

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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, December 16, 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 and Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio.

OTHERS: Al Griffin and Hazel Rogers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Councilmember Giles 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. November 11, 2014 Regular City Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept monthly reports.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. 1. Retirement Award – Al Griffin

Chief Sam White presented Al Griffin with a retirement award for 17 years of service with the Public Safety Department.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. RESOLUTION – SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION’S 2015
AVOCACY INITIATIVES

Mayor Thompson states that hundreds of municipal offices from across the state met in fall 2014 over a two month period to identify challenges at the municipal level. The Municipal Association identified five advocacy initiatives based on the feedback from local officials. The recommendation is to approve resolution in support of the Municipal Association’s 2015 Advocacy Initiatives.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to approve resolution.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. RESOLUTION – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – CITY OF
UNION & STANDARD TEXTILES – WATER & WASTEWATER RATES

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Union and Standard Textiles regarding water and wastewater rates was presented to council for approval.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve resolution.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. AWARD BID – ROOF, AWNINGS AND SKYLIGHTS REPAIR DUE TO
HAIL STORM DAMAGE

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on November 25, 2014 at 2:00 pm for repairing awnings at six (6) pump stations, fourteen (14) skylights at the warehouse, and two shingled roofs at PSO due to hail damage on May 23, 2014. Three (3) bids were received. They are as follows: Drake Builders - \$49,355; Nunnery Roofing - \$55,500 and H & S Roofing - \$54,834. The recommendation is to award bid to Drake Builders of Lancaster, SC in the amount of \$49,355 subject to bidder’s qualifications.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. AWARD BID FOR SEWER SYSTEM, DRAINAGE & ROAD
IMPROVEMENTS – OTTARAY MILL VILLAGE PHASE II PROJECT
R/C JOB NO 2013-048/057

Utility Director states that bids were received on November 13, 2014 for sewer system, drainage and road improvements for Ottaray Mill Village Phase II Project. Five bids were received as follows: GH Smith Construction - \$563,303.00; Upstate Grading - \$578,850.45; Smith Backhoe & Construction - \$586,634.75; Garawco Inc. - \$682,334.00 and Payne, McGinn & Cummings - \$691,515.00. The bid summary and

recommendation letter from our consultants was presented to council. This is a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) joint project with Union County with funding from several sources. The recommendation is to award bid to G.H. Smith Construction in the amount of \$563,303.00.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENTS – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Mayor Thompson states that City Council must fill two (2) vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals for expired terms. This Board works closely with the City of Union Planning Department. This Board hears & makes decisions on appeals dealing with zoning code regulations. These positions were solicited by public notice in a local newspaper November 17, 2014. Request to serve letters from Wiley Sheorn and Jerry A. Willard, Jr., voting ballots and public notice were presented to council. City staff recommends that council appoint candidates to fill these most important vacancies.

MOTION by Councilmember Giles to re-appoint Wiley Sheorn and Jerry A. Willard Jr. to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTURAL AGREEMENT WITH BLUE SKY TO REPAIR MURAL

Mayor Thompson states that there are some issues with the mural located at the end of the street. He recently talked with the artist “Blue Sky” regarding restoration of the mural which was completed in 2007. The Mayor and City Attorney Larry Flynn spoke with “Blue Sky” via conference call. Also the Mayor states that Councilmember Giles is assisting with the mural restoration project. Mayor Thompson states that the City wants to enter into a contract agreement with “Blue Sky” pending council’s approval. Attorney Flynn states that his primary concern is to get some understanding about what the overall expense is going to be to restore the mural. “Blue Sky” states that the project should take no more than 4 or 5 days and he proposes to do some silicone patching of whatever water leaks there are and repaint the “crossing arms” and coat the mural with a two part varnish as necessary to protect the mural from further damage. “Blue Sky” will purchase varnish and brushes for application of the varnish and the City reimburse him for such expenses. Total cost of supplies is estimated to be \$500. Attorney Flynn recommends that City Council enters into a contract agreement with “Blue Sky” with a cap of \$3,000 to stabilize mural. Attorney Flynn states that he and the Mayor will discuss putting a suitable façade easement in place before mural restoration repair. The agreement also states that the City will be responsible for obtaining a scissor lift. Attorney Flynn states that another issue the City need to discuss, which is a longer term issue is roof work on building in order to preserve mural for the future.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept City Attorney Flynn’s recommendation contingent on an acceptable easement in place.
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday. He also reminds staff regarding the Christmas Luncheon tomorrow for City employees. The Mayor also announced that he will have Robbie Moody come to a council workshop to pin down a 5-year plan for downtown.

Councilmember Wilson states that everyone should go down and look at the big Christmas Tree at Foster Park at night to see how beautiful it is and the reflection on the pond.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – TO DISCUSS LEGAL AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss legal and contractual matters.

SECOND by Councilmember Wilson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Minutes approved _____ 2015