

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013  
6:00 P.M.**

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{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).}

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Garner; Councilmembers Tommie Hill, Sr.; Yates Giles, Ricky Todd Harris and Jim Wilson. Councilmember Orangelow Ruff was absent due to illness.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director and Gregg Pickens – Captain.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** None

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

**OTHERS:** Lawrence Flynn, Brooks Carwile, Howard Gibson, Danny Butts, Ethan Slaughter, Anthony Gilliam, Ray Epps, Roger Mobley and Jeff Greer.

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

**2. Business**

**A. Hearing To Solicit Public Comments In Connection With The Proposed Policy of Regulation of Wrecker Services**

Public Safety Director Sam White addressed council. He states that there were some concerns among the wrecker service providers regarding the Union Public Safety Department policy requiring a 30 minute response time and the SC Highway Patrol policy requiring a 45 minute response time. The Union Public Safety Department feels that the 30 minute response time is needed to reduce the amount of time that a highway may be closed or obstructed due to a towing situation. The City of Union is located in a central location of Union County and any operator should be able to respond in 30 minutes or less. Any response longer than 30 minutes would present an unnecessary inconvenience to the public and tie up Public Safety Officers unnecessarily. Another concern is that of the USDOT inspection of wreckers. One of the operators indicated that some of the wreckers had this inspection and some did not. The Public Safety Director states that SC Highway Patrol does not require these inspections for the wrecker service providers that are on the rotation lists. The SC Transport Police states that last year the law changed to only require wreckers with a GVW of 26,000 or greater to have the USDOT inspection. There were also concerns regarding the business license fees. A lot of the operators have already bought a business license for the year and if the policy is changed, it may eliminate some of the wrecker providers being on the list if they are not able to meet the standard. Chief White would like for City Council to consider refunding the unused portion of the business license fee as determined on a monthly basis for providers that are not able to meet the standard. Also the proposed policy will incorporate the SC Highway Patrol rate structure and all insurance requirements for towing services performed on or after January 1, 2014.

Mayor Thompson asked if anyone from the public would like to address Council.

Jeff Greer of Greer Towing, 1377 Jonesville Hwy., Union, SC addressed Council. He states that the Highway Patrol does all of the wrecker service inspections before they can be put on the Highway Patrol rotation list. Mr. Greer agrees with the proposed policy of regulation of wrecker services for the City of Union.

Danny Butts, B&B Towing of 536 Fairview Church Circle, Union, SC addressed Council. He does not agree with the 30 minute time response. Mr. Butts would like for Council to consider the 45 minutes time response because some wrecker service provider may be on another call that is in an area outside the city limits and may take more than 30 minutes. Mr. Butts also addressed concerns regarding the business license fee. He states that he paid for a business license three months after the renewal date began and he still had to pay for the whole year.

3. **Adjournment**

Public hearing adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers, CMC  
Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2014