

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

[Summary minutes of City Council meeting. All 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 Thursday, June 20, 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, Ricky Todd Harris and Sonja Craig. Councilmember Pamela Sloss was absent

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Human Resource 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 and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator

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

OTHERS: Jamie Trammell, Taccoa Switzer, Aya Nance, Lois Moorman and Dave Lance

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. May 21, 2019 | Joint Public Hearing |
| B. May 21, 2019 | Regular City Council Meeting |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| C. May 28, 2019 | Public Hearing |
| D. May 28, 2019 | Special Council Meeting |

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept monthly reports as information
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Physic Garden Taccoa Switzer

Taccoa Switzer and her summer intern Aya Nance gave update on branding for Piedmont Physic Garden. Ms. Switzer also states that the 2019 Environmental Art Music Festival will be held September 26th – 28th in the Downtown area.

C. Mayor Thompson asked for a motion from council to amend agenda by adding an executive session after the business section.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to add an executive session to the agenda
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. BUSINESS

A. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – APPROPRIATE FISCAL 2018-2019 MONIES FROM GENERAL FUND FOR THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that at the June 5, 2018 City Council meeting, a contract was entered into between the City of Union and DataMax Corporation. This is a company that discovers revenue sources and collects on those sources. Since August 2018, the City has utilized this company for the collection of unpaid business licenses. DataMax is a performance-based company that provides results prior to earning their fees. Since August 2018 DataMax has recovered unpaid license revenues in the amount \$146,774.68. The fees charged to the City of Union during the first year of the contract are 50 percent of the revenue collections. Total fees to date are \$73,387.34. Since DataMax's business license collections did not begin until after second reading of the FY 2019 budget, there were no funds budgeted in the Planning Department to cover these fees. The ordinance provides an appropriation from the General Fund to adjust the FY 2019 budget.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2ND reading of ordinance to allow transfer of funds to accommodate payment to DataMax
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that Fiscal year 2019-2020 Proposed Budget All Funds Summary is \$43,887,090, a decrease of 2.3% under Fiscal Year 2018-2019. The General Fund's projected revenues are \$6,077,490. Expenditures are proposed at \$6,604,330. This leaves a deficit of \$526,840 to be funded by fund balance. Taxpayers will receive a credit against their property taxes due to local option sales tax revenue. The tax millage will increase by 3.0 mills to 89.8 mills for a \$50,000 home. The increase will be approximately \$6.10 on the 2019 tax notice; for a \$100,000 home, the increase will be approximately \$12.20. A \$5

disposal fee will be added to the 2019 tax notices. For most homeowners, the local option tax credit will absorb these increases. Capital equipment and improvements in the amount of \$324,750 is included in the proposed expenditures amount above. The Solid Waste Management fund has a budget of \$855,240, an increase of 8.3%. The garbage pickup fee will increase by \$1 to \$17 per month. The Utility Fund projected revenues are \$35,509,280. Expenses are proposed at \$35,632,000, a decrease of 3.9% under last year's budget. The deficit of \$122,720 will be funded by retained earnings. No electric rate increase is proposed, but the PPA will continue to true up the cost of power each month. No rate increases are proposed for water or sewer customers. Natural gas base rates will not increase, but the PGA will continue to true up the cost of gas each month. Capital equipment in the amount of \$188,000 and infrastructure of \$4,647,700 are included in the total utility proposed expenses above. A 2.6% cost of living raise is proposed for City employees. The General Fund and Utility Funds will use fund balance/cash reserves to balance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 2nd reading of the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Ordinance
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – ADOPT TAX LEVY 2019-2020

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that the proposed Tax Levy will be set at 89.8 mills. The recommendation is to pass 2nd reading of ordinance to adopt Tax Levy for 2019-2020.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to pass 2nd reading of the 2019-2020 Tax Levy Ordinance
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING – REZONE PROPERTY FROM A-4 AND/OR R-10 TO A-1

Mayor Thompson states that the subject properties make up a considerable portion of the University of South Carolina – Union campus in downtown. The Union Laurens Commission for Higher Education request the rezoning of the 11 parcels to A-1, Central Business District to ensure that the parcels associated with the campus are zoned A-1. City Council passed 1st reading of the ordinance at its May 21st regular council meeting. A motion is needed from council to approve second reading of an ordinance to rezone six parcels from R-10 to A-1 and five tax parcels from A-4 to A-1.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance
SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. APPOINTMENTS – PLANNING COMMISSION

City Council must fill three (3) vacancies on the Planning Commission for expired terms. These positions are four-year terms to expire June 30, 2023 and are appointed by the Mayor & City Council. The Planning Commission works closely with the City of Union Planning Department. They meet to consider and make recommendations to City Council concerning zoning ordinances or resolutions. The Commission also makes regulations for the subdivision of land and appropriate revisions thereof within its jurisdiction. These positions were solicited by public record in the local newspaper May 27, 2019. Request to serve

letters for appointment to the Planning Commission Board were received from Bobby Joe Gibbs, Lynn Eaves and Stacy Hutch Hall. Voting ballots were presented to council. Council voted unanimously for the re-appointments of Mr. Gibbs, Eaves and Hall. The recommendation is re-appoint the above candidates to the Planning Commission Board.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation for appointments
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – WBCU AND HOLCOMBE FUNERAL HOME – UNION COUNTY PEP RALLY

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU and Holcombe Funeral Home will host their annual Pep Rally at the Union County Stadium, Thursday August 15 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The two sponsorship from which to choose are: Full Service Menu at a cost of \$1,000 and Appetizer Menu at a cost of \$850. A motion is needed from council to sponsor WBCU's and Holcombe Funeral Home Union County Pep Rally.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to sponsor WBCU's and Holcombe Funeral Home Union County Pep Rally in the amount of \$500.00
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – "LIGHT UP THE LAKE 2019"

Mayor Thompson states that Supervisor Frank Hart has requested that the City participate with the County in the Independence Day Celebration of "Light up the Lake 2019." He is requesting that the City pay for the band at \$3500 and also that Public Safety provide officer participation. Estimated cost thus far for the event participation: Fireworks - \$6,600; Band - \$3,500; Stage/Sound - \$500. Event total is \$10,600. Action from council to approve City participation with County for "Light Up the Lake 2019" is needed.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to approve band sponsorship in the amount of \$3,500
SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION – "LIGHT UP THE LAKE 2019"

This item was struck from the agenda.

I. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – HABITAT FOR HUMANITY/412 LAKEVIEW HEIGHTS

Mayor Harold Thompson states that Habitat for Humanity is requesting the City of Union to donate property at 412 Lakeside Dr. for a "new build". With the kind help of Timken Foundation and several individuals from our community, Habit – Union is planning a "new build" for this summer. The family to be served has been selected. If council so desires to donate land to the Habitat for Humanity – Union for a "new build", a motion and a second is needed.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to table request until further information is obtained
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**J. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING - AMENDMENT TO CITY ZONING
ORDINANCE FOR 821 SOUTH DUNCANBYPASS**

Kathy Teague states that there is a rezoning request for property located at 821 S. Duncan Bypass (tax map parcel #083-07-02-004) from A-2 (Highway Commercial to R-10 (Residential). The Planning Commission met prior to the regular meeting and came back with the following recommendation: "The Planning Commission for the City of Union recommends that the City Council approve proposed request to rezone property located at 821 S. Duncan Bypass from zoning district A-2 (Highway Commercial) to zoning District R-10 (Residential).

Hutch Hall – Chairman
Bobby Joe Gibbs

Lynn Eaves – Vice Chairman
Oscar Gist

A motion is needed from council to approved 1st reading of the ordinance.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 1st reading of ordinance to rezone property located at 821 S. Duncan Bypass from zoning district A-2 (Highway Commercial) to zoning District R-10 (Residential)
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
ABSTAIN Councilmember Morgan due to a conflict of interest

**K. AWARD BID – WATER & SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS –
MONARCH MILL VILLAGE PHASE III – R/C JOB NO 2018-151**

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on June 6, 2019 at 2:00 pm for Monarch Mill Village Phase III Sewer Improvements. Three (3) bids were received: Smith Backhoe & Construction - \$825,868; NAPM North American Pipeline Mgmt. - \$1,131,285 and PUCC Portland Utilities Corporation – \$865,432.18. The bid summary and recommendation letter from consultants were reviewed. The bid was awarded to Smith Backhoe & Construction in the amount of \$825,868. This will be funded through CDBG pending SC DOC-Grants Administration approval of contract.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**L. AWARD BID – 2019 WATER AND SEWER IMPROVMENTS – SUMMITT
ENGINEERING PROJECT #19015**

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on June 4, 2019 at 2:00 pm for Water & Sewer Improvements at the various locations listed above. Three bids were received: Smith Backhoe & Construction - \$387,895; SM Grading & Excavating LLC - \$273,650 and Payne, McGinn & Cummins, Inc. - \$539,580.00. The bid summary and the recommendation letter from consultant Summit Engineering Group Inc. was presented. The recommendation is to accept bid from SM Grading & Excavating LLC of Jonesville, SC in the amount of \$273,650.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – (CONTRACTUAL MATTER)**

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No action taken

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2019