

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020
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 Tuesday, June 16, 2020 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, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig

CITY ATTORNEY: Absent

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/HR Director; Joe Nichols – City Administrator; Mark Brown – Utility Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edwards – Fleet Maintenance Director; Dwayne Hardy – Public Service Director ; Robbie McGee- Captain and Wade Hampton – Municipal Judge

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

OTHERS: Amy McGee, Penny Smith, Curtiss Hunter, Josie White, Katherine Pendergrass, Effie Robinson, Jared Smith, Sr. and David Gioia

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. May 19, 2020 Council Workshop

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

B. May 19, 2020 Public Hearing

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. May 19, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. June 9, 2020 Special Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes
SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

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

4. **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION/RETIREMENT**

City Administrator Joe Nichols recognized employees for their years of service with the City of Union.

- A. Chief Sam White – 37 years
- B. Judge Wade Hampton – 51 years
- C. Effie Robinson - 11 years

5. **UPDATE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – PROPOSED BUDGET ORDINANCE 2020- 2021**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that fiscal year 2020-2021 Proposed Budget All Funds Summary is \$44,868,530, an increase of 2.19% over Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The General Fund's projected revenues are \$6,002,620. Expenditures are proposed at \$6,454,220. This leaves a deficit of \$451,600 to be funded by fund balance. Taxpayers will receive a credit against their property taxes, due to local option sales tax revenue. The tax millage will remain the same at 89.8 mills. A \$5 disposal fee will be added to the 2020 tax notices. Capital equipment and improvements in the amount of \$129,240 are included in the proposed expenditures amount above. The Solid Waste Management fund has a budget of \$860,070, an increase of less than 1%. The garbage pickup fee will remain the same at \$17 per month. The Utility Fund projected revenues are \$34,322,440. Expenses are proposed at \$36,760,300, an increase of 3.17% over last year's budget. The deficit of \$2,437,860 will be funded by retained earnings. No electric rate increase is proposed, but the PPA will continue to true up the cost of power each month. No rate increases are proposed for water or sewer customers. Natural gas base rates will not increase, but the PGA will continue to true up the cost of gas each month. Capital infrastructure costs of \$5,989,750 are included in the total utility proposed expenses above. No 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 2020-2021 proposed budgets:

a. Local Hospitality & Accommodations	\$438,000
b. Main Street Junction	\$138,940
c. Economic Development	\$100,000
d. Drug Fund	\$ 7,000
e. Community Change	\$ 20,000

f. Debt Service-Tax Increment \$ 90,000

City Council passed 1st reading of ordinance for proposal budget for 2020-2021 at its May regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to pass 2nd reading of proposed budget ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – TAX LEVY ORDINANCE

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that the proposed Tax Levy for FY 2020-2021 is 89.8 mills. City Council passed 1st reading of the ordinance at its May regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading of an ordinance to adopt Tax Levy for 2020-2021.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2ND reading of the Tax Levy Ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – DISPOSAL FEE ORDINANCE

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that a proposed \$5.00 disposal fee will be added to the 2020 tax notices. A motion is needed from council to approve 2nd reading of the ordinance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2nd reading of the Disposal Fee Ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION/MOTION - PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCIES (2)

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that City Council must fill two (2) vacancies on the Planning Commission for expired terms. These positions are four-year terms to expire June 30, 2023 and are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The positions were solicited by public record in the local newspaper May 11, 2020 and June 1, 2020 and on social media. Request to serve letters, voting ballots and public notice were presented to council. Letters to serve on Planning Commission were received from Mary Norman, Weldon Rodgers and Oscar Gist. Council voted by ballot and the results are as follows: Mary Norman – 7 votes; Weldon Rodgers – 5 votes and Oscar Gist – 2 votes. Mary Norman and Weldon Rodgers were appointed to serve on the Planning Commission.

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION - UNION ELECTION COMMISSION VACANCY

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that there is a vacancy on the City of Union Election Commission to fill an expired term ending June, 2026. A public notice ran in the Union County News soliciting candidates. There was only one letter of interest received from Melissa Brown. Ms. Brown is seeking re-appointment to the Board. A motion from City Council to re-

appoint Melissa Brown to the City of Union Municipal Election Commission Board is needed.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to re-appoint Melissa Brown to the Election Commission Board.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **AWARD/BID – AWING REPLACEMENT PHASE II**

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union has advertised for the second phase of awning replacements on Main Street in downtown Union. Bids were received by EnviroAwning - \$24,425 and Greenville Awning Company in the amount of \$16,786. Staff recommendation to award bid to a qualified bidder.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to award bid to Greenville Awning Company in the amount of \$16,786

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – ADDITIONS TO CITY OF UNION UTILITIES POLICY MANUAL**

Finance Director states that the City is implementing an after-hours call center program through IUC, located in Marietta, GA. This program will go live July 1, 2020. As part of the implementation process, the City is looking at streamlining the disconnection and reconnection procedures for non-payment accounts. Currently, the City disconnects all applicable services (electric, water, and gas) if a bill is unpaid by the cutoff date. The City's reconnection policy is not specific and does not dictate what time during the night that we stop restoring service. The policy does state that a \$75 after-hours fee must be paid, along with the bill amount due, by 10 a.m. the following business day, or services will be disconnected again. The dispatchers at IUC need specific policies ready, so that they are prepared to properly respond to after-hours calls. Based on discussions with IUC and other cities and utility providers, City staff has come up with two cost effective options to streamline the reconnection process after non-payment disconnections. Either of the options would give the dispatchers more concrete information to pass along to after-hours callers. Staff recommendation is to approve an after-hours reconnection policy. The Finance Director presented an Option 1 and an Option 2 to City Council for the additions to the City of Union Utilities Policy Manual for the after-hours reconnection policy.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to approve Option 1 with recommended changes as per Council's discussion

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson states that he had a citizen to call in regards to changing a street name.

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the new tables have come in for the Farmer's Market

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. PLEASE ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FROM THE LECTERN AND STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD (COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3-5 MINUTES)

Curtiss Hunter, Director of Tourism addressed City Council. She states that she has applied for (10) Garbage Receptacles for Main Street through Palmetto Pride

. David Gioi of 411 Foster Street addressed Council regarding the Noise Ordinance.

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER**

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to go out of regular session into executive to discuss a personnel matter

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to go out of executive session into regular session

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No action taken

11. **ADJOURMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers
Certified Municipal Clerk/HR Director

Minutes approved _____ 2020