

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011
6:30 PM**

{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 council meeting was held on February 15, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the City Municipal building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Henderson, Councilmembers Ricky Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Andy Bailey. Councilmember Tommie Hill was absent due to illness and Councilmember Garner was absent due to a MEO training class at the Municipal Association of S.C.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney was absent.

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

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

OTHERS: Andrena Powell-Baker, Ben Powles, Colonel Paul Davis, Gerry Benard, Bob Love, Torance Inman and Tommy Ford.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson. The pledge of allegiance was given by all present.

Mayor Thompson solicited a motion to add an item to the agenda “Proposed Market Usage Study/Union Events Center presented by Mr. Bob Love”. The item will be added under the “Communications” portion of the agenda.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to add item to agenda.

SECOND by Councilmember Henderson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The roll was called by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

2. MINUTES

A. January 18, 2011 - Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept minutes as presented.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to accept monthly reports.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

Councilmember Ruff commented on the monthly reports and the Public Safety Department tour and fire safety information this department provided to students at Foster Park Elementary School in January. She feels that the City should have a Public Safety Auxiliary Class in Union. Others items she commented on were business licenses and an energy grant that the City of Union has been awarded. Councilmember Ruff states that the department heads are doing a good job.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Proposed Market Usage Study on Union Events Center - Bob Love

Mr. Bob Love addressed City Council regarding a proposed market usage study for the Union Events Center. The Union Events Center board has been established. There are 7 members and 4 ex-officio members. The purpose of the study is to determine the potential users, usage levels, and potential fee levels for the events center; to provide a market overview of existing like locations; and to provide additional target markets and input as to services/amenities/staffing. The person that presented the usage study idea is Stephanie Williams, a hospitality expert, of Memorable Solutions. The cost of the study is \$7,900 plus cost of City Business License. The board will not commit to the study unless the City of Union commits to finish the study by April 19, 2011. The board is seeking approval from City Council to spend \$7,900 from monies they already have on hand, from the insurance settlement. Finance Director Walker Gallman recommends using monies from the general fund for the study. Mayor Thompson will take this as information and approach City Council as to a Special Council Meeting regarding the approval request.

4. BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – PERRIN AVENUE AND LOWE STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT – LAND ACQUISITION

Joe Nichols, Utility Director addressed council. The residents at 712 Perrin Avenue, 710 Perrin Avenue, 800 Perrin Avenue and 104 Wardlaw Street are currently connected to the sewer system that crosses the property of the Ottaray Mill site. The sewer pipe is shallow and the clay pipe is in deteriorating condition and has an associated cost of \$140,000 to replace. The City feels it would be more cost effective to place each of these residents on septic systems and acquire land from Pacolet Milliken to install the septic drain fields. Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Inc. was contacted and they have agreed to sell to the City 1.85 acres +/-) to serve as a community septic drain field. The recommendation is to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached ordinance to purchase tract of land designated as Tax Map #074-14-13-002.000 (1.85 acres +/-) from Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Inc. for \$7,500.00.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to pass 1st reading of the ordinance.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – AUTHORIZING LEASE BY CITY TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 22 – VETERANS BUILDING

Representatives from the City of Union and the General Harry M. Arthur American Legion Post 22 did meet and agree that a new lease agreement be drawn up to nullify previous lease agreement dated September 10, 1974. Colonel Paul Davis addressed City Council regarding the lease agreement. He states that membership feels that a long-term lease agreement would be in the best interest of the American Legion Post 22. Mayor Thompson states that he has talked with attorneys at the Municipal Association regarding the lease situation and they recommend the City Council not enter into a long term lease agreement such as 99 years. This would not bind the future councils to the agreement. The Mayor states that council feels strong about staying with the 5-year automatic renewable lease agreement. Mayor Thompson recommends tabling item until the City and American Legion Post 22 come to a common ground regarding the lease agreement.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to table item.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – YMCA LEASE AGREEMENT

The old YMCA Lease Agreement and a revised YMCA Lease Agreement was presented to City Council. The revised lease agreement omitted Item #4. Should Council approve the revised lease agreement with the YMCA, a motion is in order.

MOTION by Councilmember Ruff to pass 1st reading of the YMCA lease agreement.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. AWARD BID - WATER & SEWER IMPROVEMENTS – 11 LOCATIONS

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on February 3, 2011 at City Hall for Water and Sewer Improvements for eleven (11) locations: Forest Circle, Church St. (B), Flat Dr., Gin Circle, N. Gadberry Street, S. Pinckney St., Pine St., Goings Alley, Fairmont St., Pine Street, Goings Alley, Fairmont St., Bailey Street. and Lakeside Drive. A summary of the bids and recommendation from our consultants were reviewed. The recommendation is to accept bid from Smith Backhoe & Construction, Co. in the amount of \$432,626.75. Councilmember Henderson commented on the bidding process. He feels that anytime the City of Union spend that type of money on a project such as the above that City Council need to be made aware of project. Mayor Thompson states that they can basically take a look at how council is notified during the bidding process; but the way it is being done now is basically the process that has been used all along; however, the staff maybe able to come up with a new way to notify council.

MOTION by Councilmember Ruff to accept bid from Smith Backhoe & Construction, Company in the amount of \$432,626.75.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION COUNTY HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUND RAISER SPONSORSHIP

Mayor Thompson states that the Union County Health Care Foundation has made a few changes regarding the two major fund raising events it has each year. Instead of having the annual Shag Night in the fall, the event will now be held in late winter. Shag Night 2011 will be on the evening of Saturday, February 26 at the National Guard Armory. 2010's event was held in November and the City was a Gold Sponsor. Sponsorship levels are as follows: Platinum - \$2,000 – 10 tickets; Gold - \$1,000 – 8 tickets; Silver - \$500 – 6 tickets; Bronze - \$250 – 4 tickets and Member - \$100 – 2 tickets. Should Council agree to a sponsorship to the Union County Health Care Foundation, Shag Night 2011, a motion is in order.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to approve sponsorship on the Silver Level - \$500.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. DISCUSSION/MOTON – RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT
#REF10440257

Mayor Thompson states that on December 10, 2010 the City was awarded a Rural Infrastructure Grant (RIF) from the South Carolina Coordinating Council in the amount of \$18,750.00. \$3,750 of this grant will be used for a marketing study and the remaining \$15,000 will be used for up-fitting of a building for a small business. City staff recommendation is to authorize the Mayor to accept the RIF grant. In addition to the Mayor, Union County Development Board Director Andrena Powell-Baker addressed City Council. She states that this grant was awarded to the City of Union in collaboration with the Department of Commerce. Three cities were chosen in S.C. and Union was one of them. This is a continuation of funds received for the downtown area for revitalization.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson to accept the RIF grant.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSIONS DATES

Mayor Thompson states that the annual budget workshop dates for 2011 have been set for April 4, 5 and 7, 2011 beginning at 12:00 noon. The recommendation is to approve these dates for the 2011/2012 budget workshop sessions.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

None

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record. (Please limit your comments to 3-5 minutes)

None

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – TO DISCUSS LEGAL, CONTRACTURAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

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

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

Mayor Thompson states that a Special Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2011