

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019
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 30-4-90.

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, April 16, 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, Pamela Sloss, Ricky Todd Harris and Sonja Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn was not in attendance.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director, Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor; DeWayne Hardy – Assistant Public Service Director; Melissa Youngblood – Media IT Director and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator.

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

OTHERS: Frank Hart, David Kitchens, Harriet Bruce, Alise Ashby, Dan O’Shields, Linda Keith, Curtiss Hunter, Rieta Drinkwine, Michael Tyler and George Starnes.

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. March 19, 2019 Regular Council Meeting

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

B. March 26, 2019 City Council Budget Worksession
C. March 27, 2019 City Council Budget Worksession

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes
SECOND by Councilmember Sloss
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. April 1, 2019 City Council Special Meeting
Budget Worksession

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. April 10, 2019 City Council Budget Work Session

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

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information
SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Rise Committee -

Dan O'Shields

Dan O'Shields, Co-Chairman of the Rise Committee, 104 Circle Drive, Union addressed council. He gave Mayor and City Council a copy of a letter that Rise has written to the Union County Foundation. They are requesting up to \$10,000 to help in establishing Union as an applicant for Main Street, South Carolina and they are officially requesting that Rise make application for this. Mr. O'Shields states that if they could get \$5,000 to \$10,000 from the City of Union, it would help to get started and also to ask whether the City of Union wants to pursue the application. He also added that Union County Foundation will meet the 3rd Thursday in May to decide on Rise request for funding. Mayor Thompson states that right now the City will have to hold off on making a decision because having the funds does not necessarily mean that the application will be accepted and the City is not in a position to vote on the funding request until Rise is accepted in the program.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **RESOLUTION - WEST MAIN STREET AREA SEWER SYSTEM - LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS**

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that sewer line in the West Main Street area have been determined by the City of Union that their life span has reached an end and needs to be upgraded to meet today's standards and reduce infiltration onto the system. The cost of the improvements including engineering and administration is estimated to be \$892,134. The City intends to make an application for \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding. The Community Infrastructure Program will be used to pay for the cost of rehabilitation which was submitted yesterday (April 15). The cost will cover 4,07 LF of 8 inch sewer line, 614 LF of 6" sewer line, 20 manholes in the West Main Street/ Evans Street area. The project will serve an estimated 60 residential properties, and 6 commercial properties. The program requires local matching funds of a minimum of 10 percent of the grant amount. The City of Union agrees to provide local matching funds of \$292,134 and any additional funds required for the completion of the project. The recommendation is for the Union City Council to agree through a resolution to provide a local match of \$292,134 and any additional funds required for the complementation of the project.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass resolution
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. **REMOVE FROM TABLE** – 5% FRANCHISE FEE – TOWN OF JONESVILLE

Mayor Thompson states that this item was previously tabled and it will need to be removed from table. The Mayor asked for a motion to that effect.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to remove from the table and bring it back to the table

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – 5% FRANCHISE FEE ON NATURAL GAS – TOWN OF JONESVILLE

Michael Tyler, Administrator for Town of Jonesville addressed council. He states that after the last meeting, City of Union Attorney Larry Flynn drafted a new Franchise Agreement. Mr. Tyler states that he presented the agreement to his Mayor and Council. He states that Jonesville Town Council has authorized their Mayor to enter into the new agreement with the City of Union re-acting the original 1999 Franchise Fee Ordinance that was adopted by the Town of Jonesville. He further states that they will agree to the City of Union's terms. The Franchise Agreement will go into effect July 1st of this year. Mayor Thompson states that staff's recommendation has two parts: one is to increase the Franchise fee and other is to increase the bill collection fee. The Mayor asked for a motion to execute the 5% franchise fee.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to increase the franchise fee on natural gas by 5%

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

Councilmember Anthony asked Mr. Tyler if they have notified Jonesville residents that the franchise fee increase is coming from their Town Council and not from the City of Union's Council. Mr. Tyler states that they do plan on making a public notice if the 5% franchise fee is approved tonight. Mayor Pro Tem Garner states that he would like to see a letter go out to Jonesville residents for the franchise fee increase so that residents will not contact the City of Union regarding the franchise fee increase. Councilmember Morgan added that she just want to make sure that the residents know that all the City of Union is doing is paperwork for the Town of Jonesville. Mayor Thompson asked for a motion to execute the Franchise Fee Agreement.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to execute the Franchise Fee Agreement with the Town of Jonesville effective July 1, 2019 provided a letter is received from Jonesville Town Council stating that Jonesville made the request to increase the Franchise Fee by 5% that will go out with the June billing prior to the first collection bill in July.

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that most of the residents in Jonesville have their gas cut off in the summer and may not even look at their June bill. The Utility Director feels that there needs to be something publicly put in the newspaper and posted at Jonesville Town Hall that Jonesville Town Council are implementing the 5% increase fee. Mr. Tyler states that in May, they will have their monthly meeting and they can post a franchise fee wording on their sign and encourage the public to come to the public hearing on that and will also have a statement for the City to go into the billing for June. Councilmember Harris asked Mr. Tyler if they could put franchise fee notice back in the bill around November and December when customers cut their gas back on in case they do not open their bill.

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Thompson states that council will need to vote on the second part of the request for bill collection in the amount of \$300 a year. Presently the City of Union pays Town of Jonesville \$110 per year for collecting utility bills at Jonesville Town Hall.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to have Jonesville sign up customers and pay them \$200 per year to collect and sign up new customers

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED 6 to 1

FOR: Thompson, Anthony, Garner, Morgan, Harris, Sloss

OPPOSE: Craig

D. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – REQUEST TO REZONE PROPERTY – USC UNION

Mayor Thompson states that the above item is struck from the agenda because the Planning Commission did not have a quorum to hold their meeting. This will be brought back to the May regular meeting agenda.

E. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – WBCU 21ST ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS EXPO

Mayor Thompson states that May is National Senior Citizens month and 1460 WBCU along with its co-sponsors want to once again honor the senior citizen's with their 21st Annual Senior Citizen Expo, May 23, 2019. The Expo will be held at the Tabernacle Baptist Church from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. There will be activities, entertainment and door prizes. The two packages available are as follows: Package "A" includes 100-thirty seconds ads; reservations of a booth at the expo and 100 promos about the event. The cost is \$950. Package "B" includes 50 thirty seconds ads; reservations of a booth at the expo and 100 promos about the event. The cost is \$750.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to sponsor WBCU's Senior Expo in the amount of \$500

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – ROTARY CLUB OF UNION – UCHS DRAMA DINNER THEATER

Mayor Thompson states that the Rotary Club and the UCHS Drama Department are requesting sponsorships through ad sales for their annual Dinner Theater. "Beauty and the Beast" will be presented on April 25, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The ad will be placed in the program at the show. Ad sizes and prices are follows: Full Page - \$75; Half Page - \$60; Quarter Page - \$40 and Eighth Page (Business Card Size) - \$20. If council is in favor of sponsoring the Union County High School's Dinner Theater a motion is in order.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to approve sponsorship for a full page ad in the amount of \$75.00

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – SERVICE TRUCK DONATION TO TOWN OF CARLISLE

Mayor Thompson states that on September 18, 2018 Mayor Mary Ferguson – Glenn of Carlisle addressed council. She explained that the Town of Carlisle is a small community with limited funding. She stated that they often struggle to provide adequate services to the people they represent and has asked the City of Union for their consideration in donating one of the City's older service trucks to Town of Carlisle. A letter from Mayor Glenn dated April 4, 2019 asking again for the consideration of that donation was presented to council. Action from Council to approve donating a retired City of Union service truck to the Town of Carlisle when one becomes available requires approval from council. City Council discussed the request.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to table the request until further information about the legality of giving the vehicle to an entity
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

George Stames of 1307 Linersville Road, Buffalo, SC and a small business owner addressed council regarding support for Channel 192 – Union Connection. Mr. Stames asked City Council to reconsider the decision to shut the channel down. He states the Union Connection Channel is a wonderful public service to Union citizens that airs events that he and others may not be able to attend in addition to other news and public announcements. He also made comment about what an outstanding job Melissa Youngblood does on Channel 192 - Union Connection.

Beth Anthony, 104 Rosewood Terrace, Union, SC addressed council. She states that she is speaking in professional capacity regarding Channel 192 – Union Connection. Ms. Anthony is a teacher at Union County High School and she states that she supports the graduation efforts at Union County High School. She also states that she is the person who is assigned to the technology of their graduation ceremony. Last year they worked with Melissa and the Union Connection to provide a live video with about a 3 to 5 second delay of their graduation ceremony at Union County High School; something that has never been done in Union County. She states that they had roughly 12,000 viewers on Facebook which is very important for people who could not travel to Union County. Ms. Anthony states that she has a prior commitment from the Union Connection to record the graduation and on behalf of the school is asking City Council to honor the commitment to use the Union Connection to record the graduation. Also Union Connection had DVD's for sale of the graduation ceremony. Councilmember Morgan asked Ms. Anthony if Union County High School had a media program as other schools have so that they can do their own filming. Ms. Anthony states that they do not have that capability. She suggests Ms. Anthony check into this.

Linda Keith-Carter of 2318 Whitmire Highway addressed council. She states that she is the owner of Linda's Variety Shop on 907 S. Duncan Bypass. Ms. Keith-Carter states that there is a roadway right besides her building that nobody uses. She is concerned about a tree that's leaning toward her building. She states that nobody pays or neither claims property nor pay taxes on the property. She is willing to pay for the stamps and fee to acquire the property. Mayor Thompson informed council that Ms. Keith-Carter is referring to an access road near her business that has grown up. The Mayor states that this is something an attorney needs to look at if the City doesn't own it: she would have to go to the State. Also Ms. Keith-Carter states that Don Shetley had been working on this but he is waiting on some paperwork.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson states that the City of Union will participate in the Spring Fling again this year which will be held at USC-Union April 24, 2019.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** CONTRACTUAL MATTER

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter
SECOND by Councilmember Morgan
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 Mayor Pro Tem Garner
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2019