

**MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019
5:30 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 (e).}

A special council meeting was held on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 5:00 P.M. at the City Municipal building with the following present:

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

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director, Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director and Melissa Youngblood – Media IT Director

NEWS MEDIA: Graham Williams – Union County News; Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio and Charles Warner – Union Times

OTHERS: Jeff Shacker, Jackie Earls, Keiston Gibson, Jamie Trammell, Curtiss Hunter, Toccoa Switzer, Kathy Teague, Rieta Drinkwine, Annie Smith and others

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/MOTION – ENVIROMENTAL ART FESTIVAL C/O PIEDMONT PHYSIC GARDEN

Toccoa Switzer informed City Council that the Piedmont Physic Garden had been awarded a \$3,000 Elevate Upstate Grant as part of a vibrancy initiative established by Ten at the Top and the Hughes Investment of Greenville. A matching grant will allow them to start an environmental art festival in the historic center of downtown Union. Ms. Switzer is making a request to the City Council to fund one half (\$1,500) of the required match to receive the \$3,000 matching grant. A commitment of the matching funds is required March of this year. Ms. Switzer states that they are also requesting \$1,500 from Union County. The recommendation by staff is that the Council approves the \$1,500 to the Piedmont Physic Garden for the matching grant.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION - UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

Rieta Drinkwine addressed council to explain and take questions regarding the University Hospital City Partnership Bike Share Program. Ms. Drinkwine states that a couple of years ago, with the County, they started with a Walkability/Bike ability assessment and then she actually served on the Pedestrian Planning Committee. She also states that they passed this information along to the Bike Share Program to see how Union could incorporate bikes into the community. The Spartanburg Regional

Grant cycle just started for the year and she reached out to USC-Union to look for ways to improve use of local facilities and improve access to the facilities and increase the amount of bikes and pedestrians out in the community and hopefully attract more college students. Annie Smith of USC-Union also addressed council. She feels that the Bike Share Program would be a huge asset and incentive to USC campus because they have about 70 to 75 % low-income students. This will help with car issues and gas, etc. Ms. Drinkwine requested support from the City in implementing a Bike Share Loan Program here in Union. They want to pilot the program focusing on USC Union's students. They would like to start with a few Kiosk that are docking stations where students can borrow the bikes under a student membership which is an annual charge per year to use bike. Also Rieta states that Robby Moody of CRPC is assisting them on the planning and the business plan. They want to roll out the Bike Share Program by the spring. She next states that Paul with the hospital has submitted a request to the Spartanburg Regional Foundation as a letter of intent for \$25,000 towards this program. They want to work with the City of Union looking at Foster Park as being one of a docking locations and future expansion at Timken Sports Complex. She states that they would like to get an idea on the City's support for this program by their grant deadline which is March 22, 2019. Councilmember Craig asked Rieta if the program is seeking funding from the City. Rieta states that they are looking for long time support and the goal is that the Bike Share Program generates enough revenue to its own program. The first couple of years will be a pilot program and they want to look at ways the City can help maintain that since there they want to put a kiosk at Foster Park. She is asking the City to contribute to a matching grant with the hospital and she states that they are talking to other foundations and USC- Union to identify all of the funding sources available. The total cost for three kiosk and 5 bikes is approximately \$75,000 and Spartanburg Regional Foundation is looking at covering the cost of one kiosk biking station. She states that Spartanburg always has a program similar to the Bike Share Program. Mayor Thompson states that he would like to get a little more background information on Spartanburg's program and council will discuss at the March meetings Councilmembers asked questions regarding t the Bike Share Program Mayor Thompson states that council would like any forthcoming information about the program.

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UPPER UNION COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION TRAVEL BASKETBALL TEAM

Mayor Thompson states that this item was tabled at the February regular meeting. A motion and second is needed from council to take from table and place back on the agenda.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to take from the table

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UPPER UNION COUNTY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Mayor Thompson states that the Upper Union County Athletic Association is an organization trying to mentor and help our youth. Ms. Keiston Gibson and Mr. Jackie Earls were in attendance to explain what the Union Upper County Athletic Association Travel Basketball Team's goals are and its benefits to the youth of Union County. There was also a question and answer discussion on the UUCA Association. They requested a donation to cover tournaments costs, travel fees, insurance fees, lodging, uniforms, etc. The Mayor states that if council is in favor of making a donation to the Upper Union County Athletic Association, a motion to the amount and a second is needed.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to make a donation in the amount of \$500
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Pro Tem Garner asked Ms. Gibson and Mr. Earls to try to look into securing some other facilities and maybe they can do a tournament which will help the City use some of the hospitality funding if the tournament brought people into Union.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MONARCH FIRE DEPARTMENT 5K RUN/WALK

Mayor Thompson states that Monarch Fire Department will hold the 6th annual MFD Color to 5K Run/Walk and Festival at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Monarch Fire Department. If council approves participation, a motion as to what level of participation and a second is needs.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to table request for 5K Run/Walk until council gets additional information
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – AMERICAN LEGION POST 22

Mayor Thompson states that the American Legion Post 22 will sponsor a Low Country Boil at the Veterans Memorial Park Lodge on Thursday, April 18, 2019. The fundraising event is to support American Legion Post 22. A table sponsor (8 per table) is \$250 and individual ticket is \$40.00

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan not to use City funds and each councilmember make their own donation or buy ticket from American Legion Post 22
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. WBCU – MIRACLES AND MEDICINE

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU Radio will be hosting a benefit for the USC-Union Nursing School. There will be music, plenty of food and door prizes. All proceeds will go to the USC-Union School of Nursing Program. If council approves a sponsorship package, a motion as to what level of sponsorship and a second is needed.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to fund WBCU Miracles and Medicine in the amount of \$500
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION CIVITAN PANCAKE DAY

Mayor Thompson states that the Union Civitan Club will hold their annual Pancake Day on March 21st at Mon-Aetna Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Lockhart Hwy., Union. There are three levels of sponsorship: Platinum Sponsor - \$100 or more (8) tickets; Gold Sponsor - \$50 to \$99 (4) tickets and Silver Sponsor - \$25 to \$49 (2) tickets. As a Pancake Partner your name will be advertised in the Union County News and your name will be continuously announced on WBCU Radio

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve a sponsorship at the same level as last year \$100

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION COUNTY CHAMBER ANNUAL BANQUET**

Jamie Trammell, Executive Director of the Union County Chamber Annual Banquet states that the Chamber’s Annual Awards Banquet will be held Thursday, March 28, 2019 at the Main Street Junction. It’s a time for celebrating and honoring local Businesses and industries, as well as individuals that impact Union in a positive way. This year speaker is Glenn Ward and the theme is “Denim & Pearls”. Tickets are \$50 which includes dinner and entertainment plus a nice evening of net-working. Mayor Thompson states that if council plans to attend, a motion and a second are needed, and level of participation.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to participate in the Union County Chamber Annual Banquet at the level of \$500 (table)

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

J. **ORDINANCE – 2nd READING – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CITY OF UNION ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING AUTOMOBILE CAR WASHES**

Mayor Thompson states that City Council passed 1st reading of the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance regarding automobile car washes at its February regular council meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACTUAL AND PERSONNEL ISSUES**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel issues concerning resumes for the City Administrator

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Councilmember Craig to come out of executive session back into regular session

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No action taken

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Special Council Meeting
Monday, February 25, 2019

Council meeting adjourned at 7:07 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2019