

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009  
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 (e).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on September 15, 2009 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Keith Henderson, Councilmembers Tommie L. Hill, Ricky Todd Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Andy Bailey. Councilmember Robert Garner was absent due to attending a funeral out of town.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Billy Whitney

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director, Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director, Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director and Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor. Walker Gallman – Finance Director was absent.

**NEWS MEDIA:** Charles Warner – Union Times and Steve Ramsey – WBCU.

**OTHERS:** Monte Lancaster, Melvin Young, Jr., Margaret C. Pope, Margaret C. McGee, George Bruce, Kathy Stepp, Debbie Woodard, Torance Inman, Katherine Pendergrass, Karl Pendergrass, Louis Jordan and Officer Terry Davis.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Mayor Pro Tem Henderson 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. August 18, 2009 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept minutes as presented.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to accept monthly reports.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting August 17, 2009

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to accept minutes.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **BUSINESS**

A. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – TAX INCREMENT BOND, SERIES 2009

Attorney Margaret C. Pope presented an ordinance to Council authorizing the issuance of a \$1,100, 000 Tax Increment Bond, Series 2009. These bonds will be one of the funding sources to build a Community Arts Center at the Teritex location on Pinckney Street.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Henderson.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. AWARD BID – INTEREST RATE FOR TAX INCREMENT BOND, SERIES 2009

At the August 18, 2009 City Council Meeting, Council authorized staff to receive proposals for a fixed interest rate for a Tax Increment Bond. This bond will be used as one of the funding sources to build a Community Arts Center. We only received one bid from Branch Banking & Trust Co. They quoted a fixed rate of 4.58% on a \$1,100,000 bond. Several other institutions were contacted, but failed to return a quote. Staff recommends that we accept the 4.58% rate from BB&T.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to approve staff recommendation.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. AWARD BID – WATER/SEWER IMPROVEMENTS – 11 LOCATIONS

Bids were received on September 9, 2009 at City Hall for Water & Sewer Improvements for eleven (11) locations: Woodlawn Avenue, Buffalo Mill Village, Park Drive Area, Louise Street, South Street, Hightower Lake Road, Third Avenue, Partridge Road, W. Main Street, Beltline Road and Midway Gravity Sewer. There were a total of nine bidders. A summary of the bids and recommendation from the City's consultants were presented to City Council. The recommendation is to accept bid from Boulware Plumbing & Construction in the amount of \$298,199.00.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to accept recommendation.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. AWARD BID – BUFFALO SEWER IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE II

Bids were received on September 9, 2009 at City Hall for Sewer System Improvements in Buffalo Mill Village – Phase II. A summary of the bids and recommendation from our consultants were presented to City Council. A total of seventeen bids were received

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept bid from Palmetto Grading & Drainage of Spartanburg, SC in the amount of \$414,315.00 – contingent on

approval of the contract by the SC Department of Commerce and acquisition of necessary rights-of-way for the project.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Henderson asked if the City had received a statement of bidder's qualifications. Utility Director Joe Nichols states that we have and Bruce Richards with Rogers & Callcott states that there were no issues with Palmetto Grading and there again it is contingent on approval of the contract by the SC Department of Commerce and acquisition of necessary rights-of-way for the project.

E. **AWARD BID – GAS SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – MT. LEBANON ROAD**

Bids were received on September 9, 2009 at City Hall for Gas System Improvements on Mt. Lebanon Road. A summary of the bids and recommendation from our consultants were presented to City Council. The recommendation is to accept bid from Dawn Development Company of Monroe, N.C. in the amount of \$170,460.75.

Councilmember Henderson asked that on the contracts the City issue, if all the employees' legal workers. Utility Director Joe Nichols states that a new law passed on illegal immigrants that states by law, workers have to sign a form stating they are legal to work in United States.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Hill to accept award bid from Dawn Development Company.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPROVE \$2,000 FUNDING (PMPA) FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

On September 26, 2009 the Public Safety Department is putting on a Golf tournament for Special Olympics. In the past LSP has sponsored this event. On September 2, 2009 Officer Terry Davis was notified by them that they were unable to sponsor the event this year. The Golf Tournament was a huge success last year raising approximately \$7,000 for Special Olympics of SC and with the UPSD Torch run raising over \$10,000.00. Officer Davis asked the City of Union to sponsor the Golf Tournament by paying for the Golf Course for the all day tournament. The cost of the course will be \$2,000. Each participant will receive a golf towel with the City of Union engraved on it. The City has been a huge help to Officer Davis in raising money for Special Olympics and also Dixie Youth Baseball to help our youth in Union County. This fund raiser helps children with special needs in South Carolina. Many of the children in Union County have benefited from Special Olympics and the fundraising of this event.

Councilmember Henderson asked Officer Davis if he had approached the County for funding. Officer Davis states that he has contacted County Supervisor Betenbaugh and the Supervisor states that the County has put a freeze on all sponsorship funding. Councilmember Henderson also asked Officer Davis if he had approached the town of Jonesville or Lockhart for funding. Officer Davis states that he has not contacted the towns.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve request from PMPA funding in the amount of \$2,000 for Special Olympics Golf Tournament.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MEMORIAL APPROVAL AT FOSTER PARK

Mr. Louis Jordon addressed Council regarding putting monument at Foster Park. The monument will read as follows: “Foster Park is a memorial to Captain Alfred Harrison Foster and Hettie Brandon Foster given by their daughters, Isabel Foster Jordan, Louise Foster Kennedy, and Mary Emma Foster. The 120 acres for Foster Park were deeded November 1935 and April 1937 to the people of the City of Union for their recreation. By 1939 the lake and the clubhouse were completed by the City of Union and the Work Projects Administration of the Federal Government. Under the terms of the gift, the City was to maintain these grounds forever for benefit of her citizens.” Mr. Jordon’s family will pay for the cost of putting up monument at Foster Park.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve memorial for Foster Park.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

H. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UPGRADE ON MAIN STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Torance Inman, Executive Director, of the Union County Chamber of Commerce addressed Council. Mr. Inman states that the City of Union last upgraded the Main Street Christmas decorations over ten years ago. The current decorations are in poor condition and need to be replaced. The Chamber is proposing that the City purchase 22 new Pole Decorations and newer commercial grade lighting for the trees on Main Street, to include the two large trees at the monuments next to the railroad tracks. Mr. Inman is also suggesting that the lights remain on the smaller trees for use throughout the year for special occasions. The estimated cost for the upgrade is \$10,690.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson authorizing Mr. Inman to get estimates to upgrade Christmas lights on Main Street.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Councilmember Henderson states that when citizens come to City Hall to get permits or utilities, they have to go upstairs to sign for utilities then go downstairs to sign agreements and then come back upstairs again. He states that this seems like a lot for the citizens to have to go through. City Council discussed in the past having a one-stop shop for citizens and briefly discussed the City coming up with a plan for a one-stop shop for citizens. The Mayor states they did not want to have the citizens run all over the building. He states that at the next meeting there may be a plan in motion regarding a one-stop shop for citizens.

Councilmember Ruff recognized newcomer, Mr. Charles Coyne in attendance who moved from New York.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** TO DISCUSS LEGAL, CONTRACTUAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to go out of executive session back into regular session.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

No action taken.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

---

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2009