

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013
6:00 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).}

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

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

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director and Sam White – Public Safety Director.

CITY ATTORNEY: None

PLANNING COMMISSION: Lynn Eaves – Chairman; Oscar Gist – Vice Chairman; Bobby Joe Gibbs and Hutch Hall.

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

OTHERS: Larry Flynn, Curtiss Hunter, George Bruce, Heath Gregory and Melanie Lawson.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

2. Business

A. Hearing To Solicit Public Comments In Connection With The Temporary Sign Regulations

Mayor Thompson asked Robby Moody to give background regarding the temporary sign regulations. Mr. Moody states that this is a proposal to make amendments to the sign ordinance specifically in the definition section of the zoning code. These are text changes and essentially the changes to allow more flexibility for business owners that would like to use temporary signs to advertise or promote their businesses within the City of Union. There are several changes that will allow the length of time to be extended from 15 days up to 90 days and the length of time between permits to be reduced from 6 months to 30 days. Information has been provided to City Council with the proposed changes. Temporary signs are important tools for city businesses. The current zoning code will be clarified and strengthened to better address these types of signs.

Mayor Thompson asked if there was anyone from the general public that would like to comment temporary sign regulations.

George Bruce states that this would be inconvenient and also hurt business owners who operates a seasonal business.

Councilmember Harris asked what can be done to help businesses that are seasonal, such as a tax business that are opened only during tax season.

Mike Stevens asked if council would have the authority to do a waiver for a certain length of time for a seasonal business.

Mayor Thompson states that he has talked to Catherine Pendergrass who operates a seasonal business. She is willing to adjust her time.

Councilmember Harris states that council needs to protect and help our businesses.

Councilmember Giles made the recommendations to allow 105 days for temporary signs to be displayed instead of 90 days.

Curtiss Hunter asked if this ordinance pertained to yard sale signs or political signs. Mr. Moody states that it does not.

Councilmember Wilson asked if a business would have to have a permit for a temporary sign. Mr. Moody states that they would have to get a permit for the sign. He will also research amending the permit fee as requested by Councilmember Harris.

George Bruce asked the question of why the City charges a permit fee to display a temporary sign. Mr. Moody states that the fee covers administrative cost, issuance of the permit and cost to check to see if the temporary sign has been removed and the enforcement actions.

Mayor Thompson states that permit fees are another issue that council will have to take up at another time and he would like to address the sign issue that is currently on the table for comments.

The Planning Commission will review the proposed changes regarding the temporary sign regulations and make a recommendation at tonight's regular council meeting.

3. Adjournment

Public hearing adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, CMC
Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2013