

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011
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 15, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem, Councilmembers Tommie L. Hill, Robert Garner, Ricky Todd Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Andy Bailey.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director; 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: Steve Ramsey – WBCU and Graham Williams – Union County News

OTHERS: Ben Powles, Michael Stevens, Charles Coyne, Torance Inman, Mickey Gist and Arthur Gore.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem Henderson 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 18, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Ruff to accept minutes as presented.
SECOND by Councilmember Hill.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Communications

A. Monthly Reports

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

Mayor Thompson asked for a motion to move Item “D” regarding Wallace Thomson Hospital Security/Off-Duty Public Safety Officers to executive session portion of meeting.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson to move Item “D” to executive session portion of meeting.

SECOND by Councilmember Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – APPROVE BORROWING OF FUNDS – STATE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL REVOLVING FUND

Finance Director Walker Gallman presented an ordinance to City Council approving the financing of improvements at the Tosch Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and replacing (3) pump stations at Coleman Street, Lukesville, and Ottaray. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of an ordinance and authorize the Mayor to execute the required documents.

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

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPROVE EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR OLD SIMS HIGH BUILDING

The old Sims High building has been looked at by both City and County for use of office housing for certain departments and storage area for supplies and equipment. This will be a joint committee with the County which will utilize the building also. The recommendation is to accept Mayor Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Henderson and Councilmember Bailey as the Evaluation Committee to represent the City of Union in this joint effort with the County to determine if the use of the old Sims High Building is feasible.

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – RE-SCHEDULE DECEMBER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Thompson states that the regular City Council Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. The December 2011 meeting will fall on the 21st of December which is the week of Christmas. If council approves, due to the holidays, staff would like to recommend that the December City Council meeting be moved to December 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

- A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record.

Councilmember Bailey states that there is a tree problem on Cherokee Avenue similar to the tree problem on Douglas Heights. There are one or two trees that has sidewalk coming up. Residents state that there is an insurance issue with the trees leaning toward their houses. The City has been trimming off one side of trees for maybe fifty years. If trees leaning fall, they would destroy houses. Councilmember Bailey would like for the City to look at the issue. Mayor Thompson states that the City would look at the issue and bring back to Council.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Please address the Mayor & Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record.

Ben Powles, 102 Green Street, addressed Council regarding property at 200 Hicks Street. Tree need to be trimmed back on property because of safety issue. Mayor Thompson states that he will get the Building & Zoning Department to look at property due to the fact that the City does not cut trees on private property.

Charles Coyne, 122 Havird Lane, addressed Council. Mr. Coyne is from New York and has recently moved to Union. He states that he is glad to live in Union; it is a beautiful place and anything he can do to assist the City of Union, even as a volunteer, just let him know. Councilmember Ruff states that she is glad to have Mr. Coyne as a neighbor.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL & CONTRACTUAL MATTER

DISCUSSION/MOTION – WALLACE THOMSON HOSPITAL SECURITY/OFF-DUTY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS

The City of Union has been approached by the Wallace Thomson Hospital concerning the possible employment of off-duty Public Safety Officers on a part-time basis for the purpose of providing hospital security services. If council so moves to allow off-duty Public Safety Officers to be part-time employees at Wallace Thomson Hospital for the purpose of providing hospital security services, this may require a policy change.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss the above item.

SECOND by Councilmember Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Henderson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chief Sam White recommendation to City Council is to not change the present policy regarding off-duty Public Safety Officers and that the City not be in the private security business.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to accept Chief White recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to adjourn.
SECOND by Councilmember Hill.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2011