

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2012
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 (e).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal Building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson; Mayor Pro Tem Keith Henderson; Councilmembers Robert Garner; Tommie L. Hill, Sr., Ricky Todd Harris and Jim Wilson. Councilmember Orangelow Ruff was absent due to illness.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor and Gregg Pickens – Captain. Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director was absent.

NEWS MEDIA: Graham Williams – Union County News; Derik Vanderford – Union Times and Steve Ramsey – WBCU Radio.

OTHERS: Charles Coyne, Jean V. Harris, Michael Todd Harris, Teresa Wilson, Bob Love, Ben Powles and Olivia Henderson.

1. OATH OF OFFICE: MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS

Harold E. Thompson was seated as Mayor in a General Election held on November 6, 2012. Keith Henderson – District 3, Ricky Harris – District 4 and Jim Wilson – District 6 were seated as Councilmembers in a General Election held on November 6, 2012. The oath of office was given by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem 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, 2012 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports.
SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Union Events Center – Bob Love

Bob Love, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union Events Center addressed Council. He states that on July 25, 2012 City Council approved the Board's request to enter into a consulting agreement with First Community Development with existing funds in the amount of \$10,000. First Community will review fund raising material, contract and commitments to date and determine steps to help the City reach their goal. Currently the board has raised nearly 2.5 million for the project, with a final \$1.6 million to go. Mr. Love states that First Community is excellent to work with and has already set up meetings with several major donors. He should be able to give council an update on the fund raising efforts in about 90 days. .

After Mr. Love's presentation, Mayor Thompson states that a Special Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 26, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

5. **BUSINESS**

A. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

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 absence 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. City Council voted for Mayor Pro Tempore by ballot. Councilmember Keith Henderson received 5 votes and Councilmember Tommie Hill, Sr. received 1 vote. Councilmember Henderson will serve as Mayor Pro Tempore for the next two years.

B. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING –AMENDING BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE PROVISION FOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

Finance Director Walker Gallman addressed Council regarding amending the business license provision for insurance companies. The Municipal Association of S.C. has been the City's agent to collect business license fees from insurance companies and non-admitted insurance brokers since July 20, 1993. As a result of legislation passed in the 2012 session of the South Carolina General Assembly, all cities must amend their business license ordinance concerning insurance companies and non-admitted insurance brokers. The legislation was signed into law on June 29, 2012 by the Governor. The new law required the SC Department of Insurance to collect and deposit the revenue into a special account, separate from the General Assembly's general fund. The law also authorizes the MASC to serve as the Municipal Agent to receive the funds from the Department of Insurance and distribute the funds to the municipalities. In order to comply with the new state law the City needs to adopt ordinance and execute a new agreement with the MASC. In summary, the rates are combined into a single rate of 6%, but preserve the designation of collecting a 4% state tax and a 2% municipal broker's premium tax. The MASC will continue to retain 4% of all funds collected or received by the Association. City Council passed 1st reading of the ordinance at its October regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Municipal Association of S.C.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MEANSVILLE RILEY WATER COMPANY
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATE SOURCE OF WATER

Utility Director Nichols presented a letter to City Council from Meansville-Riley Water Company requesting permission to tie-on to Woodruff-Roebuck Water District in southern Spartanburg (Enoree area). Meansville-Riley Water District is pursuing an alternate source of water to minimize the trihalomethanes in its water system in the Spartanburg County area, as well as to improve other aspects of water service to its customers. The recommendation is to grant Meansville-Riley Water Company permission to pursue an alternate source of water.

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

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Regular City Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The December 2012 meeting will fall on the 18th which is the week before Christmas. If Council decides to change the date of the December meeting a motion is needed.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to change meeting date to December 11, 2012.
SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – WBCU “OPERATION STOCKING STUFFER”

WBCU – “Operation Stocking Stuffer” is a project for local nursing homes where toiletry items and a card are delivered to nursing home patients. There are two levels of sponsorship available. The “Angel” sponsorship total investment is \$850 and the “Tree” sponsorship total investment is \$550. Should Council decide to participate a motion is needed.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson to participate in the \$850 sponsorship.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UCHS “ FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA”

The Union County High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) has several students that are currently preparing for the privilege of competing in the district conference. They are in hopes of making it to the state and national level competitions. In order for them to attend this year’s conference, they are asking for the City’s support. Should Council decide to participate a motion is needed. Council briefly discussed the request. The request did not state how much support is needed. Mayor Thompson will contact a representative at Union County High School to get additional information and it will be put on the January 2013 regular council agenda. The state competition will not be held until April 12-15, 2013.

G. DISCUSSION – PUBLIC SAFETY – NEW VEHICLE

Chief Sam White addressed Council. He states that at the 2012/2013 budget meeting back in early spring, Public Safety Department requested five vehicles to be used for patrol vehicles. After much review the department has concerns about what vehicle. They are presently using the Chevrolet Impala due to the Crown Victoria being phased out. There is not enough room in the Impala. The department's objection is to select the best patrol vehicle for the operation of public safety. Chief White discussed several vehicles. The vehicles discussed included the Impala, Dodge Charger, Caprice, Ford Sedan, Ford Utility Police Interceptor and the Chevrolet Tahoe. He feels that the Tahoe is the better vehicle for the mission of the Public Safety Department. The Tahoe is less expensive at purchase, is projected to have a better resale value and is less expensive to maintain and repair and has better gas mileage.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Council wished Councilmember Ricky Harris a happy birthday and Mayor Thompson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record. (Please limit your comment to 3-6 minutes)

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Councilmember Hill to adjourn
SECOND by Councilmember Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2012