

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016  
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, January 19, 2016 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:** Larry Flynn

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

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

**OTHERS:** Terry Fant, CPA; Casey Wright, BSW; Curtiss Hunter; Melody Porter; Modest Keenan; Princess Edwards; Barbara Rippey and County Supervisor Frank Hart.

**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. December 15, 2015 City Council Workshop

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. December 15, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept monthly reports as information.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Thompson recognized employee Leroy Edwards, who was recently promoted to Maintenance Shop Director in his department.

B. 1. SAFE Homes Rape Crises Coalition

Casey Wright, BSW of SAFE Homes Rape Crisis Coalition Services addressed council. SAFE Homes Rape Crisis Coalition offers services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. They are based in Spartanburg County, but serve residents of Cherokee and Union Counties through satellite offices. Union County's office is located at 115 Thomas Street. She states that SAFE Homes provide the following services to victims, their families, and the community at large: 24-hour crisis intervention; medical & legal advocacy; emergency shelter; therapy and follow-up.

C. 1. FY 2015 Audit Presentation

Terry Fant, CPA and Accountant for the City of Union presented the FY 2015 Audit. State law requires that all general-purpose local governments publish at the close of each fiscal year a complete set of financial statements.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. RESOLUTION – TO CONSENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-COUNTY BUSINESS PARK DESIGNATION FOR PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS AND LOCATED AT 155 MEDICAL SCIENCES DRIVE

City Attorney Larry Flynn addressed council. Mr. Flynn states that at the November 2015 council meeting, a resolution was passed to give consent to the established of a multi-county business park at 155 Medical Sciences Drive. Some revisions have been made to this resolution. The resolution gives consent to the establishment of a multi-county business park for the benefit of Project Vecura Salt (code name). Staff recommendation is that council approve and pass the revised resolution.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Laura Hembree, Accounting Supervisor addressed council. She states that the City of Union implemented a “Heating and Cooling Assistance Program” in August of 2011. This program generated from the original Community Change Program from 1993. Heating assistance (Electric & Gas) runs from January 1 thru April 30 and cooling assistance runs July 1 thru October 31. Each City of Union customer who qualifies can receive \$100 per season (No customer is to receive more than \$200 per year.) In fiscal year 2015 the Community Change Program” generated \$20,376, assisted 192 customers in the amount of \$18,755. In keeping with the guide lines already in place, the program will continue on the availability of funds. The Salvation Army and the Carolina Community Actions have indicated with a letter of response to the City of Union that they are still willing to continue the affiliation with the program by qualifying applicants for the assistance as appropriated. Letters from two agencies agreeing to qualify customers has been received. Customers are required to participate in the “Community Change Program” to qualify to receive assistance. Staff recommends the release of Community Change funds to qualifying City utility customers.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

**ABSENTION** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. AWARD BID - SEWER CLEANING & TV INSPECTION

Joe Nichols, Utility Director states that bids were received on January 12 2016 at City Hall for Sewer Cleaning & TV inspection of Evans Street, Malone Avenue, West Main Street and Bailey Street area. The bid tabulation and a letter of recommendation from the engineer were presented: Two (2) bids were received: Bio-Nomic Services, Inc. - \$20,957.95 and Southeast Pipe Survey - \$23,506.85. The recommendation is to award bid to Bio-Nomic Services, Inc. in the amount of \$20,957.95.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson asked Utility Director Joe Nichols to give an update on City Projects. Mr. Nichols states that Union Mill Project had only one bid and the Buffalo Phase IV Project and May Street Sewer Construction Project are ongoing.

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 ACQUISITION ACTIONS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Thompson states that while in executive session council discussed a contractual matter pertaining to property acquisition on East Main Street. The recommendation is to purchase this property. The Mayor asked for a motion.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss authorizing the Mayor to purchase property at 105 East Main Street in the amount of \$5,000.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2016