

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015
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, December 15, 2015 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, Yates Giles, Ricky Todd Harris, Jim Wilson and Pamela Sloss.

CITY ATTORNEY: None

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

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

OTHERS: Robbie Moody, George Bruce, Marsha Jordan, Curtiss Hunter, Jean V. Harris, Caitlin Russell, Torrance Inman, Barbara Rippey, Else Ashby 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. November 17, 2015 Public Hearing

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

B. November 17, 2015 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 approve monthly reports.
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 1. Retirement Award - Mike Petrie

Mayor Thompson presented Mike Petrie with a retirement award for 33 years of service with the City of Union. He was Director of Maintenance. Mr. Petrie states that he enjoyed his time with the City of Union and also getting to work with a great group of people. He states that he will always be grateful to the City of Union for offering him the opportunity to make a living and for a job he really enjoyed.

C. Mayor Thompson recognized Caitlin Russell, Miss Union County Fair. She was the winner of Miss Vizcaya Swimwear 2016-2017 model search in Miami, Florida this past weekend. Her winning this title included Miss Vizcaya Swimwear Sash and Crown; cover model of the 2016 Vizcaya Swimwear calendar; one year supply of Vizcaya Swimwear bikinis; \$1,000 in cash & prizes; quarterly photo shoots for Vizcaya Swimwear; international hosting and modeling opportunities; be the face of the Vizcaya Swimwear 2017 collection and a bikini in the 2017 collection named after her. Caitlin states that all of this would not have been possible if she had not won the Miss Union County Fair. Mayor Thompson thanked Councilmember Harris and Jean Harris for bringing Caitlin's accomplishment to our attention.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND **READING** - AMEND THE CITY OF UNION ZONING CODE TO COMPLY WITH STATE LAW FOR ANNEXATION & PUBLIC NOTICE

Robbie Moody states that the City Attorney's office identified a few shortcomings in the existing Zoning Code regarding annexation procedures and collaborated with Planning Department staff to draft an ordinance. Proposed amendments to the Zoning Code include the provision of a public hearing and public notice to recommend a zoning district designation for the subject property. This new procedure will improve the transparency of the annexation process. Staff recommends approval subject to public input and action by the City of Union Planning Commission. Council passed 1st reading at its regular November meeting.

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

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENTS – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mayor Thompson states that City Council must fill one (1) vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals for expired term, and three (3) vacancies on the Building Board of Appeals for expired terms. The Zoning Board of Appeals works closely with the City of Union Zoning Ordinance Regulations. The

Building Board of Appeals works closely with the City of Union Planning Department. This board hears and decides on appeals dealing with the City of Union Code of Ordinance and International Building Codes. This position was solicited by public notice in local newspaper November 9, 2015.

Request to serve letters, voting ballots and public notice was presented to council. The name presented for the Zoning Board of Appeals is George Ashmore. Council voted unanimously to re-appoint Mr. Ashmore to Board. Names submitted for the Building Board of Appeals are Dennis Langley, Tradd Bruce and Jackie Earls. Council voted unanimously to re-appoint Mr. Langley, Mr. Bruce and Mr. Earls to Board.

C. **DISCUSSION – REQUEST FOR CREMATORIUM AS ACCESSORY USE TO A FUNERAL HOME**

Robbie Moody of Catawba Regional states that Mr. Scott Lewis submitted a request for a crematorium at the Lewis Funeral Home, 1247 S. Duncan Bypass. The property is zoned A-2 (Highway Commercial) and a mortuary is a permitted use; however, the crematorium is not listed in the Zoning Code. Staff determined that in order for the crematorium to be considered then amendments to the code are necessary. Staff researched other South Carolina jurisdictions using www.Municode.com and by contacting local planning departments. . The majority of jurisdictions require that a Special Exception be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to permit a crematorium. This approach ensures those local property owners are notified and that the ZBA has an opportunity to review applications to ensure compatibility with the surrounding area. Staff recommends amending the Zoning Code to allow a crematorium as an accessory use to a mortuary and to add definitions for mortuary and crematorium for consideration by City Council and Planning Commission in January 2016. Mr. Moody state that the next step would be to advertise for a Public Hearing.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson accept recommendation and proceed to the next step.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Christmas luncheon for employees will be held tomorrow at Buffalo Seafood from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record.

None

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL MATTERS (PROPERTY PROCUREMENT)

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to go out of executive session back into regular session.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2016