

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014  
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, January 21, 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; Gregg Pickens – Captain; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor and Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio

**OTHERS:** Terry Fant, Freddie Bates, Preston Thomas, Monte Lancaster, Jackie Senn, Harold Senn, Bennie Giles, Donnie Marvels, Jim Frierson, Caroline Barger, Karen Hibbard, Kim Lawson, Tim Varner, Catherine Staniewicz

**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. Tuesday, December 17, 2013 Public Hearing

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve minutes.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Tuesday, December 17, 2013 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Hill to approve minutes  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Garner.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Retirement Award

Johnnie Peake was not in attendance to receive his retirement award for 20 years of service with the City of Union. Mayor Thompson states that he will get retirement award to Mr. Peake at a later date.

Utility Director Joe Nichols presented Dewitt Smith with a retirement award for 28 years of service with the City of Union.

C. FY 2013 Audit Presentation

Terry Fant, CPA gave the FY 2013 audit presentation to council.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. RESOLUTION – CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR PASSENGER TRAINS

Mr. Jim Frierson, SC Vice-President, “CAPT” address council. “CAPT” believes that increased passenger rail service is vital to South Carolina’s economy. Rail passenger service such as envisioned by “CAPT” could have a real and lasting effect on the Union area by providing increased mobility for our citizens, increased access to our community, and improved freight as well as passenger service. As our economy recovers from the recession, building passenger rail service is an infrastructure investment that will pay off right away in jobs and improved mobility, and it will continue to pay off later as South Carolina shows it is ready to play a part in building high-speed rail lines and participating in the transportation system of the future. Staff recommendation is to pass the resolution in support of the “CAPT” Carolina’s Association for Passenger Trains.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass resolution.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – WRECKER SERVICE REGULATION POLICY

Chief White states that the Union Public Safety Department requests council to consider the proposed policy for regulation of wrecker services. This policy does not replace Sections 5-71, 5-72 or 5-73 of the City of Union Code. The proposed policy is comprehensive and covers many areas which include qualifications, responsibilities, a rotation list, and complaints/disciplinary procedures. Each wrecker service provider currently licensed by the City of Union was mailed a copy of the proposed policy. Staff recommends the council pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of policy for regulation of wrecker services.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Wrecker Service Regulation Policy.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. ORDINANCE – **1<sup>ST</sup> READING** - AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF PROPERTY – LOUISE STREET - EXCELSIOR

City Attorney Larry Flynn states that parcel (s) or tract(s) of land located in the Town of Union, County of Union, State of South Carolina designated as Lot 30 (.09 Acres) & Lot 32 (.22 Acres) and depicted on a composite map of Excelsior Mill, Union, South Carolina was deeded to the City of Union by deed of Pacolet Milliken Enterprises, Inc. dated July 13, 2010 and recorded in Deed Book 239 page 792 on September 15, 2010. Staff recommendation is to authorize transfer of property-Lot 30 & 32-Louise Street-Excelsior to resident owner of adjacent property on Louise Street.

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – COMMUNITY CHANGE – HEATING & COOLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the Community Change Program has been in effect at the City of Union since 1993. What started out as a way of generating funds to assist in providing food and shelter to the needy is now a Heating and Cooling Assistance Program. This program began as a heating assistance only and council voted in August of 2010 to add cooling assistance to the program. Heating assistance (Electric & Gas) runs from January 2 thru April 30 and cooling assistance (Electric Only) runs from July 1 thru October 31. Each City of Union customer who qualifies can receive \$100 per season. (No customer should receive more than \$200 in any one fiscal year.) In fiscal year 2013, the “Community Change Program” generated \$21,725.75, assisted 298 customers in the amount of \$29,787.22. Use of these funds to help with heating and cooling bills is in keeping with what we have always said the funds will be used for. Assistance will continue on the availability of funds. The Salvation Army and Carolina Community Actions have indicated that they are willing to qualify applicants for the assistance as appropriated. Letters from the two agencies to qualify applicants was presented to council. To qualify to receive assistance a customer must also participate in the program. Captain Donnie Marvels, Commanding Officer for The Salvation Army also addressed council regarding the Community Change –Heating & Cooling Assistance Program. Captain Marvels states that the Salvation Army is honored to participate in the Heating & Cooling Assistance Program again this year. Staff recommends renewing the release of Community Change funds to assist City Utility customers.

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. DISSCUSION/MOTION – UCAC REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Mr. Harold Senn, UCAC Board Member, addressed council. Mr. Senn states that Union County Arts Council is seeking help with funding to repair the floor in the gallery section of the Art Center on Main Street. Recently the gallery had some structural damage due to wood rot and the entire floor has to be replaced. The UCAC had recently sent a letter to the Mayor asking the City for a \$5,000 grant that would be used to match a grant in the same amount from the SC Arts Commission. In the midst of finishing the paperwork for that grant, the UCAC received a call from the Arts Commission Coordinator stating that she had made a mistake and the grant could not be used for brick and mortar projects. Even though the UCAC won't be able to apply for the Arts Commission grant, they are still requesting that City

Council approve the expenditure of \$5,000 or more for the necessary repairs. Mayor Thompson states that the funding request falls under the Hospitality & Accommodations Tax. Staff recommendation is to pass the UCAC request for \$5,000 for unexpected structural repairs. Councilmember Wilson asked Finance Director Walker Gallman the balance of the City's Hospitality Tax. Mr. Gallman states that there is a balance of \$170,000 minus already committed funding.

**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember Giles.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to fund the UCAC in the amount of \$10,000 from the Hospitality Tax.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

Mayor Pro Tem Garner states that he would like to make it clear for the record that UCAC's request and staff's recommendation was based upon the fact that the UCAC was hoping for matching funds. However, this was prior to the UCAC not knowing they did not qualify for the matching grant.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENT TO HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

Mayor Thompson states that there is one vacancy on the Housing Authority Board. The position was solicited by public notice in local newspapers. Request to serve letters and voting ballots were presented to council. Staff recommends that council appoint the candidate they feel most suitable for the board position. Candidates are as follows: Mickey Gist, Ann Harris, Margaret Holloway and Preston Thomas. Council voted by ballot. The results are as follows: Preston Thomas – 3 votes; Mickey Gist – 2 votes and Margaret Holloway – 1 vote. Preston Thomas was appointed to the Union Housing Authority Board.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT 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 comment to 3-5 minutes)

None

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL & CONTRACTURAL MATTERS

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

No action taken.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles to adjourn.  
**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

---

Gloria J. Rogers, CMC  
Municipal Clerk

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