

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

{Summary minutes of City Council meeting. 8uAudio 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 4

The regular meeting of City Council was held on February 15, 2022, 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, Ricky Harris and Pamela Sloss. Councilmembers Chasity Pearson and Greg Addison was absent

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/HR Director; Joe Nichols – City Administrator ; Lance Davis – Utility Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Robbie McGee – Public Safety Director and Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor

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

OTHERS: Steven Allen, Kathy Teague and David Gioia

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order and 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. January 18, 2022 Public Hearing (Needs Assessment)

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

~~**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**~~

B. January 18, 2022 Public Hearing (Natural Gas Transport)

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. January 18, 2022 Public Hearing (Zoning)

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. January 18, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information only
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION** Mr. George Ashmore

Mayor Thompson recognized Mr. George Ashmore for 24 years of service on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Ashmore was not in attendance.

A. **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY**

Tom Alexander	Public Safety	19 years
Michael Weaver	Gas Division	9 years

5. OLD BUSINESS

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. **ORDINANCE** – 1ST **READING** – ANNEXATION – 439 N. DUNCAN BYPASS

Steven Allen, Senior Planner with CRPC states that the owner, Kuntal Patel (KCP Properties, LLC of the property located at 439 N. Duncan Bypass, Tax Map #073-00-00-016 signed a petition to have the property annexed into the city limits. The subject property is currently a convenience store (KC Mart) with gas (Mobile). The property is adjacent to properties which are already zoned A-2, and it does comply with the requirements of the zone. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the ordinance.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to pass 1st reading of the ordinance
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CITY OF UNION NEEDS PRIORITY LIST

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that on January 18, 2022, a Needs Assessment Public Hearing was held in the council chambers of Union City Hall. A Priority Needs List was provided from the February 16, 2021 for review and discussion. As a result of the hearing the Community Needs List was identified and prioritized for 2022. The list is as follows:

1. Continue infrastructure improvements throughout the region to include assisting other Union County localities in accessing funds for regional infrastructure solutions and/or improvements as well as local improvements

- and revitalization efforts in the Union Mill Village and Excelsior Mill Village (to include College Street, Monroe, Bailey St., South St., and O’Shields Street) and the Monarch Mill area in cooperation with Union County.
2. Continue revitalization efforts in downtown Union to include additional streetscape, side street sidewalk improvements, building renovation and facades, farmer’s market, and beautification projects.
 3. Make upgrades to water, sewer, and storm water services and make street and sidewalk repairs to include resurfacing, pothole repairs, and ADA compliance upgrades in areas around the city.
 4. Continue activities to support economic development in order to create jobs for low and moderate income persons.
 5. Seek ways to conduct neighborhood improvements in the Carson and Cornwell Street neighborhoods.
 6. Increase available housing options to include workforce housing and expand affordable housing options for low and moderate income, disabled, and elderly citizens.
 7. Roadway safety improvements.
 8. Improve and expand recreation, health care, and cultural facilities including the James Moore Park and a possible dog park.
 9. Implement a gateway and beautification plan.
 10. Seek funds for an additional Police and Fire Substation. (this was mentioned, then addressed by a police officer, but I don’t know if it needed on the list.)
 11. Demolition of dilapidated houses in the City of Union.
 12. Continue efforts to prepare for, respond to, and prevent the Coronavirus.
 13. Promote fair housing opportunities to all citizens.

Staff recommendation is that City Council approves the 2022 City of Union Prioritized Community Needs Assessment List.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve the 2022 City of Union Prioritized Needs Assessment List

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. RESOLUTION – CITY OF UNION SUPPORT – PLEDGING MATCHING LOCAL FUNDS FOR REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS/TOWN OF JONESVILLE

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that this is a resolution stating the support of City of Union for an application for funding from the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the United States Economic Development Administration, pledging matching local funds for the purpose of creating a regional wastewater system that will serve the Town of Jonesville and will provide industrial grade wastewater to the Trakas Industrial site. Staff recommendation is that council approves the resolution.

MOTION by Mayor Thompson to pass resolution pledging matching local funds

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED 6 to 1

FOR: Thompson, Garner, Anthony, Pearson, Harris, Sloss

OPPOSE: Addison

D. RESOLUTION – LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH CDBG FUNDING/MIDWAY GREEN INDUSTRIAL PARK

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that this is a resolution for local matching funds for CDBG – Infrastructure at Midway Industrial Park (MycoWorks). Staff recommendation is to pass resolution.

MOTION by Mayor Thompson to pass resolution for local matching funds
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CARLISLE/LOCKHART – FEASIBILITY STUDY

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union received a grant for \$100,000 to go out for a request for proposals for a feasibility study on the Wasterwater and Water for the Town of Lockhart and the Town of Carlisle. The City of Union Water and Wastewater Feasibility Study Engineering Selection Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 10:30 am via zoom. Committee members were: Constance Porter – Mayor-Town of Lockhart; Joe Nichols, City Administrator-Union; Mary Ferguson Glenn – Mayor, Town of Carlisle; Tommy Anthony – Councilmember, Union and Lance Davis – Utility Director, Union. Three (3) bids were received. After discussing and evaluating the three proposals, each committee member evaluated the engineering firms on the Professional Services Evaluation form and submitted their evaluation sheets to Angela Kirkpatrick for compilation. They were all unanimous that the bid should go to KCI which was the low bidder. The City Administrator states that prior to the meeting, he received a letter from RIA that everything was good and the City can go ahead and start procurement contract with KCI in the amount of \$98,700 which the City has \$100,000 grant to perform this. Staff recommendation is that council approves KCI to do the engineering to do the feasibility study for the Town of Lockhart and the Town of Carlisle for \$98,700.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve the regional water and wastewater feasibility study for rural infrastructure

SECOND by Mayor Thompson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Anthony – Committee Member

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MONARCH FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union received a letter from Monarch Fire Department requesting a direct purchase of a pickup from the City of Union's replacement fleet. The vehicle will be sold to Monarch Fire Department at a fair market rate. Staff recommends that council allow Monarch Fire Department to direct purchase a pickup from the City's replacement fleet.

MOTION by Mayor Thompson to accept recommendation

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that the proposed 2022-2023 budget work sessions have been tentatively set for March 29th and 30th with sessions beginning at 3:00 p.m. Staff recommends council approve March 29th and 30th as the dates of the 2022-2023 annual budget work session.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve budget work shop for March 29th and March 30th at 3:00 pm

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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, 411 Foster Street made a comment regarding the timing of a traffic light on Thompson Boulevard. Mayor Thompson informed him that this is a SCDOT issue and not the City of Union.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CITY ADMINISTRATOR, MAYOR AND COUCIL**

None

9. **ADJOURMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm

Gloria J. Rogers
Certified Municipal Clerk/HR Director

Minutes approved _____ 2022