

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018
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

The regular meeting of City Council was held on March 20, 2018 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 C. Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja J. Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director, Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor and Melissa Youngblood – Media IT Director.

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

OTHERS: Robby Moody, Neil McKeown, Linda Casey-Clark, Daniel O’Shields, Kathy O’Shields, Margie Ruff, Harriett Bruce, Curtiss Hunter, Jack Kelly, Linda Kelly, Lois Moorman, Kendall Austin, Rick Smith, April Hall, Amy Belue, Katherine Pendergrass, Elise Ashby, Rebecca Rochester, Bill Rochester, Kathy Teague, Barbara Rippy and others.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson 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. February 13, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports.
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Friends of the Library -

Rebecca Rochester

Mrs. Rebecca Rochester of 307 Pine Street and President of the Friends of the Library addressed council. Mrs. Rochester states that the Friends of the Library begin its mission to strengthen, promote, support and advocate for the Union County Library System in 1982. In response to the need for repairs and expansion of the Union County Carnegie Library, the Friends of the Library raised \$537,985 during that time to pay for the expansion that was done in 1985. It was in great need of renovation at that time and is in great need of a renovation at this time. The Carnegie Library is in the process of a renovation at this time, a 1.8 million dollar renovation. They are about \$120,000 short to be able to complete renovation and the Friends of the Library are working to help fill in that gap. The Friends of the Library are selling engraved bricks for a "Walkway of Honor" which will lead up to the newly renovated original entrance to the Carnegie. They need about 1,200 bricks to be sold. They are asking that the City take part in this historic renovation and become a part of the historic Carnegie Library by purchasing a brick. There are two different kinds of bricks. There is a "4 x 4" brick which is \$50 that gives three lines of engraving and an "8 x 8" brick which is \$100 that gives six lines of engraving. You may put a customized emblem such as the City of Union logo on the brick for an additional \$100. She is asking the City to purchase the \$100 brick plus the \$100 for the logo to be placed on it and that will be part of the "Walkway of Honor" at the Carnegie. Mrs. Rochester is also asking that the information about the brick sale be published to all of the employees of the City of Union so that they can take part. In addition, she asked each councilmember to be a part of this and to individually purchase a brick. She further states that the high school and the school board have each committed to purchasing a \$200 brick, as well as County Council. She hopes that the City of Union will join in the sponsorship and purchase a \$200 brick to help them get the "Walkway of Honor" completed. Mrs. Rochester lastly gave an update on the Friends of the Library Bookstore located in the L.W. Long Resource Center on Main Street. It is in the process of opening in April.

C. University Commons -

Kendall Austin
Rick Smith

Rick Smith addressed council. He states that he and Kendall Austin are both residents of Union County and they want to give an update on University Commons at Lakeside. He presented a flyer to council that they have given to the University to pass out to their students in their recruiting package. Mr. Smith states that they have worked with the University for a couple of years and the University is a tremendous asset for this community. Basically the University decided to start the athletic program to try to grow the University but of course the biggest problem with that is there is no student housing. He further states that after working with the current Dean on some ideas, they purchased 6 acres of land on the corner of Seigler Road and Lakeside Drive and they have started a student housing development there. Basically right now they have enough space to build six buildings, each building will house 8 students but presently they are in Phase I with three buildings that will house 24 students under each roof. Mr. Smith further states that it is a duplex style facility and they are trying to put a nice product on the ground. These will be fully furnished with stainless steel appliances. All the bedrooms will be fully furnished and the duplexes will have washers and dryers so it makes it easier for the parents and it helps to recruit students to the University. They are asking council to consider the

University Commons at Lakeside for the A-1 Central Business District Economic Development Incentive Program. They feel like their project is directly tied to the University and that is the only reason they are doing this project. Even though they are outside the A-1 business district on Lakeside, the University is in the business district and this is a University project. The University is not funding this project, but it is tied to the University and this will help grow the University. It will increase the tax base in Union County because University Commons will be purchasing (3) three utilities; water, sewer and power from the City of Union. Hopefully the project will spruce up that corner and it will be a nice product. Again Mr. Smith asked that council consider University Commons in the Economic Development Incentive Program. Mayor Thompson states that this will be voted on at the next council meeting.

D. R.I.S.E. Group

Dan O'Shields

Dan O'Shields of 104 Circle Drive addressed council on behalf of a group called R.I.S.E. They are concerned citizens working for the betterment of Union. Those acronyms stand for Researching Ideas to Succeed Economically. He gave handouts to council. Mr. O'Shields states that they created information and a petition for people to sign to show their support for the project and what they are doing. They have 400 to 500 signatures. Mr. O'Shields states that they want to do this by working together, exchanging ideas, opening dialogue in willingness to work together and a willingness to listen to ideas that come from someone else. Also he states there has to be a willingness to change. He states that he had moved away and moved back when he retired in 2006. Upon his and his wife's return he was shocked about how many stores had closed on Main Street and with the mills closing, it devastated Union and Main Street. Research showed that it was about 6,100 jobs lost because of mills closing. Also 50% of stores closed on Main Street. He further states that when the R.I.S.E. group started, there was a trip to Brevard, a town small like Union. Brevard re-invented themselves after going through so much economic turmoil. Now they are doing far better. He discussed other towns that are doing better than before such as Landrum and Easley. Mr. O'Shield's group focus is on helping Main Street grow. He feels that with council's help and with the R.I.S.E. group help and other people that are supporting them; they can bring some things back to Union Main Street. He also discussed bringing new things to Main Street.

E. Detention Center Medical/Education
Education Building

Niel McKeown, Director

Niel McKeown, Director of Union County Detention Center and also the upcoming Director of the Union County Jail addressed council regarding the Detention Center Medical/Educational Building. Mr. McKeown states that the reason he is in attendance today is trying to save lives. UCDC has been located where it is for over 100 years now. It was previously the old chain gang. They house all sentenced inmates for 90 days or less for child support and most of them come from the City and County of Union. They are trying to build an educational/ medical and vocational building there on their site. It will be a "24 x 60" building and what they want to do is to minister to inmates coming in trying to save their lives, as previously stated, and their family's future. They currently have AA meetings, religious meetings, cognitive meetings where they minister to the males to help them get better jobs to be better people. They also have educational things going on such as helping them with their resume to obtain employment. UCDC recently signed a contract for \$160,000 with a new medical provider. Mr. McKeown states that when he took over 12

years ago, the medical bills were around \$69,000. They have a nurse now and a doctor comes in; Mental Health comes in but the Union County Detention Center has no medical room to even see an inmate. They get inmates from time to time that are in wheel chairs and missing limbs; serious issues where they have to take them next door. He states that when he takes over the Union County Jail, he will also inherit the sentenced females from the City and County. They are in the running for a \$25,000 grant which they should be hearing something soon. The building will run about \$50,000 with inmates doing the work. They are looking for community partners to partner with them to help build the facility which will help everyone in the long run. He feels that if they produce better fathers, they can be productive citizens, helping both themselves and their families. They have received many recommendation letters of support. He states that Mayor Thompson has also written a recommendation letter to go in packet for the grant. Also they are trying to raise \$25,000 to move forward with the building. Lastly they are asking community partners for financial support. Mayor Thompson states that council will look at supporting the project.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 1ST **READING** – ANNEXATION – 443 NORTH DUNCAN BY-PASS

Robbie Moody, Senior Planner of CRPC states that the owner of the property located at 443 N. Duncan Bypass signed a petition to have the property annexed into the city which is the old McDonald's. The new owners want to open a pre-owned car sales lot. It is a part of coming into the community and getting utilities that triggered the annexation requirements. The annexation ordinance states that the property be annexed into the city limits with an A-2 Highway Commercial zoning classification. The property is adjacent to properties which are already zoned A-2 and it does comply with the requirements of the zone. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. ORDINANCE – 1ST **READING** – TIMKEN INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, LLC-LEASE

City Attorney Larry Flynn presented an ordinance to authorize the Mayor to renegotiate and revise the terms of lease dated January 10, 2008 between the City of Union and Timken Industrial Services, LLC. Extending said lease will substantially reflect the terms and conditions in the Second Amendment to lease. The recommendation from staff is to authorize the Mayor to execute the Second Amendment to Lease with Timken Industrial Services, LLC.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. ORDINANCE – 1ST **READING** – PROPERTY ACQUISITION BY DONATION – 113 EAST MAIN STREET

Mayor Thompson states that on February 13, 2018 at the City Council meeting he informed Council that the City has been approached about the building adjacent to the Main Street Junction. Owner Art Sutton has offered

the City the building located at 113 East Main Street ownership at no cost to the City. The City would take ownership of the building on a “as is” basis. After a walk through, roof inspection and asbestos test, Council agreed unanimously to accept the offer from Mr. Sutton. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the attached ordinance.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to accept the recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. RESOLUTION – MONARCH MILL AREA SEWER UPGRADE/PHASE III – CDBG LOCAL MATCH

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that sewer lines in the Monarch Mill Area have been determined by the City of Union that their life span has reached an end and needs to be upgraded to meet today’s standards and reduce infiltration into the system. It has also been determined that this area is located in the County of Union. The City of Union is the service provider of sewer service for the Monarch Mill Area and will benefit from these upgrades. The cost of these improvements is estimated to be \$1,007,720 and will service an estimated 64 residents and 3 churches. Park Street will not be included in project as previously stated. Union County intends to make an application for \$500,000 in CDG funding through the Community Infrastructure Program that will be used to assist the City of Union to pay for the costs. The program requires local matching funds of a minimum of 10 percent of the grant amount. The City of Union agrees to provide local funds of \$350,000 and any additional funds required for the completion of the project. The recommendation is for the Union City Council to agree, through resolution to provide a local match of \$350,000 and any additional funds required for the completion of this project.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – WBCU RADIO “MIRACLES & MUSIC”

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU is hosting a 5K and Fund Run Event on Saturday, April 12, 2018 at Foster Park. Fund Run is to start at 8:00 am and 5K to follow. There will be live music by Josh Lydia and the proceeds will help benefit the Miracle League of Union County (All Ages). They are asking that the City Sponsor in one of the following categories: Gold Package - \$1,000; Silver Package - \$800 and Bronze Package - \$650. If council so desires to sponsor the “Miracles and Music”, a motion is in order. This does qualify for the Hospitality Fund.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to sponsor WBCU Radio “Miracles & Music” as a silver sponsor in the amount of \$800.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION - “GO RED FOR WOMEN” CAMPAIGN

Melissa Youngblood addressed Council regarding the “Go Red for Women” Campaign. She states that she is a two-time heart attack survivor and also she was chosen as a 2017-2018 Spokeswoman for “Go Red for Women” Campaign. The “Go Red for Women” Campaign is the American Heart Association’s national movement to end heart disease and strokes in women. She states that

cardiovascular disease in the US kills approximately one woman every 80 second but the good news is that 80 percent of cardiac events can be preventable with education and life style changes. Also women symptoms are a lot different from men. More than 1 in 5 women have some form of heart disease or cardiovascular disease. One in three will die of heart disease or stroke, more than all other cancers combined. Also studies show that that is a higher percentage of women than men who have high cholesterol and African Americans has 1.5 times greater rate of death due to heart disease. Ms. Youngblood states there are currently twelve spokeswomen this year and they are from all over the upstate. She is the 2nd person from Union who has ever been a spokeswoman and she is the only one from Union that has been involved as she has been. Because of her interaction with Union County and her ability to recruit 55 businesses for the “Paint the Town Red” Campaign this year, they were phenomenally satisfied and just overwhelmed that she was able to get that much of a community involvement with the “Paint the Town Red” Project and the” National Wear Red Day” this year and about half of those took it a step further and decorated their business for “Paint The Town Red”. Ms. Youngblood states that this is not a paid position, it is strictly volunteer work. Since being chosen spokeswoman for Union, she has volunteered at the Upstate Heart Ball; went to the State House in Columbia for State Lobby Day to lobby for health care policies in S.C., one of those being the Stroke System of Care Act that has recently been passed. In April she will volunteer at the Upstate Heart Walk and in May, they will have their annual “Go Red for Women Luncheon”. In addition, she has told her story of being a two-time heart survivor at several places. Because of her situation that happened at work, City Hall now has defibrillators and trained employees to use defibrillators. Because of the positive influenced that she has had in Union County, she was chosen in Union to do the “Hometown Spotlight” and it turned out really well. Ms. Youngblood thanked Councilmember Anthony and Mayor Thompson for coming to the event that day. She is requesting that City Council sponsor her at the “Go Red for Women” Luncheon. The spokeswomen and survivors will be honored at the luncheon which will be held at the Marriott in Greenville. She is requesting the City of Union be a Table Sponsor in the amount of \$2,000 which includes: (1) table of (8) at luncheon with table signage; company name recognition in event program and on event collateral materials; ½ page of recognition in event program and name recognition on rotating sponsor PowerPoint through lunch or a Patron Sponsor in the amount of \$1,000 which includes: receiving a line listing of recognition in event program and (4) tickets to luncheon.

MOTION by Mayor Thompson to fund the level of sponsorship for the “Go Red for Women” Campaign in the amount of \$1,000.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. AWAD BID – CITY GENERATOR

Joe Nichols, Utility Director states that on behalf of the City of Union, our electrical engineering firm, Progressive Engineering received sealed proposals for emergency generator replacement at City Hall. The following bids were received: Blanchard Machinery - \$51,500; Nixon Power Services - \$43,585 and Western Branch Diesel - \$62,101. Nixon Power Services submitted the lowest cost proposal in the amount of \$43,585. Upon review of the proposals it was noted that the size of the unit proposed by Nixon Power Services will not allow it to be installed in the space available as the length of the enclosure is approximately 12 feet. Their bid had to be rejected. The bid tabulation and the letter of recommendation from our consultant were presented. City Staff recommends that council award bid to Blanchard Machinery in the amount of \$51,500.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Craig.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson announced that a few weeks ago he received some information from DHEC and the Center for Disease Control. They are sponsoring a grant for the pedestrian master plan. We are one of sixteen cities in the state of South Carolina that is getting this. The Mayor, along with Robby Moody has talked with them. They are going to come in and do a master plan. The master plan will not be a cost to the City, but if the City wants to implement this master plan, councilmembers may name a citizen that want they want to represent each individual district plus one.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – DISCUSS POSSIBLE LEASE AGREEMENT DETAILS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROSPECT

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a possible lease agreement details/economic development prospect matter.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Craig.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2018