

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

[Summary minutes of City Council meeting. All 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, November 17, 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 Greg Addison

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/HR Director; Joe Nichols – City Administrator; Mark Brown – Utilities Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Robbie McGee – Interim Public Safety Director and Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director

NEWS MEDIA: Daniel Prince – WBCU Radio and Graham Williams – Union County News

OTHERS: Bruce Morgan, Emma Addison, Sawyer Addison, Jamie Trammell, Curtiss Hunter, Lori Brown, David Gist, Bill Randell, Brad Goodall, Kathy Teague, Jean Harris, Michael Todd Harris and David Gioia

1. OATH OF OFFICE: MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Harold Thompson – Mayor; Vicki Morgan – District 3; Ricky Todd Harris – District 4 and Greg Addison – District 6 were seated on City Council in a General Election held on November 3, 2020. The oath of office was given by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Brad Goodall 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 20, 2020 Public Hearing Meeting

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

B. October 20, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information only

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAILEY BILL

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that this is an ordinance amending Section 22-29 of the City's Code of Ordinances in order to fully implement the Bailey Bill (Sections 4-9-195 and 5-21-140, South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended in the City and other matters related thereto. Mr. Nichols states that it gives anyone the ability to come in and buy an old facility/building and as long as it meets certain criteria, they can come in and upgrade this piece of property and get special incentives such as tax relief and property tax relief for a number of years; mainly Main Street in order to work with someone to open up a restaurant. City Council passed 1st reading at it October regular meeting.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance implementing the Bailey Bill as amended

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Mayor Thompson states that at this time, City Council will vote on a Mayor Pro Tem. In accordance with state and city code, council must elect a Mayor Pro Tempore to serve for a term of not more than two years. The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as Mayor during the Mayor's absent or disability. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore serves as Mayor until a successor is elected. This should be done at council's first meeting after the new council is seated. Council voted by ballot to elect a Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner received 7 votes. He was re-elected as Mayor Pro Tempore.

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020-2024

Mayor Thompson states that City Council has had a chance to look over the Department Committee Members list for the term 2020-2022 that was presented to them. He asked if there were any questions from Council. The list is as follows:

Finance: Chair – Ricky Harris
Harold Thompson
Robert Garner
Tommy Anthony

Public Safety: Chair – Vicki Morgan
Robert Garner
Ricky Harris

**Public Works, Shop/
Main Street Junction**
Chair: Pamela Sloss
Vicki Morgan
Tommy Anthony

Utility: Chair – Tommy Anthony
Greg Addison
Pamela Sloss

Planning, Development
Chair – Harold Thompson
Pamela Sloss
Gregg Addison

**Personnel/Human
Resource:** Chair – Robert Garner
Ricky Harris
Harold Thompson

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Morgan thanked Union County Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter for the decorations on Main Street. She states that it really looks good and Mrs. Hunter has done a great job.

Councilmember Morgan also talked about the houses and businesses that need to be torn down. She is requesting a meeting with Joe Nichols, Frank Hart, Code Enforcement, Kathy Teague and a couple of councilmembers from the City and County. She wants the group to talk about a solution for this. Councilmember Morgan states that she, along with other councilmembers, has houses in their districts that should have been torn down years ago. She has talked with David Kitchens again today about this and states that the process is being done but the condemnation of the houses is not happening. Mayor Thompson states that he will plan a Workshop for this. City Administrator Joe Nichols states that there are about 22 houses throughout the City and County for condemnation but there is a big problem getting a clear title to tear them down. He further states that the City has a \$500,000 grant and \$100,000 in matching funds for condemnation but the process does take a long time. Councilmember Morgan replied that she and David Kitchens have talked about houses that are not on the grant program.

Mayor Thompson states that last week the Transportation Committee met and there may be funding coming to do some street work.

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)**

Jami Trammell, Union County Chamber of Commerce Director made several announcements:

- Downtown Christmas Parade will be held Friday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m. and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held immediately after the parade

- Junior Charity League Expo will be held November 21st at the Fairgrounds
- The County & Chamber are doing a Drive-In Movie on November 21st at night at the Fairgrounds; tickets may be purchased online; \$10 a car
- Dedication for Depot; 3rd week in December
- BI-LO will be closing December 5 and KJ's will open on December 11th
- Roses will be opening on November 19th

Councilmember Addison announced that the Downtown Merchants will have Christmas Open House on Thursday, November 19th, 2020.

David Gist, 121 Willow Lane addressed council regarding the closing of West Henrietta Street. Mr. Gist states that he read in the newspaper that the street was closing because of the crime, shootings and drug activities. He feels that there is crime all over S.C; not just in that particular area. Mr. Gist further states that it is not good to control one area and asked council to change their minds about closing the street. He feels there are other ways to deter crime in the area such as having a basketball goal for youths; lights at the baseball field; playground that is not fenced-in. Also he feels that closing the street makes neighborhood look bad. He presented a petition to not close the street with signatures from residents in the area to the Mayor.

David Gioia, 411 Foster Street addressed council regarding coronavirus information. He states that he called CDC and they said there is no mandatory vaccine right now but they do share ways to prevent. Mr. Gioia states that he used natural prevention remedies for coronavirus which can be googled on the website.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm

Gloria J. Rogers
Certified Municipal Clerk/HR Director

Minutes approved _____ 2020