

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015
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, May 19, 2015 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, Yates Giles, Pamela Sloss and Jim Wilson. Councilmember Ricky Todd Harris was absent.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn was not in attendance.

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

NEWS MEDIA: Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio and Graham Williams – Union County News

OTHERS: Robby Moody, Torance Inman, Adolphus Ray Jones, William Sims, Curtiss Hunter and Barbara Rippy

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. April 21, 2015 Budget Work Session

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

B. April 21, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

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

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to approve monthly reports.
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Community Vibrancy Committee

Torance Inman, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the Community Vibrancy Committee recommendations. The committee met with John Burnett on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 to discuss possible options for planters and hanging baskets. John provides planters for Grove Park Inn and hanging baskets for the City of Spartanburg. A recommendations for trees and planters should be forthcoming within the next month. Additional work to identify a specific type of public art with community input is ongoing. A process for receiving input and voting on recommendations through the media outlets and public meeting is being developed.

C. City Park – William Sims

William Sims, Chairman of the SC Jewels Organization addressed council regarding the use of City Park for a fund raiser event on Saturday, July 18, 2015. The event is a Basketball Team Tournament with out of town teams competing as well the Union teams. He states that SC Jewels Basketball Organization has 501 (c) status. Mayor and Council briefly discussed liability issues involving this request.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to allow the use of City Park by the SC Jewels Organization contingent on getting signed waiver forms from basketball participates and provide a certificate of insurance for this event naming the City of Union as additional insured.
SECOND by Councilmember Giles
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – **1ST READING** - PROPOSED BUDGET – 2015/2016

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the FY 2015/2016 proposed balanced budget totals \$45,309,640 a decrease of 2.0% under last fiscal year budget totals. The main reason for the decrease is due to the projected decrease in wholesale purchase power cost and the projected increase in the cost of natural gas. The General Fund budgeted expenditures total \$5,915,150, an increase of \$213,300 or 4% over FY 2014/2015. There are many fiscal pressures on the General Fund. State law limits the increases of property tax millage unless the government has a specific reason. Due to reassessment the City will not raise taxes for FY 2016. The City could increase property taxes by the CPI (Consumer Price Index) and percentage growth in population in the amount of 1.22 Mills, but will consider this increase for FY 2017. The 2015 tax rate will not be set until the reassessment information is complete. The Local Government Fund, which is funded by

state revenues, is being debated by our state legislature concerning projected funding for FY 2016. The transfer of funds from the (2) two enterprise funds of the City continue to be a major revenue source of the General Fund at \$1,820,000 or 33% of total projected revenues of \$5,359,280. The Public Safety Department which is 61% of the General Fund Budget continues to pressure resources of the General Fund. The hospitality and accommodations fee, has allowed council to appropriate funds for local tourism and tourism related recreational events and projects. This fund has relieved some of the stress on the General Fund to fund these events. The Solid Waste Management Fund's budget for FY 2015/2016 totals \$784,230, an increase of \$21,030 or 3% over FY 2014-2015. No capital equipment is proposed in this budget or increase of the monthly garbage fee is proposed FY 2016. The Utility Enterprise fund budget expenses for FY 2015/2016 total \$36,285,070, a decrease of \$1,349,050 or 4% under FY 2014/2015. Electric power cost is projected to decrease by 2.4% or \$354,900 and Natural Gas commodity cost is projected to decrease by 12.61% or \$946,540. State and Federal mandates, as well as the loss of industrial base, continue to stress the water and sewer divisions. The City's water division provides water to approximately 6101 customers directly, as well as (5) water districts, and provides sewer service to approximately 4887 customers. The General Fund and Enterprise Funds will be balanced using fund balance and retained earnings accumulated from prior years. Staff recommendation is to pass first reading of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-2016.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – SEWER USE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that the NPDES permit for the Tosch Creek WWTP was reissued and became effective November 1, 2015. A requirement of the permit is the City of Union shall submit to the SC DHEC an update to its previously approved industrial pretreatment program, which is a section included in the Sewer Use Ordinance. We have revised our existing sewer use ordinance to comply with current EPA and SC DHEC regulations and mandates. The proposed changes are "highlighted" on the ordinance. The recommendation would be to pass first reading of Sewer Use Ordinance as amended, subject to SC DHEC's final review.

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – ANNEXATION – SARDIS ROAD

Robby Moody, Senior Planner of CRPC addressed council. Mr. Moody states that the four properties located on Sardis Road are contiguous to the City of Union. Per the execution of the water and/or sewer service agreements and restrictive covenants the property owners are obligated to sign the petitions for annexation. The following properties are 103 Sardis Road – Jackie & William Weber, 110 Sardis– Jeffery Malone, 120 Sardis Road – James E. Palmer and 126 Sardis Road– LJS Development, LLC. Staff contacted the property owners and each owner signed an annexation petition, except James Palmer at 120 Sardis Road. Per section 8 of the water and/or sewer service agreement and restrictive covenant previously signed by each property owner, the City Attorney has power of attorney to

sign any annexation petition “in the event Owner fails to sign any Annexation Petition upon request. The property at 103 Sardis Road is at the intersection with US Highway 176; Duncan Bypass is a hair salon and is appropriate for A- 2 Highway Commercial zoning. The remaining three properties at 110, 120 and 126 Sardis Road are single-family residential homes; therefore, staff recommends R-10 Single-Family Residential zoning.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – HOUSING AUTHORITY (1) VACANCY

Mayor Thompson states that an expired term of April 6, 2015 has created a vacancy on the Housing Authority Board. A public notice advertising this vacancy ran in the Union County News and the Union Daily Times. Three request letters was received from the following: Genelle Alexander for re-appointment, Matthew Jeter, Jr. - appointment and Adolphus Ray Jones - appointment to fill that vacancy. Request to serve letters and public notice was presented to council. City staff recommends that Council appoint a candidate by ballot to fill this position. Result is as follows: Genelle Alexander – 4 votes; Matthew Jeter, Jr. – 1 vote and Adolphus Ray Jones – 1 vote. Genelle Alexander was re-appointed to the Union Housing Authority Board.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

None

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

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

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Councilmember Wilson

SECOND by Councilmember Giles.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes approved _____ 2015