

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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 November 20, 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 Morgan, Pamela Sloss, Ricky Harris and Sonja Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Not in attendance

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edward – Maintenance Shop Director; Melissa Youngblood, Media IT Director and Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor. Joe Nichols – Utility Director was absent due to surgery.

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

OTHERS: Eric Budds, Emma Garner, Dee Garner, William Browning, Jamie Tramell, Amy Belue, Carol Willis, Donna Anthony, Barbara Rippy, Jean Harris, Kathy Teague, DeWayne Hardy, Kenny Thomas, Katherine Pendergrass, Buddy Smith and David Lance

1. **OATH OF OFFICE - COUNCILMEMBERS:** Robert Garner, Pam Sloss and Tommy Anthony

Robert Garner, Pam Sloss and Tommy Anthony were seated as Councilmembers for Districts 1, 2 and 5 respectively in a general election held November 6, 2018. The Oath of Office was given by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

2. **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.

3. **MINUTES**

A. October 16, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports as information.
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 1. Deputy Executive Director - MASC Eric Budds
Presentation – Honor Roll Award

Eric Budds, Deputy Executive Director, addressed council. He states that on behalf of the Municipal Association of SC., he wanted to recognize the City of Union for its designation as an Honor Roll City within the MEO Institute. Mr. Budds also states that this is an elite group of members that are on the Honor Roll. There are a total of 12 municipalities out of 271 municipalities in the state that has made that designation in 2018. It recognizes the fact that during the course of the year in 2018, the City of Union had 100% of its members on council having completed the MEO Institute. He presented City Council with a plaque.

Mayor Thompson states that the City received another award. He asked Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers to comment on the award. She states that the City was elected as the South Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust's Division II Risk Management Award winner for 2018. The City was recognized during the Risk Management Services Annual Member meeting and received an engraved plaque and a \$2,500 monetary award.

2. Union County Foundation Buddy Smith

Buddy Smith states that he is in attendance representing the Union Community Foundation. He gave an update on the Board Members. Katherine Pendergrass was the immediate past Chair for 2017. Mr. Smith states that he is the current Chair; Lewis Jeter is set to succeed him. Other Board Members are Tommy Sinclair; Earl Black; William Holcombe; Glenn Ivey and Torance Inman. Robbie Littlejohn and Lisa Morris are Past Chair and Advisors. Troy Hanna is the President/CEO for the Spartanburg County Foundation. Mr. Smith states that all of the monies that is under the Union Community Foundation's jurisdiction is invested with the Spartanburg County Foundation and have professional investors that manage the money. He also gave an update on the 2018 grants received. They are the STEM/Robotics for Union County Schools for \$500 and Union County Carnegie Library in the amount of \$4,000. There are 38 funds invested with the Union Community Foundation totaling \$5.77 million. Union Community Foundation is "The General Affiliate Fund" and totals \$1.5 million as of September 30, 2018. That is the money that City Council invested with the Foundation originally; the one million dollars and that has grown to \$1.5 million. Mr. Smith lastly discussed growth. Funds in 2017 grew at a 12.1% rate. In 2018 the stock market has less than 1% growth. A ten year average for growth is 8.1%. Mayor Thompson asked Mr. Smith about the grant process regarding paperwork. Mr. Smith states that there are currently no requirements for specific paperwork. Councilmember Morgan states that the RISE Committee is pushing for a Downtown Revitalization type program. Councilmember Morgan states that this would be a great project for Union Community Foundation. It would affect the entire downtown and it would affect the city because it would help Union to grow. Lastly Councilmember Morgan states that she would like for the Union Community Foundation to consider this program. Mr. Smith states that in the case of a specific request, there would probably need to be a write up on that.

3. Main Street Trash Receptacles/Parking

Barbara Rippy

Barbara Rippy, 126 Heritage Way, addressed council regarding the following items: Parking Problems on Main Street, Museum Parking; (people parking overnight), Apartment above the Museum; Trash Cans on Main Street – need to be washed out; Downtown Awnings – Covers are torn down or hanging down. Mayor Thompson states that these items will be discussed at Monday's meeting.

4. Union County Museum

Carol Willis

Carol Willis, 120 Highland Drive, addressed council. She states that she is in attendance representing the Union County Museum. She states that they have watched some illegal activities on Main Street going on such as drug deals and prostitution. She also discussed parking for the Museum. Next she states that since July they have had over 2,000 genealogic resources donated by Union Carnegie Library. Mr. Willis states that they are now the source for research in Union County. She thanked council for listening to their problems and they appreciate any help that council can provide.

5. Street Lights on Pine Tree Lane & Lakeside Dr. - William Browning

William Browning, 1111 Lakeside Manor Apartments, addressed council regarding a lightening issue on Lakeside Drive past the Lil Cricket at the top of the hill. He states that the area is dark. Next he states that there are three houses on the left and between those house, there is a dark area. He also states that there are trees growing over the highway that can obstruct the view of the motorist that is traveling on the highway. Mr. Browning is asking that light poles be installed between the three houses because of safety issues. Next he discussed lightening issue on Lakeside Drive when turning onto Pinetree Lane. Lastly he discussed replacing bulbs with a higher watt in that area.

Mayor Thompson states that the electric crew has been working in that area and he will get an update from them.

5. **BUSINESS**

A. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

In accordance with City Code, City Council must elect a Mayor Pro Tempore to serve in the Mayor's absence. This should be done at Council's first regular meeting after the new Council is seated. Council voted by ballot to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore to serve for the next two years. Councilmember Garner received (7) votes. He was elected as Mayor Pro Tempore.

B. RESOLUTION – SAFETY STATEMENT

Mayor Thompson states that as part of our Safety Program and SCMIRF Risk Self-Assessment, our governing body should adopt a policy/statement by resolution after every election. On an annual basis the top administrative official of each member entity should issue a memo to employees stating the policy outlining reporting procedures for incidents. It is recommended, but not required that documentation be made of each employee's receipt of a copy of the policy. The recommendation is to pass resolution for Safety Statement.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the Safety Statement Resolution
SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. DISCUSSION – BLUE SKY UPDATE

Mayor Thompson states that he made contact with the artist “Blue Sky” about making minor repairs and touch up painting to the train mural on Sharpe Avenue. After speaking to “Blue Sky”, Mayor Thompson feels that a decision needs to be made in regards to the conversations. The recommendation is for Council to make suggestions as how the City should proceed with getting repairs made to the train mural on Sharpe Avenue. After a brief discussion between council, the Mayor asked Finance Director Laura Hembree to explain the process for a contractor who does not have worker’s comp insurance. The Finance Director states that the City is charged a percentage of the labor, only for that part, and it is passed on to the contractor. Mayor Thompson states that he will contact “Blue Sky” again to see if they can work out the worker’s comp insurance issue.

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – TEN AT THE TOP CONTRIBUTION

Mayor Thompson states that Ten at the Top will celebrate their tenth anniversary in 2019. Mayor Thompson is an Emeritus Member of the TATT Board of Directors. Board members are a critical part of this organization. 2018 was a successful year for this group and for the 10 counties at the top of the upstate. With a month and half left in 2018, TATT has already engaged more than 4,000 participants in 85 regional engagements. The 2018 Upstate Regional Summit was a great success with nearly 800 participants focusing in how the Upstate can “Win the Future around Economic Vitality and Quality of Life”. Maintaining financial stability is a crucial challenge for TATT. 90 percent of the current board members have provided financial support in 2018 and the goal is 100 percent participation. A high percentage of support from the Emeritus Board Members is also encouraged to finish the year financially strong and get a quick start toward supporting the many events and programs already planned for 2019. Staff recommends that we make a contribution to “TEN AT THE TOP” to aid in their success for 2018 and support what lies in the future of 2019 for the Upstate.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to make contribution in the amount of \$1,000

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. WBCU’S ANNUAL “OPERATION STOCKING STUFFER” CAMPAIGN

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU will be hosting its annual “Operation Stocking Stuffer” Campaign again this year. Items such as hats, gloves, and socks will be delivered to our local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. WBCU is offering the following levels of opportunity to help and participate this holiday season: **Angel** (100) 30 Second Commercials; Promotional Announcements; Items and cards delivered in your name and **Tree** – (50) 30 Second Commercials; Promotional Announcements; Items and Cards delivered in your name. A motion is needed from Council to sponsor WBCU’s Operation Stocking Stuffer Campaign

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to sponsor the WBCU’s Operation Stocking Stuffer Campaign in the amount of \$600

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – PMPA – CATAWBA PROJECT POWER SALES AGREEMENT – RENEWAL/EXTENSION – LETTER OF INTENT

Assistant Utility Director Adam Harris states that the City of Union entered into an agreement with Navigant Consulting, Inc. to evaluate power supply costs for the City with continued participation in the Catawba Unit 2 nuclear power plant compared to other power supply options. Navigant reviewed existing contractual agreements and a study report previously completed by GDS Associates. Based on Navigant's energy and capacity market price projections and projected cost for Catawba Unit 2, Navigant has concluded that participation in Catawba Unit 2 is a lower cost option for the City of Union. The recommendation is to execute the Letter of Intent relating to the extension of the Piedmont Municipal Power – Catawba Project Power Sales Agreement.

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

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – 2018 WORKSHOP

Mayor Thompson states that he would like to schedule a December 2018 Workshop. The recommendation is for City Council to decide on a date and time for a December City Council Workshop. The Workshop will be held December 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

H. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENT PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTOR COMMISSION AND POLL WORKERS

Mayor Thompson states that on September 30, 2018, Public Service Director Perry Harmon retired with 25 years of service from the City of Union. After his retirement, the position of Public Service Director was filled temporarily by Kenny Thomas. Kenny has been working with the Public Service Department since 1987. He has been in a leadership capacity for 21 of his 31 years of dedicated service to the City of Union. The position of Public Service Director is an appointed position. Staff recommendation is for council to appoint Kenny Thomas, employee of 31 years in the Public Service Department to the Public Service Director position.

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

I. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BEGIN PROCESS TO HIRE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Thompson states that a special election was held January 2018 with a yes/no referendum on the ballot to change the City of Union's form of government. The referendum passed and as of July 1, 2018, the City of Union's form of Government changed from Strong Mayor-Council form of government to Council-Mayor form of Government. The recommendation is that Union City Council begin the process of City Administrator to oversee the day-to day operations of the City of Union.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to begin the process of hiring a CEO immediately and include finalizing the job description and advertisement at the December workshop and also have MASC assist with all steps to ensure a timely and efficient process
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

J. AWARD BID – BUCKET TRUCK REPLACEMENT FOR VEHICLE #719

Assistant Utility Director Adam Harris states that the City solicited bids for a bucket truck to replace Vehicle #719, a 1990 GMC Bucket Truck. Two (2) vendors submitted separate bids for bucket trucks mounted on a 4 x 2 and 4 x 4 truck body: Altec; Bucket mounted on 4 x 2 Truck Body - \$214,685 and Bucket mounted on a Truck Body - \$229,780; Terex – Bucket mounted on 4 x2 Truck Body - \$209,338 and Bucket mounted on a 4 x 4 Truck Body - \$223,927. Capital Expenditures of \$220,000 were allocated in the budget to purchase to purchase this equipment. The current odometer reading on Vehicle #719 is 51,441. The recommendation is to award bid to Terex in the amount of \$209,338 for a Bucket Truck mounted on a 4 x 2 Truck. The recommendation is to award bid to Terex in the amount of \$209,338 for a Bucket Truck mounted on a 4 x 2 Truck.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

K. AWARD BID – TOSCH CREEK WWTP NORTH CLARIFIER REHABILITATION

Assistant Utility Director Adam Harris states that bids were received on November 15, 2018 at City Hall for Rehabilitation of the North Clarifier at Tosch Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Work under this section of painting the clarifier equipment, replacing the unitube header and other minor items not specifically mentioned to obtain a reliable, fully operable and painted system. Two (2) bids were received for this project: JL Construction, Co., Inc. - \$102,500 and Smith Backhoe & Construction LLC - \$85,045. The bid summary and recommendation letter from the engineer was presented. The recommendation is to accept bid from Smith Backhoe & Construction, LLC in the amount of \$85,045.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Katherine Pendergrass, 104 West Main Street, addressed Council. She states that there will be a Job Fair at Union County High School March 27, 2019. This is being sponsored by the CATE Center, Union County Development Board and SC Works. She states that Dalton Williams of the Union County Development Board will be contacting City Council to see if they will serve hotdogs that day.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson thanked all the Department Heads and City Employees for the great job that they have been doing for the City of Union and the recognition for the SCMIRF Award.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to adjourn

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Council Meeting
November 20, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2018