now and past building officials had approved it to be changed from institutional to business and from that point forward, he explained that the easiest thing to do is to focus on putting a business in there and that would not be a change in occupancy. Mr. Blackwell states that he has not learned anymore of the choice of direction since their last meeting. He further states that the codes have really evolved even from the 90’s from a prescriptive code to more a performance base; sprinklers are more prevalent, they are seeing a higher demand for sprinklers in buildings per the code, but on the other hand it shows ways to avoid sprinkler equally by performance based type components such as two hour firewalls and dividing and creating fire areas. The reason for this is to reduce the amount of damages instead of a total lost on buildings and that’s kind of where the performance comes in. This fire assembly is able to act instead of having to invest in a true full-blown sprinkler system. Mr. Blackwell states that the L.W. Long Board has that option too, even if the building is required to have sprinklers, he is not sure that the L.W. Long building is required to have them with today’s code. He further states that if Mr. Keenan had a set of plans, he could probably go a long way in helping the L.W. Long building but first of all, they have to pick an occupancy and a direction because if you go to the very front of the code book, it is going to lay out each step you have to take such as determine the occupancy and the square footage and it’s going to show you everything it has to offer and what’s required and the minimum requirement; sprinkler and,

fire walls. Mr. Blackwell continued by stating that it's all occupancy based; for example the Council Chambers is designed for assembly because it has a lot of people coming close together whereas a business, it will maybe have one person every twelve feet in an office. It is a totally different thought process and that is how the code is structured. He states that what needs to be done could be very simple and he has explained to the Mr. Keenan.

Councilmember Morgan asked the Building Official if he has every worked with the L.W. Long Board on a total dollar amount it would take to update the building, so that it could be open to different possibilities and then once something was decided, they could go from there. She states that the impression she is getting is that the L.W. Long Board just wants to keep the building instead of just letting it sit there and watch it go down each year because they are not sure what the future is for it. Councilmember Morgan also states that she mentioned to Mr. Keenan the possibility of it being a Museum. Next she asked if the City has ever considered helping the L.W. Long Board get a grant since it is listed on the National Historical Register. That is one of the big things she wants to see done especially things starting to develop on Main Street and L.W. Long Resource Center building is on Main Street.

Building Official Blackwell states that since the building is over 5,000 square feet and less than 10,000 square, there is a state designed law; an architect engineering law. Anything over 5,000 square feet pretty much takes it out of the local building inspector's hands and it must go to a design professional, being an architect engineer or both. It is not for him to determine. That's up to the owner of the building representative to go out and hire these services and they actually would go in and create a design for whatever the owner wants to do with that structure. Because it is existing, the superstructure is already there and the electrical is already there. The L.W. Long Board would have to hire somebody to present their ideas. And the way the law is worded, any alteration, modification, renovation or new construction is supposed to have a design professional, per state law. Mr. Blackwell states that he has advised Mr. Keenan of this over the years.

Mayor Thompson suggests that the L.W. Resource Center become a part of the Union County Historical Society. By being on the Union County Historical Society register, this opens up doors for grants and maybe the City of Union could help with some things; however, it will still have to go through a process. The Mayor also states that he would love to see the building open but he is responsible for the citizens and he does not want anyone to go into the building and get hurt, especially somebody's kid.

Councilmember Anthony reiterated what was said and stated that basically what they need to start with is a set of plans, architect engineering plans; present it to the building department and get that approved and then they can go forward.

Councilmember Craig states that if they are on the historical register, they can get grants and loans to fix the building the way they want. It is a long process that has to go through the State Parks and Recreation down in Columbia. They would have to call to find out all the information such as getting the paper work filled out but there are grants out that for historical buildings.

Attorney Larry Flynn states that he would like to add comments. He and Building Official Brian Blackwell have had conversations about this and Mr. Blackwell has a fairly comprehensive letter; it looks like it is a year old that talks in terms of what some of the requirements that need to be done and this is so driven by what the use is going to be as far as what are the requirements. It is very difficult to say something one way and then use it for something else. What the City has done in the past is support what is presented to them in order to give them some guidance about the direction they are going. The

City Attorney will get a copy of the letter to the L.W. Long Board Member Alexander Tucker.

Oscar Gist, L.W. Long Board Member states that the Board has applied for a grant in the past through the Historical Society but was turned down. L.W. Long Resource Center building came in 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Thompson states that he does not have a problem with making the City's grant writer available to help find grants but it will have to be work done from both sides.

Mr. Keenan states that the Board has had to take what the Building Official say do and that was it. He states that there was never was a hole in the roof. A new roof had been put on; it was just leaking. He states that a lot of money has been spent on building.

Alexander Tucker, L.W. Long Board Member, addressed council. He states that from the information he has gathered from the meeting is there needs to be a sense of rationalistic relationship between the City Council and the L.W. Long Board with the help of the Building Official Brian Blackwell. Mr. Tucker states that they could find a solution that ultimately benefit both parties. He proposes a meeting time maybe as a group or individuals and he would like to take this project on as a member of the board and a young innovator of the next generation. He thinks this is something they can do for Union County.

Councilmember Sloss responses to Mr. Tucker comments by stating that the Board needs to initially figure out what purpose the building is going to be used for and then council can figure out a game plan on what needs to be done.

Mayor Thompson will get back in touch with Mr. Tucker. The Mayor added that every year during the spring in Columbia, the State Historical Society has a meeting pertaining to restoring old buildings and things of that nature. The Mayor states that he has attended for the last 5 years and also Union County Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter has attended but no one else from Union.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-2018**

Finance Director Walker Gallman presented the proposed budget for 2017- 2018. The Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Proposed Budget All Funds Summary is \$45,975,700, an increase of 1.82% over Fiscal Year 2016/2017. The General Fund's projected revenues are \$5,383,170. Expenditures are proposed at \$5,893,150 a decrease of approximately 3.8% under last years proposed budget. This leaves a deficit of \$509,980 to be funded by fund balance. Also, to offset some of this deficit we should receive new money for revenue generated by the 1 cent local option sales tax beginning in May, 2017. This revenue will also provide taxpayers a credit against their property taxes. There is no tax or fee increase proposed for the General Fund. Capital equipment and improvements in the amount of \$216,200 is included in the proposed expenditures amount above. The Solid Waste Management fund is almost a breakeven with a budget of \$764,380, an increase of less than 1%. No fee increase is proposed for FY2018. If approved, a brush truck will be purchased under a lease purchase agreement. The Utility Fund projected revenues are \$37,448,640. Expenses are proposed at \$38,474,720, an increase of 3.3% over last year's proposed budget. The deficit of \$1,026,083 will be funded by retained earnings. A 5% electric rate increase is proposed and the PPA will continue to true up cost of power

each month. Water proposed rate increase is at 2%. Also, customers with meter sizes 2 inches and above will see an increase in their base charge. Sewer customers will see an overall increase of 2%. Natural Gas base rates will not increase, but the PGA will continue to true up cost of gas each month. Capital equipment in the amount of \$58,000 and infrastructure of \$3,686,180 is included in the total utility proposed expenses above. A 2% cost of living raise is proposed for City employees. The General Fund and Utility Funds will use fund balance/cash reserves to balance. The following is a list of special revenue funds and their FY 2017-2018 proposed budgets:

a. Local Hospitality and Accommodations	\$405,000
b. Main Street Junction	111,450
c. Economic Development Fund	200,000
d. Drug Fund	7,000
e. Community Change	30,000
f. Debt Service-Tax Increment	90,000

The recommendation is to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance to adopt the FY 2017-2018 Budget.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation to adopt 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed budget for 2017-2018.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED 5 to 1.**

**FOR:** Thompson, Anthony, Harris, Sloss, Craig

**OPPOSE:** Morgan

B. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING- TAX LEVY FY 2017-2018

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the proposed Tax Levy will remain the same at 86.8 mills. The recommendation is to adopt Tax Levy for FY 2017-2018.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation to adopt Tax Levy Ordinance for FY 2017-2018.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. RESOLUTION – VICTIM’S ASSISTANCE BILL OF RIGHTS

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the City and County are compelled by S.C. Code 16-3-1505, commonly known as the Victim’s Bill of Rights Act, to provide for certain victims and witnesses services. The agreement has been revised to comply with the recommendation of the State Office of Victim Assistance. The recommendation is to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to authorize Mayor Thompson to execute agreement.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. AWARD/BID – OTTARAY PHASE III SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on May 2, 2017 at City Hall for Sewer System Improvements in Ottaray Mill Village-Phase III. Three bids were received: Crystal Sewer & Water, Inc. - \$399,910; Smith Backhoe & Construction Company - \$328,657.50 and Whitesell

Construction Company - \$338,026.00. The bid summary and the recommendation letter from our consultants were presented to council. The recommendation is to accept bid from Smith Backhoe & Construction, LLC in the amount of \$328,657.50 contingent upon the approval by South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority.

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

E. AWARD BID – FOSTER STREET SEWER REHABABILITATION

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on May 4, 2017 at City Hall for Foster Street Area Sewer System Rehabilitation. Four (4) bids were received: IPR Southeast, LLC - \$698,918.00; Layne Inliner, LLC - \$814,110.00; Vac Vision Environmental - \$773,225.00 and Prism Contractors & Engineers, Inc. - \$944,674.50. The bid summary and the recommendation letter from consultants were included. The recommendation is to accept bid from IPR Southeast LLC in the amount of \$698,918.00 contingent upon SC Department of Commerce approval of contract documents.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – SENIOR CITIZENS EXPO

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU along with its co-sponsors will host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Citizens Expo, May 25, 2017. The expo will be held at the Tabernacle Baptist Church from 9:00 AM – 2 PM. There will be activities, entertainment and door prizes. The two packages available are as follows: Package A: 100 Thirty-Second ads, Reservation of a booth at the Expo, 100 Promos about the event, Cost is \$950 and Package B: 50 Thirty-Second ads, Reservation of a booth at the Expo, 100 Promos about the event, Cost is \$750.

Mayor Thompson states that the City already has a package for ads and promotions so therefore he would like to reserve the spots that come with sponsorship and work with the Chamber to periodically give them to our Downtown businesses. The Mayor has already talked to the Chamber Director, Jamie Tramell and she is willing to work with the City on this and he will get with Chris Woodson at WBCU Radio Station.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to donate \$500 for WBCU 19<sup>TH</sup> Annual Senior Citizens Expo and reserve the spots that come with the sponsorship for downtown businesses.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – JUNE CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Mayor Thompson states that the regular City Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Mayor is requesting that the meeting be held on June 6, 2017. The recommendation is to change June City Council Meeting from June 20, 2017 to June 6, 2017.

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

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson gave update on City of Union projects.

- Demolition update - 22 properties have been pulled. At this point the City has cleaned up 8 properties and the City will be tearing down 3 properties (already in progress). Eleven properties have been permitted and waiting to be torn down. The company that's doing demolition is being used by the County as well. The NIP project is coming to an end.
- Sidewalk has been repaired on Douglas Heights; sidewalk on Catherine Street is now being repaired. The City is now waiting on the fall round of grants for Church Street right off of Arthur Boulevard. Have talked with COG and they seem to think this will be a good project. The word shovel ready came up in the project. It is already shovel- ready meaning it has been engineered so the City will submit application for grant.
- City Attorney is working on Incentive Package Ordinance; workshop will be held to discuss.
- City Attorney is working on Workman Compensation Insurance Ordinance. This will be presented at the June regular meeting.
- During the budget meeting a question came up about customers not being able to pay their utility bills on their due date. Mayor Thompson states that this week he has taken about 50 or 60 calls from utility customers needing one or two more days beyond their due date to pay their bill. The ladies in the Utility Department can only go so far as to granting more days to the customer after their due date. The Mayor states that they will come up with something to assist customers with this issue.
- Councilmember Craig asked why was a sidewalk relatively good repaired and a sidewalk relatively bad not repaired. Mayor Thompson states that the sidewalk repair area in question has been in the making for the last two years. The City could not go back and change. Funds were never meant to repair the entire sidewalk but to repair the damaged area. The C-fund monies are not for new sidewalks; it's for repairing damaged sidewalks. Union Boulevard is being looked at for sidewalk repair.
- Councilmember Anthony asked the Mayor if he has heard anything about the billboards. The Mayor states that they are putting together a letter to send to the billboard owners but nothing has been done yet.
- Mayor Thompson asked Councilmember Morgan about her brother. She states that he is very ill and he is just taking one day at time. She is asking everyone to continue to pray for him.
- Mayor Thompson states that there is a lot of property around town that the City owns. It is not on the roll collecting any taxes and it's not benefiting the City. He has already talked with the City Attorney about an auction so that some of these properties can go back on the tax roll. The City has a lot of

little lots that you can't build anything on and some lots are nice. The Mayor feels that the City should tackle this project and start as soon as possible.

- Mayor Thompson states that all councilmembers gave names of someone they want to serve on the Comprehensive Planning Board. He signed letters today that will be mailed out. The Mayor also feels that it's high time the City gets our young people involved with some things. The City needs to try and come up with something to engage our young people. He had a recent conversation with Councilmember Harris; his son, Michael Todd Harris, has good ideas regarding the Main Street Junction. We want to get our young people involved. The National League of Cities has some good programs on getting young people involved with their City.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2017