

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2012
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, August 21, 2012 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

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

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

NEWS MEDIA: Steve Ramsey – WBCU and Graham Williams – Union County News.

OTHERS: Ben Powles and Torance Inman.

1. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

2. Business

A. Hearing To Solicit Public Comments In Connection With The New Animal Control Ordinance

Sam White, Public Safety Director addressed Council in regards to the new Animal Control Ordinance. He states that several years back, there was a situation on Park Drive where a resident had an excessive number of cats in a house and would go over to feed the cats. The cats just continued to multiply. The odor was extremely fowl to the neighbors. The Public Safety and Building & Zoning Departments got involved. As a result, Chief White and Captain Pickens looked over the City's Animal Control Ordinance currently in place and performed research by looking at Animal Control Ordinances in other cities. McNair Law Firm reviewed the new Animal Control Ordinance for legality. Chief White presented and reviewed a handout to City Council dating back from 2008 through 2012 on the number of pick-ups of all animals. This included dogs, cats and wildlife (squirrels, raccoons, opossum, snakes and birds). The handout shows that there is an abundance of stray cats being picked up in the City. The new ordinance states that no owner shall allow a cat to freely roam out of doors unless it has been spayed or neutered.

Mayor Thompson asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to comment on the ordinance.

Ben Powles, 102 Greene Street, addressed Council. He states that he loves cats and there are a lot of people in Union that love cats and have cats running outside because it is hard to keep them inside all the time. Mr. Powles also states some people do not have \$70 to have a cat spade or neuter. He states that someone needs to contact ASPCA about lowering their fees.

Public Hearing
August 21, 2012

The new Animal Control Ordinance will be presented to City Council at tonight's regular council meeting for first reading.

Public hearing adjourned at 6:08 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2012.