

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020
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

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 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, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn was absent

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Human Resource Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – City Administrator; Robbie McGee- Captain of Investigation; Mark Brown – Utility Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor; Dwayne Hardy – Public Service Director; Leroy Edwards – Fleet Manager and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator. Sam White – Public Safety Director was absent.

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

OTHERS: Lawrence Flynn, Toccoa Switzer, Nancy Kennedy, Billy McAbee, Elise Ashby, Dan O’Shields, Curtiss Hunter; Lynda Casey-Clark; Pete Berry; Harriett Berry; Katherine Pendergrass, Lester Young and others

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. January 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept monthly reports as information only

SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS/EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Piedmont Physic Garden – Toccoa Switzer

Toccoa Switzer gave an update of their mission statement which is to exhibit and promote the medicinal, economic, cultural and environmental importance of plants to the people of Union County and the surrounding Piedmont region of South Carolina. Also Nancy Kennedy and Billy McAbee, members of Piedmont Physic Garden gave presentation of their expansion plans for the Botanical Garden to add an English Style Topiary Garden.

B. South Carolina Represent – “Just Leader” - Lester Young

Lester Young, Just Leadership USA of Columbia, SC addressed City Council. Mr. Young is working as a campaign leader led by JLUSA to pass an ordinance called “Ban the Box” on all employment applications that ask the question “if you have been convicted of a crime”. He states that many jurisdictions have responded by taking the questions off their municipal or county employment applications; however “Ban the Box” does not simply mean the removal, but rather this would limit background checks until after a conditional offer of employment is made and only evaluate fair hiring practices across City employment for people with arrest or conviction records. Lastly Mr. Young states that the ordinance is intended to strengthen communities, expand employment opportunity for people with criminal records and reduce recidivism in the City of Union. The City of Columbia has already passed this ordinance.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE - 2ND READING – BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE
APPENDIX A (RATE SCHEDULE) & B (CLASS SCHEDULE)**

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that the Municipal Association of South Carolina has made some changes to the Model Business License Ordinance. Also, the Municipal Association has recently published and updated business class schedule based on the most recent IRS data. The business license class schedule properly classifies each business according to current gross profit margin data as available by the Internal Revenue Service. City staff recommends that council pass 2nd reading of the Business License Ordinance with Appendix A (Rate Schedule) and Appendix B (Class Schedule).

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2nd reading of the Business License Ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR GARBAGE TRUCK**

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that during the 2019-2020 budget workshop, City Council voted to purchase a garbage truck for the Solid Waste Department. Funding would be from the City's Utility Fund, with the Solid Waste Fund reimbursing the Utility Fund. The Utility Fund must show a surplus

at the end of the fiscal year 2018-2019 for this purchase to take place. The 2018-2019 Financial Statements were presented at the December 2019 City Council meeting, with a surplus being report in the Utility Fund for the audited fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. The cost of the garbage truck is \$133,925.76. An ordinance must be in place to transfer funds from the Utility Fund to the Solid Waste Fund. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the ordinance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation pass 1st reading of the ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. ORDINANCE – 1st READING - REFERENDUM TO DETERMINE ALCOHOL SALES ON SUNDAY

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union wishes to put forth on the November 3, 2020 general election a referendum to allow certain businesses located in the City to sell alcoholic beverages, so as to meet the demand created by recent economic growth and development within the City. Pursuant to SC Code 61-6- 2010(C) (4), cities are authorized to call by ordinance for a referendum at the next general election to allow the sale of on-premises alcoholic beverages, and off-premises beer and wine on Sundays. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of the ordinance to place a referendum on the November 3, 2020 ballot, to allow the sale of on premises alcoholic beverages and off-premises beer and wine in the City on Sundays. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of this ordinance to place a referendum on the November 3, 2020 ballot the sale of on premises alcoholic beverages and off-premises beer and wine in the City on Sundays.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to pass 1st reading of the ordinance

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

IN FAVOR: Thompson, Garner, Morgan, Harris, Sloss, Craig

OPPOSE: Anthony

CARRIED 6 TO 1

C. AWARD BID – WATER PLANT BASINS REHABILITATION PROJECT

Utility Director Mark Brown states that bids were received on January 22, 2020 at City Hall for the rehabilitation of the basins at the Water Plant. Work will consist of pressure washing the walls and floors of the four (4) sedimentation basins and the four (4) flocculator basins. A ½" cementitious liner will be applied to the walls and a 1/4 cementitious liner will be applied to the floors. 80 mls of Sherwin Williams Dura Plate 6000 will be applied to both walls and floors. Price includes a 5 year manufactory warranty and a 5-year labor warranty. Six (6) bidders offered proposals for this project. Southern Industrial Linings, Ranger GA - \$685,000; Carolina Management Team (CMT) Asheville NC - \$542,986; E & D Contracting Services, Inc., Savannah GA - \$647,310; CTR Utilities, Knoxville TN - \$835,000; Harrelson Painting LLC, Swansea, SC; - \$490,000 and Osborn Contract Services, Inc., Greer, SC - \$337,593. The recommendation is to award the bid to Osborn Contract Services, Inc. of Greer, SC in the amount of \$337,593.00.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to award bid to Osborn Contract Services, Inc. of Greer, SC

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. AWARD BID – MAIN STREET ALLEYWAY CONTRACT

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the City of Union advertised a Request for Qualifications for Turn-Key Design-Build Services for the Main Street Alleyway project. The project location is 119 West Main Street, Tax map #073-20-06-008. The Design-Builder will be responsible for architectural, engineering, Landscape/site design, demolition, and construction activities to redevelop this vacant parcel into an inviting public space. The proposed project is a multi-use outdoor space that will promote quality of life and serve as a catalyst for downtown redevelopment. It will connect Main Street to the Hunter Street alley directly behind it. This alleyway will allow an open pass-through for downtown merchants and shoppers to enter Main Street. The concept plan includes several key components, most notably the entryway from Main Street featuring a stylistic metal archway with a sign "The Depot" referencing Union's historic connection to the railroad and the nearby Blue Sky mural. Decorative pavers and bistro-style lighting will create a welcoming environment for daytime and evening use. The timeline for completing this project is 6 months from the contract execution date. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at Union City Hall on December 17, 2019. Proposals were received from Montgomery Construction and Tyler Construction Group by the deadline of January 14, 2020. The selection committee met on January 27, evaluated the proposals and identified Montgomery Construction as the general contractor for this project. Council is asked to accept the proposal from Montgomery Construction in the amount of \$149,850. Also some of the project work can be performed by City employees; therefore cost of the project should go down and not exceed the \$149,850.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept the proposal from Montgomery Construction in the amount of \$149,850

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CITY OF UNION 2020-2021 ANNUAL BUDGET BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that the proposed 2020-2021 Budget Workshop Session has been tentatively set for March 30th & 31st with sessions beginning at 4:00 pm

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to approve budget workshop date and time

SECOND by Morgan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL – ANNUAL "CHALK WALK"

City Administrator Joe Nichols states that Union County Arts Council is currently working on their 2020 annual Chalk Walk. The event will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020 for everyone. The sidewalks will be covered with colorful masterpieces of art work created by people from kindergarten up. The UCAC will provide the participants with enough chalk to complete their art work. There will be judges to select winner from several age groups. UCAC is asking for a donation of \$500 to support this event. The donation will be used to cover the cost of supplies and several awards for the winners. The recommendation is that the City awards the UCAC with a monetary sponsorship to aid in the annual Chalk Walk.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept the recommendation

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Morgan recommends that council put agencies on notice during the budget worksession that they will only receive funding once a year which should be requested during the budget worksession.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. PLEASE ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FROM THE LECTERN AND STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD (COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3-5 MINUTES)

Curtiss Hunter, Director of Union County Tourism, reminded council of the SC Governor's Conference which will be held February 17-19, 2020.

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL MATTER**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a personnel matter

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of executive session back into regular session

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No action taken

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem to adjourn

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers
Certified Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2020