

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013
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, January 15, 2013 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal Building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson; Mayor Pro Tem Keith Henderson; Councilmembers Robert Garner; Tommie L. Hill, Sr., Ricky Todd Harris and Jim Wilson. Councilmember Orangelow Ruff was absent due to illness.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director and Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor.

NEWS MEDIA: Graham Williams – Union County News; Derik Vanderford – Union Times and Mike Stevens, Steve Ramsey – WBCU Radio.

OTHERS: Terry Fant, Ben Powles, Charles Coyne, Hank Kwiatkowski, Torance Inman, Pamela Roberts, Annie Smith, Sean Keenan, Steve Lowe, Randy Ivey and others.

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. December 11, 2012 Regular Council Meeting

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. FY 2012 Audit Presentation - Terry Fant, CPA

Terry Fant, CPA presented the FY 2012 Audit to Mayor & City Council.

4. BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – GONVAUTO ANNEXATION
ORDINANCE

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that Gonvauto South Carolina, LLC is constructing a new metal fabrication manufacturing facility to be located in an Industrial Park within Union County, South Carolina. Gonvauto will invest at least \$35 million within the first 5 years and a total of \$50 million within ten years and end up with 65 full-time jobs at this facility. The City feels Gonvauto's presence in Union County will further spur economic development and by the letter dated September 28, 2012, it has been requested that the Annexation Ordinance be specifically amended in order to exempt the Company as owner of the property from the annexation provisions in the Annexation Ordinance. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the Annexation Waiver Ordinance, authorizing Gonvauto to waive the execution of Water/Sewer Annexation Agreement as a prerequisite of receiving service. City Council briefly discussed the annexation with Utility Director Joe Nichols.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. RESOLUTION – INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD – SEWER OUTFALL

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority is a new state agency created by the General Assembly to finance qualified rural infrastructure by providing grants for constructing and improving rural infrastructure facilities. Adequate infrastructure is an essential element in promoting economic growth and development that will provide jobs for the citizens of South Carolina. The SC Rural Infrastructure Authority is pleased to announce the availability of grant funding for Basic Infrastructure Projects that address water and sewer facilities. Eligible applicants include units of local government, special purpose or public service districts, and public works commissions located in designated distressed and least developed counties. Please note that applications will be accepted on February 1 and April 1, 2013 for the current fiscal year. City staff, upon approval by Council, plans to submit an application for the Industrial Park Road Sewer Outfall Project in the amount of \$350,000. Matching funds required are approximately \$120,860 to be funded by the Utility Fund. The recommendation is to authorize Mayor to execute resolution.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson to pass resolution.

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. AWARD BID – KNUCKLEBOOM TRUCK

Public Service Director states that the following bids were received on December 12, 2012, for a Knuckleboom Truck. Six bids were received and opened at 2:00 PM by Perry Harmon, Gloria Rogers and Mike Petrie. The following bids were received: Amick Equipment - \$119,112 (Demo); Peterbilt of Columbia - \$120,693 (New); Carolina International - \$121,403.41 (New); Public Works Equipment - \$121,903.00 (New); Carolina Environmental - \$122,161.00 (New) and Public Works Equipment - \$124,870 (New). The Peterson Loader had bucket problems and did not meet all loader specifications. Staff recommendation is to award bid to Public Works Equipment with a bid of \$121,903.00 for a Knuckleboom Truck.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to award bid to Public Works Equipment in the amount of \$121,903.00.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Finance Director states that the City will send out a RFP for Knuckleboom Truck.

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – COMMUNITY CHANGE HEATING & COOLING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Finance Director Walker Gallman addressed Council. He states that the Community Change Program has been in effect at the City of Union since 1993. What started out as a way of generating funds to assist in providing food and shelter to the needy is now a Heating and Cooling Assistance Program. This program began as a heating assistance only and council voted in August of 2010 to add cooling assistance to the program. Heating assistance (Electric & Gas) runs from January 1 thru April 30 and cooling (Electric Only) runs from July 1 thru October 31. Each City of Union customer who qualifies can receive \$100 per season. (No customer should receive more than \$200 in any one fiscal year). In fiscal year 2012, the “Community Change Program” generated \$ 21,699.90, assisted 118 customers in the amount of \$11,402.71. Use of these funds to help with heating and cooling bills is in keeping with what we have always said the funds will be used for. Assistance will continue on the availability of funds. The Salvation Army and Carolina Community Actions have indicated that they are willing to qualify applicants for the assistance as appropriated. Attached are letters from the two agencies to qualify applications. To qualify to receive assistance a customer must also participate in the program. Should council agree to renew the release of Community Change funds to assist City Utility customers, a motion is required. Mayor Thompson states that this has been an excellent program in assisting customers.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson to renew the release of Community Change funds to assist City Utility customers.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BOARD VACANCY – EXPIRED TERM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS”

City Council must fill (1) vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals for an expired term. This board works closely with the City of Union Planning Department and hears and decides on appeals dealing with zoning code

regulations. This position was solicited by public notice in local newspaper. Request to serve letter, voting ballots and public notice were presented to City Council. City staff recommends that Council appoint a qualified candidate to fill this most important board vacancy. George Ashmore made a request to be reappointment to the Board. Council voted unanimously to re-appointment Mr. Ashmore.

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UPCOUNTRY LITERARY FESTIVAL

Mr. Randy Ivey of USC-Union’s English Department addressed City Council regarding the “Upcountry Literary Festival”. USC Union will host the 3rd annual event on March 22 and 23, 2013 on the USC Union Campus. Currently USC Union is the major funding source for the Literary Festival. Mr. Ivey made a request for financial sponsorship in support of this upcoming community literary event. Staff recommendation is to donate funds in the amount of \$500.00.

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

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

None

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 3-6 minutes)

None

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – TO DISCUSS CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Councilmember Hill.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2013