

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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, May 13, 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; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utilities Director and Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director.

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

OTHERS: Grazier Rhea, Bob Love, Abby Gregory, Heath Gregory and Curtiss Hunter.

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, April 15, 2014 Regular Council Meeting

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

B. Monday, April 21, 2014 Special Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.
SECOND by Councilmember Hill.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

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

B. Event Center Update

Bob Love, Committee Chairman gave an update on the Union Event Center. Mr. Love states that the Events Center Committee believe they are close to breaking ground for the new building and they will need \$396,000 to meet the construction budget. The Timken Foundation has said they will donate \$227,000 when ground has been broken for the Events Center. After the Timken Foundation donation is secured, the committee will still need to raise about \$169,000. Mr. Love presented council with a copy of a part-time Events Center Director's job description and he also made a request for City Council to schedule a workshop for the Events Center to discuss options for obtaining further funding for the Events Center.

C. Upstate SC Alliance Overview – Clay Andrews

Clay Andrew, Director of Investor & Public Relations for the Upstate Alliance addressed Council. Mr. Andrews states that their mission is to market the Upstate SC region to attract business investment; support economic development efforts of the Alliance investors and to build cohesive relations among the region's private & public sectors. He also states that their approach to industrial development for the area is more of a regional concept than that of targeting the individual counties. The Upstate funding comes from member counties/cities and private business partners. The 10 counties of the Alliance represent the northwestern corner of South Carolina. Union County is included in the 10 counties' region.

4. BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – PROPOSED BUDGET – FY 2014-2015

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the FY 2014-2015 Proposed Budget All Funds totals \$45,237,170, an increase of 8.25% over last fiscal year. The main reason for the increase is due to projected increases in wholesale power and natural gas cost. The General Fund proposed budget cost totals \$5,701,850 and includes the following: Property tax rate will remain the same at 92.5 mills. \$121,900 is provided to replace equipment in the General Fund. The Solid Waste Management proposed budget totals \$763,200. No capital expenditures are proposed in this budget. The monthly charge of \$15 per month for garbage pickup is proposed to increase to \$16 per month. The combined Utility Fund totals \$37,634,120. Electric Rate- Basic facilities charges will increase for all classes. Also, demand charge for commercial, churches and industrial customers will increase. The (PPA) Purchase Power Adjustment will continue. Natural gas rates will remain unchanged. The (PGA) Purchased Gas Adjustment will continue. Water rates will increase by 8% and wastewater will increase by 10%. \$368,000 to replace equipment and vehicles and \$2,678,900 for utility infrastructure is included. Personnel- A 1% cost of living adjustment for employees is proposed. The General Fund and Utility Fund will use fund balance/cash reserves to balance. The following is a list of special revenue funds and their FY 2014-2015 proposed budgets:

Local Hospitality and Accommodations	\$390,000
Drug Fund	6,000
Community Change	30,000
Debt Service-Tax Increment District	102,000
Events Center	<u>700,000</u>
Total	\$1,228,000

All Special Revenues are included in the All Funds Proposed Budget of \$45,327,170. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the ordinance to adopt the FY 2014-2015 Budget.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to pass 1st reading of the proposed budget.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – ADOPT TAX LEVY – FY 2014-2015

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the proposed Tax Levy will remain the same at 92.5 mills. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the ordinance to adopt the Tax Levy for FY 2014-2015.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 1st reading of the tax levy ordinance.

SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. AWARD BID – 2014 F750 BUCKET TRUCK

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the following (3) three finance bids were received on April 1, 2014 to finance the purchase of a Ford F-750 Bucket Truck. The bid criteria were the lowest possible interest rate resulting in the lowest annual payment for a five (5) year term. Bids are as follows: BB&T – 1.55% - \$10,115.54; Arthur State Bank - \$2.50% - \$10,336.34 and Carolina Alliance – 2.85% - \$10,456.46. Staff recommendation is to award financing to BB&T with a bid of 1.55% - \$10,115.54 quarterly payments for a 2014 Ford F-750 Bucket Truck.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. RESOLUTION – LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that on April 21, 2014 three bids were received and opened to finance a 2014 Ford F-250 4 x 2 55' bucket truck. The bid was awarded to BB&T at a rate of 1.55% resulting in 20 quarterly payments of \$10,115.54 for a term of (5) five years. A resolution was presented to council authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with BB&T under the financing terms stated above. The recommendation is to execute the resolution.

MOTION by Councilmember Hill to accept the recommendation.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. AGREEMENT – VICTIM’S ASSISTANCE

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the City and County of Union are compelled by S.C. Code 16-3-1505, commonly known as the Victim’s Bill of Rights Act, to provide for certain victims and witness services. The City and County have determined that the most cost effective way to jointly discharge the duties and responsibilities mandated by the Act is to create a single Victim’s Advocate Office empowered with the authority to accomplish those services. On May 17th, 2011 a (5) year agreement was approved by both City and County Councils. On March 31, 2014, the Finance Director received an e-mail from the State Office of Victim Assistance recommending that all agreements be reviewed and signed annually. Also included in the e-mail was a sample contract that outlines the requirements to be included in the agreement. The agreement has been revised to comply with the recommendation of the State Office of Victim Assistance. The recommendation is to accept recommendation.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. RESOLUTION – LANCASTER COUNTY HOME CONSORTIUM PARTICIPATION

Grazier Rhea of CRPC states that the Congress of the United States has enacted the Cranston-Gonzales Affordable Housing Act of 1990, which created the HOME Investment Partnership Program to provide funds to states and local governments for affordable housing assistance with the flexibility to decide what kind of housing assistance or mix of housing assistance is most appropriate for local needs. City staff recommends that council authorize the Mayor to enter into agreement and participate in the Lancaster County Home Consortium. dba Catawba Region Home Consortium.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. RESOLUTION – TRANSITION PLAN – AMERICANS WITH DISABILITES ACT OF 1990

Mayor Thompson states that the City currently has two active CDBG grants and will be pursuing other grant funding in the future. The SC Department of Commerce is requiring the City to update their original ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan that was completed in September of 1994. This plan outlines ADA improvements that need to be completed to city-owned buildings. City staff, along with assistance from the Catawba Regional Council of Governments, visited each building and prepared the enclosed updated list of improvements, completion schedule, and cost. The plan indicates that all of the improvements will be completed by the end of the calendar year 2016. Improvements with zero dollar amount costs will be completed by the city maintenance staff. Staff recommendation is for Council to approve the resolution to adopt a Transition Plan in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to pass resolution.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

H. DISCUSSION/MOTION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO CODE: 15.2.6
ABANDONED OR DERELICT VEHICLES

Heath Gregory, Property Maintenance Inspector, presented proposed changes (abandoned or derelict) to council to provide a cost effective alternative for citizens to store their property (manufactured automobile cover) and to eliminate the responsibility of the Code enforcement Officer of accessing the value of a derelict vehicle. The recommendation is to approve proposed changes to City Code 15.2-6, Abandoned or Derelict Vehicles.

MOTION by Councilmember Giles to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. DISCUSSION/MOTION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO CODE: 15.2-1
NOTIFICATION OF NUISANCE

Heath Gregory, Property Maintenance Inspector, presented an ordinance for proposed changes (notification of nuisance) to City Code 15.2-1 for the revision date of notice from 10 to 14. The Planning Department feels it would be best that the code be consistent countywide. The recommendation is to approve proposed changes to City Code 15.2-1-Notification of Nuisance.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to approve recommendation.
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

J. BOARD VACANCY – EXPIRED TERM – HOUSING AUTHORITY OF
UNION

Mayor Thompson states that an expired term, as of April 6, 2014, has created a vacancy on the Housing Authority Board. A public notice advertising this vacancy ran in the Union County News and the Union Daily Times. One request was received from Mickey Gist to fill that vacancy. The recommendation is to appoint Mr. Gist to fill this most important vacancy.

MOTION by Councilmember Hill to approve recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Giles.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

K. TAKE FROM TABLE DISCUSSION/MOTION: ASSEMBLY –
“UNION COUNTY FAMILY FEST 2014”

Mayor Thompson states that on April 15, 2014 Item #4D was tabled by council. Mayor Pro Tem Garner made a recommendation that the item be tabled until the Mayor is in attendance. The recommendation is to take from table and place back on the May agenda as a “Discussion/Motion”.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

L. DISCUSSION/MOTION – TOP SCHOOL ASSEMBLY – “UNION
COUNTY FAMILY FEST 2014”

Mayor Thompson states that Union County Family Fest will be held at the Union County Fair Grounds on May 2nd-4th. This three day event will be fun for the whole family; from live music performances to bow shooting. Family Fest was created by a partnership with churches in Union County to be a fun weekend for the family, and a way to bring the message of God's love to our community.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to not fund "Union County Family Fest 2014".

SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

M. AWARD BID TO ASPHALT & GRAVEL PARKING LOT @FARMER'S MARKET "

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on April 29, 2014 at City Hall to asphalt and gravel lot, add new concrete walkways and grass with sod at the proposed Farmer's Market located at East Main Street beside the YMCA. Two bids were received: Sailors Paving - \$38,126.03 and LCI-Lineberber Construction, Inc. - \$57,140.20. The recommendation is to accept bid to Sailors Paving in the amount of \$38,126.03.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Councilmember Harris made an announcement regarding the Union County Girls Softball Team. The softball team will be playing in Hartsville for the state championship. He asked for everyone's support.

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 LEGAL AND & CONTRACTURAL MATTERS

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Regular Council Meeting
May 13, 2014

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn.
SECOND by Councilmember Hill.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Council meeting adjourned at 9:21 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2014