

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019  
6:30 P.M.**

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{Summary minutes of City Council meeting. 8uAudio 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 Tuesday, October 15, 2019 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 Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn was not in attendance

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Human Resource Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – City Administrator; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edwards– Maintenance Shop Director; Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor; Dwayne Hardy – Assistant Public Service Director and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator

**NEWS MEDIA:** Charles Warner – Union Times; Graham Williams – Union County News and Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio

**OTHERS:** David M. Gioia, Martha V. Jolly, Dan O’Shields, Kathy O’Shields, Karl Pendergrass, Elise Ashby, Melody Porter, David Lance and Curtiss Hunter

**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. September 17, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Farmer's Market - Martha Girz-Smith, President/Chairman

Martha Girz-Smith, President/Chairman of the Farmer's Market and Craft Market Board addressed Mayor & City Council. Her first request was made by their market manager who wants council to try a sample of some of the food they serve so that people understand how to use the vegetables and fruits that are available at the market. She invited council to try a sample at the end of the meeting. Next Ms. Girz-Smith gave some information on the market stating that it is opened Monday through Saturday. On Saturdays, they have vendors cooking demonstrations, health screening and give a ways. They currently have 12 farmers and one rancher and 8 artisans. Their market is averaging about 750 people a week. Ms. Girz-Smith thanked council for the \$1,000 for two new stalls. Her second request is for two porta-johns with hand washing stations inside to be placed at the Farmers Market. The cost of the two portable restrooms that would be rented and include the monthly maintenance of \$115.00 each per month. This will be brought to the November council meeting for consideration. Mayor Pro Tem Garner suggests that they consider approaching the school system about building additional stalls for the market in their shop area as project. Ms. Girz-Smith states that is an interesting thought but the ones they currently have were built by the inmates.

C. Alzheimer's Association - Karl Pendergrass

Karl Pendergrass addressed council regarding the Alzheimer's Association. Mr. Pendergrass wants people to be aware of Alzheimer's and the impact that it has on people and communities and families. Mr. Pendergrass states that there is a Alzheimer's Walk that will be held October 19, 2019 at Barnett Park in Spartanburg for the 9 (nine) regions in the Upstate. The Walk is held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease. Mr. Pendergrass would like to see more Union representation during the Walk. He lastly states that he lost his mother to Alzheimer's in 2004.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY LOCATED ON PINCKNEY STREET

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union would like to transfer a 0.334 acre tract of land located on Pinckney Street to a Ms. Sonja Hardy for the amount of \$4,000. Any other expenses for this transfer will be borne by the Grantee, Ms. Hardy, as required by the City Procurement Policy. The land adjoining Ms. Hardy was acquired by the City of Union Tax Deed from the Delinquent Tax Collector. City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading at its September regular meeting. The recommendation is to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading authorizing the City Administrator to execute any documents needed to transfer the Pinckney Street Property as described on the Quit- Claim Deed to a Ms. Sonja Hardy for payment of \$4,000 and any additional charges.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING - AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF UNION ZONING ORDINANCE 1008 WEST MAIN STREET

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that there is a rezoning request for property

located at 1008 W. Main Street (tax map parcel # 073-14-02-003) from A-2 (Highway Commercial to R-6 (Residential)). The Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve. City Council passed 1st reading at its September regular meeting. The recommendation is to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

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

C. AWARD BID – AQUA LANE PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS - HULSEY MCCORMICK & WALLACE ENGINEERING – PROJECT # UNI 006

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that bids were received on September 26, 2019 at 2:00 pm for the Aqua Lane Pump Station Improvements. Five bids: Greenstone Construction LLC - \$475, 000; J.L. Construction Co., Inc. - \$389,500; Smith Backhoe & Construction LLC - \$380,143.67; The Harper Corporation, Inc. - \$517,000 and Tom Brigman Contractors, Inc. \$388,000. The bid summary and the recommendation letter from our consultant, Hulsey McCormick & Wallace Engineering bid summary and the recommendation letter from our consultant, Hulsey McCormick & Wallace Engineering was presented to council.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to accept bid from Smith Backhoe & Construction LLC in the amount of \$380,143.67  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BANTAM ATHLETIC 2019-2020 SPONSORSHIP

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the athletic department at USC Union has expanded to include men’s soccer, men’s baseball and women’s softball. Future plans are to add a women’s volleyball team. The teams compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association. A bass fishing team, rifle team, and E-sports gaming have been added and they compete in the club level. The USC Union Bantam Athletics is asking for the City of Union’s support through sponsorship in the following levels: Gold – \$2,000; Silver - \$1,000; Bronze - \$500 and Fan – \$150. A motion from council to sponsor the 2019-2020 Bantam Athletics. Mr. Nichols states that the City of Union participated at the \$1,000 level last year.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to sponsor the Bantam Athletics in the amount of \$1,000 at the Silver Level  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – WBCU’S TRUCK FULL OF TOYS CAMPAIGN

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that WBCU will be hosting their “Truck Full of Toys” campaign again this year. All items that are collected during this campaign will be donated to UCARE of Union and distributed in the community. Staff recommendation is for a motion from council to sponsor the WBCU’s annual “Truck Full of Toys” campaign. The City of Union sponsored WBCU’s Truck Full of Toys’ Campaign in the amount of \$1,000 last year

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to sponsor the WBCU’s annual “Truck Full of Toys” campaign in the amount of \$1,000  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER – FOSTER PARK SCHOOL

Chief Sam White states that on September 24<sup>th</sup>, he was notified by Dr. Roach that the SC Legislature appropriated approximately \$12 million to the SC Department of Education to fund 205 School Resource Officers positions statewide. One of the positions is for Foster Park School. Chief White states that himself, City Administrator Joe Nichols, Finance Director Laura Hembree, Dr. Roach and Betsy Trakas met on October 7<sup>th</sup> and talked about the position. This financing from the state will pay for the salary and benefits for that SRO. There is a recurring funding according to the School District. Councilmember Morgan asked what kind of cost the City will incur. Chief White states that cost incurred will be uniforms, weapons and training but some of the benefits like health insurance should be covered. He also states that the City does get some benefit from the officers when school is out and things of that nature so the City does benefit from it in other than just being taking care of the school. This position will be an employee of the City of Union Public Safety Department. If council approves participation, a motion is needed.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to participation in the School Resource Officer Program

**SECOND** by Councilmember Morgan

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

G. ORDINANCE - 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – DISPOSAL FEE

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that during the 2019-2020 budget workshop, City Council voted to add a \$5.00 disposal fee to the 2019 City tax notices. To properly add this fee, an ordinance is needed. A motion from council is needed to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to approve 1<sup>st</sup> reading

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson states that there will be grading on Main Street tomorrow and Main Street will be shut down for 2 days. He thanked Public Service Director Kenny Thomas, Public Service Supervisor Dewayne Hardy and their crew for the good work they did at Foster Park. Councilmember Anthony echoed. Mayor Thompson also thanked the Electric Crew for the good job they have done during the storms.

Councilmember Morgan states that she has heard good comments about the ladies in the Utility Department and good comments about Utility Director Mark Brown. She states that she just wants to thank them all.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

David M. Gioia, 411 Foster Street addressed council regarding the City's noise ordinance. He just wanted to let council know that the City has a good noise ordinance in place.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – ECONOMIC PROSPECT, AND PMPA LEGAL MATTER

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss an Economic Prospect and a PMPA and legal matters

**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

No action taken

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers  
Certified Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2019