

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017
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 November 14, 2017 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: Absent

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

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

OTHERS: CV Bradshaw, L. Hays, Modest Keenan, Elise Ashby, Linda Casey Clark, Jerry Gossett, Kathy Gossett, Wayne Cook, Bobby Joe Gibbs, Robert Scott, Neil Valentine, Kathy Teague, Jean Harris, Bobby Monroe, Howard Tate, Curtiss Hunter, Reita Drinkwine, Barbara Rippy, Gregg Pickens, Teresa Pickens, Caleb Pickens, David Lance 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. October 17, 2017 Public Hearing

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

B. October 17, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

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

C. October 23, 2017

Special Council Meeting

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

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

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

B. Retirement Award - Gregg Pickens

Public Safety Director Sam White presented Gregg Pickens with a retirement award for 30 years of service with the City of Union.

C. Salvation Army - Lt. Howard Tate

Lt. Tate of the Salvation Army addressed City Council. He states that he was in attendance to introduce his self and tell everyone a little bit about the Salvation Army. A number of years ago, the Salvation Army pulled out of Union County. He further explained that the Salvation Army is a core, which is a church and is military based. The Salvation Army still owns a couple of facilities in Union; the old core building and a shelter right on the same lot. Lt. Tate is new to South Carolina and relocated here on June 22. He is excited about what the Salvation Army has in store for not only Spartanburg, but also Union. Lt. Tate states that he wants to see what Union needs because they are willing to match the needs of the community. The Salvation Army has two entities under one roof, the Salvation Army Thrift Store and under that same umbrella, social services right here in Union County. This current year they have increased their budget up to \$121,000 just in social services for Union County.

D. DataMax-Revenue Enhancement - Bobby Monroe

Bobby Monroe of Data Max -Revenue Enhancement Division, a company out of Winton Salem, N.C. addressed City Council. Mr. Monroe states that they can provide a closer look at what's going on in the City of Union regarding lost revenue. Mr. Monroe states there are businesses coming in every day to the City of Union who do not have a business license. He further states that they reveal these businesses to the City of Union and once they reveal them, they call them, send out letters and collect on the City of Union's behalf. S.C. statutes allows them to collect taxes and penalties back three (3) years. Data-Max has over 128 years of experience in collections and discovering new revenue sources and their company is performance based. If they don't find any new revenue, there is not a fee. They also assist with audits.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – CONTRACT WITH UNION COUNTY TO PROVIDE CODE ENFORCEMENT & BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES

Mayor Thompson states that at the September 19, 2017 Regular Council Meeting, a presentation from Union County Supervisor Frank Hart was given to all for a contract between Union County and the City of Union. The contract would combine services between the two government agencies for code enforcement and building inspection services. Two options were given by Supervisor Hart and City Council to move forward with option two. The County had their third reading on this matter on October 19, 2017. The recommendation is to approve 2nd reading of ordinances to contract with Union County to provide code enforcement & building inspections services.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to pass 2nd reading.

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECUSE: Councilmember Harris

B. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – BARS, TAVERNS AND NIGHTCLUBS

Robby Moody, Senior Planner for CRPC addressed council. He states that the item before council tonight is for 1st reading of an ordinance to change the City of Union Zoning Ordinance to allow Bars, Taverns within the A-1 District as a permitted use. It also includes the definition of Nightclubs and list that as a special exception within the A-1, A-2 and A-5 District. This is the same information that City Council heard at a Public Hearing on October 17, 2017. The Planning Commission made a recommendation at their October 24, 2017 meeting. They voted 4 to 1 not to change the ordinance.

Mayor Thompson asked if there were any questions from any member of council.

Councilmember Anthony asked Mr. Moody if he could take them back from where this ordinance request originally started at the first meeting on April 18, 2017 downstairs with the Zoning Board of Appeals who also denied the request.

Mr. Moody states that the Zoning Board of Appeals heard an application for a request for a bar on 218 Main Street as a special exception. He further states that that's the way the Zoning Ordinance was then and that's the way it is today. Bars and Taverns are special exceptions. Also at that time the Zoning Board of Appeals denied the request for special exceptions. Mr. Moody states that what they are talking about tonight is a change to the ordinance and what went before the Zoning Board of Appeals is a separate issue by a separate applicant at a specific location. And in that particular case, the Board denied the request and there was a request by the applicant for a re-hearing. At their last meeting, the Zoning Board of Appeals approved the special exception for a bar on North Duncan By-Pass and that was a separate use, separate location but it was another special exception application.

Councilmember Anthony asked if the definition of a bar's primary function is the sale of alcoholic beverages. Mr. Moody states that is correct and there is a distinction between a bar and a restaurant. A restaurant primarily serves food if it is licensed by the ABC Commission and can have a bar but not every restaurant will have a bar but a restaurant can have a bar. That is not something the City Planning Department would review or approve; it's up to the State review process. But if it is a bar, it can serve alcohol only or the bar can also serve food; it depends on the type of license they apply for. Councilmember Anthony next states that on September 19 Councilmember Harris made a recommendation not to move forward with the request and he and Councilmember Harris voted against the request and there was never another motion made to go forward.

Mayor Thompson states that he believes that is not correct and in the minutes, a motion was made to move forward and that is what got them to this point and there were two councilmembers that voted against it. And the rest of the council-

members voted to go forward. Another motion would not have to be made.

Councilmember Craig asked the question of if you just sell beer and wine then you don't have to sell food.

Mr. Moody states that under the State law requirements, as he researched this item, it is his understanding. He states that again that is not a City of Union rule or regulation, it is a State requirement.

MOTION by Mayor Thompson to pass 1st reading to amend the Zoning Ordinance for Bars, Taverns and Nightclubs.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED 5 to 2

FOR: Thompson, Garner, Morgan, Sloss, Craig

OPPOSE: Anthony, Harris

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Mayor Thompson states that there are (2) two vacancies on the City of Union Municipal Election Commission Board. One is for an unexpired term that will end June 2018 and the other is for a term that will end June 2022. The vacancies were advertised in the Union Daily Times and the Union County News. There was (1) one letter of interest received from Catrina Brown. These vacancies will need to be filled as soon as possible due an upcoming Special Election on January 9, 2018. Staff recommends that we appoint Ms. Brown to the City of Union Municipal Election Commission Board.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to appoint Catrina Brown to the Municipal Election Commission Board.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – USCU – CITY PARK UPGRADE

Mayor Thompson states that USC-Union continues to make improvements at City Park in preparation for the 2018 softball season. To date, the upgrade has incurred expenses totaling \$14,584.76 for fixtures and repairs. USC-Union would like to request a donation of \$5,600 to help pay down the expenses incurred. The recommendation would be to honor the request of \$5,600 to USC-Union from the general fund.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to honor the request.

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION LIONS CLUB DONATION

Mayor Thompson states that the Lions Club International is one of the largest service organizations in the world. Lions just celebrated 100 years of service and our motto is and will continue to be “we serve”. All of the money raised by the Union Lions Club must be used for charitable causes. They provide vision and hearing screenings at Buffalo and Foster Park Elementary and Sims Middle Schools. They will soon be providing vision screening for Headstart, Jonesville Elementary, Lockhart, and the Christian Day School. They provide eye exams and glasses for those in our community who cannot afford them and make referrals to Lions Charitable Services for hearing aids and eye surgeries. They contribute annually to Boy's Farm and Lion's Club Charitable Services. They participate in Union's Downtown Christmas Open House by serving coffee, hot

chocolate and homemade cookies. Their club has sponsored a Dixie Youth Baseball team for many, many years, and as part of their initiative on hunger, they provided a Community Meal this past January with plans to make this an annual event. Their building which is located on Main Street has been home to the Union Lions Club for approximately 25 years. Their immediate need is to replace the gutters on the Gadberry Street side. They will need to have a brick mason secure the bricks in the roof line and a roofer to attach hangers under the shingle for the gutters to be attached. The estimated cost of this repair is \$2,500. Any assistance they can receive from the City of Union will be greatly appreciated. A motion and a second from Council are in order for a donation. If approved staff suggest funds come from Community Services Account #5102.

MOTION by Mayor Thompson to approve a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from the Community Services Account.

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – WBCU’S ANNUAL “OPERATION STOCKING STUFFER”**

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU will be hosting its annual “Operation Stocking Stuffer” Campaign again this year. Items such as hats, gloves and socks will be delivered to our local nursing homes and assisted living facilities. WBCU is offering the following levels of opportunity to help and participate this holiday season: Angel – (100) 30 second commercials, Promotional announcements, Items and cards delivered in your name; Total Investment \$900 and Tree- (50) 30 second commercials, Promotional announcements, Items and cards delivered in your name; Total Investments \$600. A motion from Council to sponsor WBCU’s Operation Stocking Stuffer” Campaign is needed.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to sponsor “Operation Stocking Stuffer” Campaign in the amount of \$600.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rieta Drinkwine, Executive Director of the Union Carnegie Library announced that the Groundbreaking for the Library renovation will be November 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. She thanked City Council for their help and support. They anticipate having Representative Anthony and Senator Peeler speaking at the event. The Library will be moving to Graham Cash the beginning of December in which they will close for the month of December to relocate until the renovation on the Library is complete.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson states that last week, the City received notification from the Rural Infrastructure Authority for a \$1,000,000 grant for the Pump Station & Force Main upgrades. Also the City received a \$390,000 CDBG grant to purchase a new fire truck. The Mayor also announced that the City will schedule a joint meeting with County Council and also meet with a group called “RISE” for a presentation.

Curtiss Hunter, Executive Director of Union County Tourism Commission announced information regarding their 1st Annual Giant Christmas Card Contest. They have included each school’s art class, including home schools, to participate in the giant Christmas Card Contest. The card is an 8 x 4 piece of plywood cut in half, hinged together. There will be independent judges to judge the Christmas

Cards. Prizes will go to the school's art class that wins. The Christmas Cards will be displayed in the garden at the Main Street Junction and possibly displayed in each store front on Main Street that has no business in it. Also a couple of cards will be displayed at the Court House. Mrs. Hunter also announced that the Christmas Tree will be delivered at 7:30 am in the morning. This tree will be erected on the Court House lawn and a ceremony will follow after the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Thompson thanked Ms. Hunter and the group of folks that are helping her get things together.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2017