

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

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(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, May 19, 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 and Dwayne Hardy – Public Service Director

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

**OTHERS:** Josie White, Penny Smith, Jared Smith, John Gist, John Sheriff, Jamie Trammell, David Gioia 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. April 21, 2020 - Regular Council Meeting

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

B. May 5, 2020 Special Council Meeting

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

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept monthly reports as

information only  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **RETIREMENT AWARD** – CLARENCE AUTON

Clarence Auton retired with 25 years of service; however he was not in attendance.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – REAUTHORIZE AND AMEND  
EMERGENCY ORDINANCE RELATED TO ELECTRONIC MEETINGS**

City Administrator states that on March 13, 2020, South Carolina Governor, Henry McMaster issued an executive order related to COVID-19 and declared that a state of emergency existed in South Carolina. On March 17, 2020, the City Council of the City of Union, as the governing body of the City of Union, South Carolina, enacted an Emergency Ordinance, dated March 17, 2020, to temporarily authorize electronic meetings and to suspend other local procedural rules. Consistent with South Carolina law, the provisions of the Emergency Ordinance were set to automatically expire on May 17, 2020, which is the sixty-first day following the enactment. It has been determined that a public health threat still exist due to COVID-19. The Governing Body finds that it is additionally necessary to amend the Emergency Ordinance to make provisions for conducting public hearings using electronic means in order for the Governing Body to receive public comment as needed to conduct meetings as required by law. It has been determined by the Governing Body that a public emergency affecting life, health and safety does still exist and finds it necessary to extend the provisions of the Emergency Ordinance, dated March 17, 2020, as amended by the attached Ordinance. The provisions shall be affective upon a single hearing and two-thirds vote of the Governing Body and shall expire on the sixty-first day following the effective date of May 19, 2020. Staff recommends that Council approve the reauthorization and amendment to the Emergency Ordinance for electronic meetings and other matters effective May 19, 2020.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 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

The recommendation is to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance for proposal budget for 2020-2021.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of proposed budget ordinance

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – TAX LEVY ORDINANCE**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that the proposed Tax Levy for FY 2020-2021 is 89.8 mills. The recommendation is to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of an ordinance to adopt Tax Levy for 2020-2021.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Tax Levy Ordinance

**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**E. AWARD BID – TENNIS COURT REHAB**

Utility Director Mark Brown states that bids were received on May 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. for Tennis Courts Rehab at Foster Park. Seven bids were received:

Howard B. Jones	\$ 99,500
Faulker Development	\$169,000
Court One	\$ 99,486
Lesly Courts & Paving, Inc.	\$ 80,000
McGrath Industries	\$ 89,326
Advanced Athletic Surfaces	\$ 17,480
Sport Court Carolina	\$138,910

Staff reviewed bids and only one bid did not qualify. The bid summary and vendor comparison sheet was presented to council. The recommendation is to accept bid from Lesly Courts & Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$80,000.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Craig asked if there was any funding for sidewalks. The City Administrator states that SCDOT awarded the City \$10,000 for concrete; however, the funding can only be used for state roads. Mayor Pro Tem Garner asked if the City had any funding for City streets repairs. The City Administrator states that at this time the City does not, but can start putting funding for City street repairs back in the budget as was previously done.

7. **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)

David Gioia addressed council regarding recycling .

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner 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 Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

No action taken

9. **ADJOURMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers  
Certified Municipal Clerk/HR Director

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2020