

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 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, November 11, 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 Tommy L. Anthony, Yates Giles, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Jim Wilson.

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; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director and Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director.

NEWS MEDIA: Graham Williams – Union County News; Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio and Derrick Vanderford – Union Times.

OTHERS: Mary Ann Miller, Buddy Smith, Ola Jean Kelly, John Brown, Ronnie McNeace, Marsha Jordan, Don Shetley, Jean V. Harris, Patti LeMaster, Marian King, Calvin King, Rebecca Lance, David Lance, CR Robbins, Tyra Parham, Barbara Byrd, Barbara Rippey, Susan Balkum, Andrena Powell-Baker, George Bruce, James S. Hunter, Curtiss Hunter, James Lancaster, Mary Lois Wheeler, Beatrice Blanton, Donna Anthony Ray Treadway, Lynn McJunkin, Emma Garner, Brooks Carwile, Louis Jordon, Beverly Jordan, Curtis Eubanks and others.

1. OATH OF OFFICE: COUNCILMEMBERS

Tommy Anthony – District 1, Robert Garner – District 2 and Pamela Sloss – District 5 were seated as Councilmembers in a General Election held on November 4, 2014. The oath of office was given by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Mayor Thompson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given by all present. The roll was called by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

3. MINUTES

A. October 21, 2014 Public Hearing

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

B. October 21, 2014

Regular Council Meeting

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

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

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

B. Retiree Recognition – Curtis Eubanks

Public Safety Director Sam White recognized James Curtis Eubanks for his years of service at the City of Union.

C. Union County Historical Society

Buddy Smith, President of the Union County Historical Society, along with Ola Jean Kelly, presented City Council with a souvenir medallion that commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of the Cross Keys House. Mr. Smith thanked City Council for their support. Ms. Kelly also thanked City Council for their support, not only for the Union County Historical Society and the Museum, but also for what they do for the City of Union. Although Ms. Kelly sends a report to council every month, she wants them to know what they are doing to bring economic development to Union. She states that last month alone, they had visitors from nine other states doing genealogical research. They stayed in hotels, shopped in stores and ate at our restaurants. Ms. Kelly thanked City Council for giving them that opportunity by supporting the Union County Historical Society.

5. **BUSINESS**

A. ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Mayor Thompson states that in accordance with state and city code, Council must elect a Mayor Pro Tempore to serve for a term of not more than two years. The Mayor Pro Tempore acts as Mayor during the Mayor's absence or disability. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Mayor, the Mayor Pro Tempore serves as Mayor until a successor is elected. This should be done at council's first meeting after the new council is seated. City Council voted for Mayor Pro Tempore by ballot. Councilmember Garner was unanimously voted as Mayor pro Tempore for the next two years.

B. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – LOT REZONE (719 NORTH DUNCAN BYPASS)

Mayor states that the owners of the property located at 719 North Duncan Bypass requests that the property be rezoned to allow a church and coffee house. The property is currently zoned A-5 (Shopping Center) and the proposed change is A-2 (Highway Commercial). This property is adjacent to A-2 (Highway Commerical) and R-15 (Residential) zoned properties. City Council passed 1st reading at it October regular meeting.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to pass 2nd reading.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – AUDIT CONTRACT EXTENSION

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that to comply with S.C. law, it requires the City to have an auditor selected to audit the current fiscal year. The Finance Director asked Terry Fant, with Terry R. Fant, P.A. to consider a one year extension. Terry is currently auditing Fiscal Year 2014 that ended June 30, 2014 which ends his 3 year contract. A one year audit contract extension proposal for FY ending June 30, 2015 in the amount of \$31,578.00 was presented to Council. The recommendation is to award one year audit contract extension to Terry R. Fant, P.A. in the amount \$31,578.00.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BUFFALO MILL VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE IV – APPROVE LOCAL FUNDING

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that on November 4, 2014 the City was awarded a Basic Infrastructure Grant from the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority in the amount of \$350,000 for the Buffalo Mill Village – Phase IV Project. The total estimated project cost is \$504,513. The \$350,000 is for infrastructure only and the City will be responsible for the remaining cost of \$154,513. The remaining cost has been appropriated in the FY 2015 budget under sewer improvements. The recommendation is to approve local funding of up to \$154,513 and any additional funds required for the completion of this project.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to provide local funding of up to \$154,513 and any additional funds required for the completion this project.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – “WBCU – “OPERATION STOCKING STUFFER”

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU will be doing their annual, “Operation Stocking Stuffer” which is a project for local nursing homes and assisted living facilities where toiletry items and a card are delivered to the residents. There are two levels of sponsorship available: The Angel level total investment cost is \$850.00 and the Tree level sponsorship is \$550.00. A motion from council is needed.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to participate in the WBCU “Operation Stocking Stuffer” Tree Level sponsorship in the amount of \$550.00.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION EVENTS CENTER**

Mayor Thompson states that on Thursday, November 6, 2014 the Events Center Board met at the Union County Annex Building. Chairman Bob Love and area industry leaders made presentations to the Union City & County Councils. The Events Center Board asked the City for a donation of 50% of the Accommodations and Hospitality Tax for the next 3 years. Mayor Thompson asked City Attorney Larry Flynn to elaborate on this request. Attorney Flynn states that his opinion, if Council desires, would be to give consideration to dedicating money out of the hospitality tax and accommodations tax which should be the amount of funding they want to set aside on an annually basis and a commitment for an extended period of time. This would be an appropriation just like any other appropriation. Finance Director Walker Gallman suggests that the Union Events Center Board fill out a funding request and submit to council for approval. A funding request can be done any time during the year, but is mainly requested during the annual budget process. Councilmembers discussed funding for the Union Events Center in-depth. City Attorney Flynn reiterated to Council that if they are in favor of supporting the Union Events Center, they need to look at a fixed amount of funding that would be set aside annually for the Union Events Center.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to ask the Union Events Center Board to submit a proposal request as other agencies do with a specified amount and be presented to council at the next regular council meeting .
MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson asked councilmember to check their mailboxes after the meeting. There is information regarding elected official’s meeting and also he just received information that there is a round of grant money coming for demolition. The City has been compiling a list of houses for demolition. There are a total of 30 properties on the list.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss contractual matters.
SECOND by Councilmember Giles.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to go out of executive session into regular session.
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Thompson states that no action was taken in executive session, however; he asked Attorney Flynn to give an update regarding a lawsuit, Shirley's Ironwork Inc. and Tindall Corporation vs. City of Union. This case has been pending since 2002. The case was heard several weeks ago in the Union County Courthouse but no decision has been rendered in the case. Attorney Flynn states that in talking with Finance Director, Mr. Gallman and the Auditor, the City has not assigned any value to that case. Attorney Flynn's recommendation is an internal general fund transfer which does not require any action by council in the amount of \$71, 273 to fill that hole in any event this case comes back against the City. If the City is successful then this will not have any impact on the City. City Attorney Flynn states that Davidson & Lindeman, P.A. has been handling this case and has done a very good job representing the City of Union.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2014