

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019
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

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 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 Sonja Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn was not in attendance

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Human Resource Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – City Administrator; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Mark Brown – Utility Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor; Dwayne Hardy – Assistant Public Service Director and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator. Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director was absent

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

OTHERS: Curtiss Hunter; David Lance; Mark Cathcart; Sheryl Medders; Lawrence Flynn; Mark Cathcart; David Lance and David Gioia

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner called the meeting to order. He 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. October 15, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

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

B. November 5, 2019 Public Hearing
C. November 5, 2019 Special Council Meeting

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

D. November 19, 2019 Regular City Council

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

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

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

B. 1. Fiscal Year 2019 Audit Presentation – Sheryl Medders, Mckinley Cooper & Co., LLC

Sheryl Medders with McKinley Copper presented Audit for Fiscal Year 2019. She thanked council for allowing McKinley Cooper & Co., LLC to work with the City again this year and they very much appreciate the relationship. Ms. Medders pointed out a few highlights. Topics discussed were the audit engagement and the auditor’s opinion. She also did a comparison of this year’s financial statement with the prior year and the City’s budgeting process as well as the trends in the City. Ms. Medders further states that the City has a nice fund balance in the general fund enough to provide for (7) seven to (8) eight months of expenditures and the trend in City finances are positive looking back at the 10 year trend.

2. Piedmont Phisic Garden – Toccoa Switzer

Mayor Thompson state that Toccoa Switzer called this morning and said that she is going to hold off on doing presentation.

3. Property Purchase Interest - Bradley Adams
Ref: Map #074 96 05 035

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that Bradley Adams is not in attendance but Mr. Adams approached him about a month ago and said that he wanted to purchase some property over on Lakeview which is the property behind the Habit Humanity house that is being constructed. He’s got the house next to it and he wanted to make an offer on it. Also he went over and looked at the tax map to see what it is worth. Mr. Adams said he basically could not offer that much. The City Administrator told him that if he wanted to make an offer, he would have to come before council to present it in writing.

4. 4-H Program Update - Mark Cathcart

Mark Cathcart, 4-H & Youth Development of Clemson Extension Office thanked council for allowing him to come back and speak before council. He states that he wanted to come back before council after they finished their shows and the Fair. Mr. Cathcart gave update on a variety of shows that they had in 2019 and upcoming shows. He also thanked council for their continued support.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. DISCUSSION/MOTION – HEATING & COOLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RENEWAL

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that the City of Union has been involved in a Heating & Cooling Assistance Program since 2011. The program generated from the original Community Change Program from 1993. Heating assistance (Electric and Gas) runs from November 1, thru April 30, and cooling assistance runs May 1 thru October 31. Each City of Union customer who qualifies can receive \$50 per season. (No customer is to receive more than \$100 per year). In fiscal year 2019, the “Community Change Program” generated \$19,485.97, and assisted 446 customers in the amount of \$43,157.90. In keeping with the guide lines already in place, the program will continue on the availability of funds. The Salvation Army and Carolina Community Actions have been notified of the program and are requested to respond to the City by letter of their willingness to qualify applicants for the assistance as appropriated. Customers are required to participate in the “Community Change Program” to qualify to receive assistance. Staff recommends the release of Community Change Funds to qualify City of Utility Customers.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept staff recommendation

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Sloss due to being on the Carolina Community Action Board

B. APPOINTMENTS – BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS AND BUILDING APPEALS BOARD

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that City Council must fill two (2) vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals for expired terms. These positions are for a three- year term to expire December 31, 2022 and are appointed by the Mayor & City Council. The Board of Zoning Appeals works closely with the City of Union Planning Department. The board hears and makes decisions dealing with the City of Union Zoning Ordinance Regulations. City Council must fill three (3) vacancies on the Building Appeals Board for expired terms. These positions are for a four-year term to expire December 31, 2023 and are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Building Appeals Board works closely with the City of Union Planning Department. This board hears and makes decisions on appeals with the City of Union Code of Ordinances and International Building Codes. These positions were solicited by public record in the local newspaper November 18, 2019. Request to serve letters, voting ballots and public record in the local newspaper November 18, 2019 were presented to council. City staff recommends that council appoint qualified candidates to fill these most important board vacancies. Neil Valentine and Quandra Jeter submitted letters of request to be re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Dennis Langley, Jackie Earls and Tradd Bruce submitted letters of request to be re-appointed to the Building Board of Appeals. City Council voted by ballot. The following votes were received for the Board of Zoning Appeals: Neil Valentine - 7 votes and Quandra Jeter - 7 votes. Building Appeals Board: Dennis Langley - 7 votes; Jackie W. Earls – 7 votes and Tradd Bruce – 7 votes. Neil Valentine and Quandra Jeter were re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals; Dennis Langley, Jackie Earls and Tradd Bruce were re-appointed to the Building Board of Appeals

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Ricky Harris thanked Dwayne Hardy and his crew for cleaning up Main Street so quick after the Christmas Parade. Mayor and other councilmembers also thanked him and congratulated him on his promotion.

Mayor Pro Tem thanked Department Heads. He states that the City could not have those good results on the budget if departments didn’t do a good job in managing the money.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David Gioia of 411 Foster Street addressed council. Mr. Gioia also states that he stopped in to talk with the manager at BI-LO to discuss plastic containers in regard to recycling. They are the only ones that recycle plastic containers. He states that Walmart now has a bag recycling bin. Next he discussed heating. Mr. Gioia suggests having gas heating system inspected every year or two for efficiency. He said it would be a good idea for the City to have in each utility bill suggesting that customer have their heating or cooling system checked every year or two by a professional for safety and efficiency. Mayor Thompson states that council will take that under advisement.

Mayor Thompson states that after executive session, council will have to come back to pass a resolution

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – PERSONNEL MATTERS (WAGE AND COMP STUDY) & CONTRACTUAL MATTER RELATED TO PMPA

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss Personnel Matters (Wage & Comp Study) & Contractual Matter Related To PMPA

SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of executive session back into regular session

SECOND by Councilmember
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No Action Taken

8. RESOLUTION – RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE TERMINATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL POWER SALES AGREEMENT WITH PMPA

Mayor Thompson states that he will need a motion to pass resolution.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan authorizing the City Administrator of the City of Union to exercise his discretion into whether continued participation in the Supplemental Power Sales Adjustment is the best economic interest of the City and to submit Notice of Termination to PMPA of the Supplemental Power Agreement effective December 31, 2029.

SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Anthony abstained due to being on the PMPA Board

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn

SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers
Certified Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2020