

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2014  
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 (e).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal Building with the following present:

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

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn

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

**NEWS MEDIA:** Graham Williams – Union County News and Abby Gregory – WBCU Radio

**OTHERS:** Robby Moody, Marsha Jordan, Tyra K. Parham, Barbara Byrd, Pamela G. Sloss, Torance Inman and others.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Councilmember Giles 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. July 15, 2014 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports.  
**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – REZONE PROPERTY AT 510 SOUTH PINCKNEY STREET

Robby Moody of Catawba Regional states that a public hearing was held prior to this regular meeting to discuss a rezoning request which is a single dwelling that the City owns that is currently zoned A-2 highway commercial and the request is to rezone to R-6 residential to allow Habitat for Humanity to build a single family home. There were no public comments at the hearing. A Planning Commission Meeting was also held tonight and the board voted unanimously based on the staff recommendation to move forward with the rezoning.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CREDIT CARD FEES

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that on June 17, 2014, City Council passed FY 2015 Budget. In the budget, Council passed a provision to allow for the collection of fees for the use of credit cards to pay for City Services. In doing further research I found out that there is different terminology and logistics for use of credit cards. A fee on a credit card that is used by a customer that comes to or calls City Hall to pay is a surcharge. If a customer pays online via the internet the fee is referred to as a convenience fee. In order to collect the surcharge on customers who come to or call City Hall, our software provider has to make a change to their software. Once in place the system will calculate the fee once the customer indicates to us that their payment method will be by credit card. We anticipate having this change in place by October 1, 2014. Currently the fee will be 2%, the amount the City is charged by our banking institution. After much discussion with staff concerning the convenience fee for online payments, staff has come to the conclusion that the City should suspend implementation of this fee. Our conclusion is based on the fact that online payments are automatically posted to customer accounts, saving us time and manpower. This savings helps offset the cost of online processing of credit cards. The recommendation is to authorize Mayor to suspend the collection of a convenience fee on online payments of services to the City.

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

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MARCH OF DIMES PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT

Mayor Thompson states that the March of Dimes is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000. He gave the following information for the March of Dimes. It is one of the most recognizable national health charities; it gives babies a healthy start in S.C.; 93 cents of every dollar raised in South Carolina funds the mission and 1 in 7 babies are born premature in South Carolina and premature birth is the leading cause of infant death. The recommendation is to fund the Partnership Commitment Level of \$1,000 from the Community Services- Special Events Account.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to fund the Partnership Commitment Level of \$1,000 from the Community Services – Special Events Account.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD**

Mayor Thompson states that there are (2) vacancies on the City of Union Municipal Election Commission Board. The vacancies were advertised in the Union Daily Times, as well as the Union County News. There was only one letter of interest received from Melissa Brown. Ms. Brown was previously appointed to serve an unexpired term ending June 2014 at a regular meeting on June 18, 2013. She is seeking re-appointment to the Board. Staff recommends that we re-appoint Melissa Brown to the City of Union Municipal Election Commission Board.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles to accept recommendation.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson announced that the City of Union will receive \$500,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Program. Funds will be used for neighborhood improvements in the Union Mill Village.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, CMC  
Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2014