

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017
5:00 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 council workshop was held on September 6, 2017 at 5:00 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, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk; Sam White – Public Safety Director, Perry Harmon – Public Service Director, Laura Hembree – Finance Director ; Walker Gallman – Finance Director (arrived 5:17 pm) and Joe Nichols – Utility Director (arrived 5:12 pm).

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

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

OTHERS: Barbara Crayne and Kathy Teague

A. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. He gave the invocation. The Pledge of Alliance was given by all present. The roll was called by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

B. Business

1. DISCUSSION – DEEDING CITY PARK TO COUNTY (1/2) PORTION

Mayor Thompson states that we never had an agreement but we always knew that City Park belonged to the City of Union although the County has maintained it for years. The USC-Union girls' softball team will be playing their games there so since the County does the maintenance we can deed at least a portion of the park to the County. The other portion we want to save for other activities where the parking lot is, where the old tennis court use to be and the grass area. Mayor states the City may want to use the other property for other things such as a dog park.

2. DISCUSSION – CODE ENFORCEMENT PROPOSAL

Mayor Thompson presented a proposal for County to provide building inspector services and code enforcement services in the amount of \$80,000 from County Supervisor Frank Hart. The Mayor asked Council to review and

they can add or delete items on the proposal. The Mayor states for \$80,000 the City could hire their own code enforcement plus a building inspector inspector. Councilmember Morgan states that the process for obtaining permits by customers should be more simplified. Mayor Pro Tem Garner asked if contract prices were lowered, would the City be interested in the proposal. He states that combining services would be better because customers would only have to go to one office. Council discussed hiring a Building Official/Property Maintenance Inspector. They will re-visit the proposal.

3. DISCUSSION – RESOLUTION TO PAY 10% MATCH (\$25,000-\$2,500)

Mayor Thompson states that at the MASC meeting they discussed grants that they are offering. He has given information to Robby Moody Senior Planner for CRPC to apply. The deadline is September 29th. The awnings downtown are in bad shape. The City has received (2) quotes on going back with the same cloth awnings but after looking at the awnings, he feels the City needs to go with replacing the cloth awnings with metal awnings and he has talked with a local person that does metal awnings. He has asked him to take a look at it and get some idea of what it would cost. The \$25,000 would help on this if the City can get that grant with a \$2,500 match.

4. DISCUSSION – LINE WARRANTY PROGRAM/FEE DISCUSSION

Mayor Thompson states that the service line warranty program is through the National League of Cities. It's volunteer and the citizens do not have to pay anything and the City of Union does not have to pay anything. The only thing the City does is put City's name on it to let customers know it is legitimate. They had a 40% increase on premiums. The Mayor states that he called the NLC and they stated that they went up on premiums because of clerical cost in getting information out. They increased the amount the customer is eligible for; right now it is at \$45,000. They have expanded the services. Mayor Thompson asked them to notify customers about the increase and they said that they would.

5. DISCUSSION – BUSINESS LICENSE PROCEDURE

Councilmember Morgan states that she received (2) different calls on the business license ordinance clarification. She states that one thing that she wants to try to accomplish as a councilmember is to attract citizens, businesses, and everything else we can for the City. She also states that she does not want council to do anything to discourage businesses to coming to the City so when she gets a phone call like this; she likes to give them a reason of why they should be here and when they have businesses in Charlotte and they have businesses in Greenville County and they say that they do not pay a business license; she ask what argument does she have with that. Also she asked the question of why a contractor would want to have a business in the city. Business License Coordinator Barbara Crayne states that people want to have their business located in the city for visibility.

C. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Council workshop adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2017.