

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018
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

The regular meeting of City Council was held on January 16, 2018 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, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja J. Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director - Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director and Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor.

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

OTHERS: Lawrence Flynn, Curtiss Hunter, Amy Belue, Walker Gallman, Judy Gallman, Rubin Morris, David Lance, Dan O’Shields, Kathy O’Shields, Ann Stevens Brown, Jerome Brown, Katherine Pendergrass, Isaac McKissick 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 19, 2017 Regular City Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B. Retirement Awards - Walker C. Gallman, Jr.
Rubin B. Morris

Walker C. Gallman, Jr. was presented with a retirement award for 26 years of service with the City of Union. Also Rubin B. Morris was presented with a retirement award for 30 years of service with the City of Union.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – CITY PARK LAND TRANSFER

City Attorney Larry Flynn states that City Council passed 1st reading of an ordinance to approve a deed transfer to the County, a five-acre tract that encompasses the ball park. Mr. Flynn states that he will have to make one minor change on the plat to make sure that the City is able to access or continue to access the City's easements and right-a-ways across that property. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MOSQUITO CONTROL CONTRACT

Mayor Thompson states that City Council had a workshop and also had Gregory Pest Solutions on two occasions discussing the mosquito control program. A recommendation is needed from City Council in order to move forward with this extermination process. Mr. Teague of Gregory Pest Solutions sent a flyer for council's review. At a previous meeting, Mr. Teague discussed financial arrangements for billing so that the City would not have to pay the full amount at one time. Mayor Thompson asked if there were any questions and, if not, he would need a motion in order to move on with the agreement for Gregory Pest Solutions. Councilmember Anthony asked a question regarding the briquettes that will go in the street drains. He asked if a big rain came after briquettes are put out, would the briquettes be washed away down the pipes and get hung up in the middle of the pipes. If so, this would not do the City any good; however he is good with the spraying. Mayor Thompson states that his understanding is that the briquettes will be stabilized but he can get Mr. Teague to come back to a meeting to answer that question. After a brief discussion by council, Mayor Thompson asked for a motion to table item until question regarding the briquettes can be answered by Mr. Teague.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to table item.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – ACKNOWLEDGING CHANGES TO THE PROGRAM POLICIES OF THE SC WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY

City Attorney Lawrence Flynn addressed City Council. Pursuant to the terms of "FY 2014 AMENDMENT TO ALL PRIOR SRF LOAN POLICIES" (the "***Policy Statement***"), the South Carolina Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority (the

“**Authority**”) released certain loan policy amendments which affected a modification to certain provisions of all prior major loan policies for both the Authority’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs (collectively, the “**SRF Policy Changes**”). The SRF Policy Changes included, among other things, modification of requirements related to the Authority’s policies regarding the establishment and maintenance of debt service reserve funds (restricted funds established as additional security for the City of Union’s debt in an amount equal to one-year of principal and interest payments). The Policy Statement provides that if an issuer maintains a rating of “A” or better from Standard & Poor’s and/or Moody’s Investors Service (“**Moody’s**”), then the reserve requirement (the amount required to be set-aside in the debt service reserve fund) is set (or in this case, reset) at \$0. Recently, the City of Union undertook the process to be rated by Moody’s. Based on their review, Moody’s assigned a rating of “A2” to the City’s combined public utility system; the A2 rating conforms to the requirements of the Policy Statement and the City now wishes to pursue the release the debt service reserve fund monies currently securing its 2008 SRF Bond, 2010 SRF Bond, 2011 SRF Bond, 2013B SRF Bonds (collectively, the “SRF” Bonds). The aggregate balance debt service reserve fund money currently on deposit equals \$633,200.59. The ordinance approves of certain changes to the ordinances approving the SRF Bonds and further provides for changes to the Loan Agreements under which the SRF Bonds were issued. City Council passed 1st reading of the ordinance at its December regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – APPROPRIATE FISCAL 2017-2018
MONIES FROM GENERAL FUND

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that on September 15, 2015, Mayor and Council passed a resolution to use local funds to match a \$500,000 Streetscape Grant at North Gadberry and North Pinckney Streets. The amount of the local match is estimated at \$58,705. Also during the demolition process, issues with drainage were discovered at the intersection of North Pinckney and Academy Street. The cost to repair the drainage issues amounted to \$41,703. The ordinance is to appropriate funding from the General Fund Fund Balance in the amount of \$100,408. City Council passed 1st reading at its December regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2ND reading of the budget adjustment ordinance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOSLY.

E. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – APPROPRIATE FISCAL 2017-2018
MONIES FROM UTILITY FUND

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that during the March 21, 2017 regular City Council Meeting Teresa Cawley, with Southern Municipal Advisors, Inc., made a presentation on “How You Prepare for a Bond Issue Rating”. By receiving an “A” bond credit rating or better the City would be able to request Debt Service Reserve Funds held by the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and be released back to the City Utility Fund. Also going forward by obtaining and maintaining a credit rating of “A”; SRF would not require a DSRF for future loans. This rating will also give flexibility to obtain funds from other institutions. The Mayor was authorized to contract with Southern Municipal Advisors, Inc. to assist staff in applying for a bond issue rating. On November 30, 2017, Moody’s Investor Services issued the City an “A2” bond rating for the General Fund and the Combined Utility Fund. The cost preparing the bond rating presentation and

review was approximately \$53,500, which includes a one-time fee of \$22,500 to the rating agency. The ordinance provides an appropriation from the Utility Fund to adjust the FY2018 Budget. City Council passed 1st reading at its December regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading.

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

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Mayor Thompson states that the regular city council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Due to a scheduling conflict with the Mayor and Council the February meeting needs to be rescheduled. The recommendation is to set February City Council meeting for February 13, 2018.

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

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

None

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Curtiss Hunter, Union County Tourism Director addressed City Council. She states that as everyone knows the Southeastern Treeing Walker Days Coon Hunt will be coming up the last weekend of February. The GMC Big Buck has moved their date to that weekend as well. Mrs. Hunter states that this could be catastrophic for them as two events are being held the same weekend. She has already reported this to County Council. She feels that we need to do better with our restaurants. She has gone to local restaurants in the past to give them information on events so that they will be able to accommodate a large number of people and not run out of food. These two events could possibly bring 30,000 people to Union County that weekend. She asked council for their thoughts of how do we get our local restaurants to provide the manpower and have the food because they don't seem to understand the magnitude of the events in Union. Last year one local restaurant ran out of ketchup and food. Ms. Hunter has spoken to all the surrounding Chamber of Commerce's and Union County Chamber of Commerce Director, Ms. Jamie Trammel asking for their help. Hotels as far as Columbia, SC for the Southeastern Treeing Walker Day Coon Hunt have already been booked out for the event. Also if anyone knows of any rental property, please let her know. Mrs. Hunter states that right now they are more worried about the Coon Hunt than the GMC but still since they are both in Union County, she is really concerned about the accommodations in the restaurants. Again she states that she needs council's thoughts on restaurants accommodations. Council briefly discussed ideas and thoughts on restaurants accommodations. The Tourism Director states that the Union County Tourism Commission is hand delivering letters and flyers to restaurants regarding the event. Mrs. Hunter states that there is about 5-1/2 more weeks before the event. The Southeastern Treeing Walker Days Coon Hunt will be held Thursday, February 22 through part of the day on Sunday, February 25th.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT/PMPA

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter regarding PMPA.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to go out of executive session back into regular session.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2018