

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008  
6:30 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).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on February 19, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Bruce Morgan; Councilmembers, Harold Thompson, Keith Henderson, Ricky Todd Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Fran Bailey. Councilmember Tommie L. Hill was absent due to attending a MEO Class in Columbia, S.C.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Billy Whitney was absent.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director, Jeff Lawson, CBO MCP-Building Official, Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director and Perry Harmon – Public Service Director.

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

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Charles L. Barber-Chairman, Kristina Sommer, Bobby Jo Gibbs and Oscar R. Gist, Sr. Lynn Eaves-Vice Chairman was absent.

**OTHERS:** Mary B. Norman, Mary E. Johnson, Beatrice Rice, Annie Jeter, Manning L. Jeter, Lewis Jeter, Jr., Bennie Mae Jeter, Mamie Jeter-Holmes, Katherine Pendergrass and Torance Inman.

1. Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag, the invocation was given by Councilmember Thompson. The roll was called by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

2. **Minutes**

A. January 15, 2008 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to accept minutes as presented.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Morgan recognized County Supervisor Betenbaugh. The Mayor states that Mr. Betenbaugh would like to briefly address City Council.

County Supervisor Donnie Betenbaugh expressed his appreciation for the partnership projects that the City and County are working on. The joint projects include the Robotics Training Facility and the Children's Museum. Mr. Betenbaugh will make a presentation on the Robotics Training Facility Project at the S.C. Rural Summit in Clemson, SC on March 10, 2008.

On behalf of City Council Mayor Morgan expressed his appreciation to Mr. Betenbaugh for the partnership the City has with the County.

**3. Communications**

A. Monthly Reports

The monthly reports of all departments were included in the council packages and are on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to accept monthly reports.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Plaque Presentation - Mayor & City Council

Chief Sam White states that on January 12, 2008, PSO Randy Canupp was on Rice Avenue in the vicinity of Duncan Acres Church where he saw a car that he thought had broken down. Officer Canupp stopped to assist this person (Mr. Willie Jennings). Officer Canupp quickly discovered that this was a medical emergency. He called for EMS. Corporal Scott Farr arrived on the scene. The two officers assisted EMS personnel by getting Mr. Jennings out of his vehicle and helping him on a stretcher into the ambulance. During that time when they transported Mr. Jennings to the ambulance, it appeared that he went into cardiac arrest. PSO Canupp, along with Corporal Farr assisted EMS personnel administer CPR all the way to the hospital. As a result of all the actions of the paramedics and the Public Safety Officers, Mr. Jennings life was saved. Their actions showed their dedication and professionalism and their devotion to help people. Mayor Morgan, along with City Council, presented plaques to EMS Paramedics, Mr. Freddie Osborne and Mr. Rick Walker and PSO Randy Canupp and Corporal Scott Farr.

**4. Business**

A. ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> **READING** – ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY OF UNION ZONING ORDINANCE BY REZONING A PARCEL OF PROPERTY FROM R-6 RESIDENTIAL TO A-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL

A public hearing was held prior to the regular council meeting regarding the rezoning of property located at 413 South Church Street owned by Mr. Paul Gene Kirby. Mr. Kirby requested that his property be re-zoned from R-6 Residential to A-2 Highway Commercial. He spoke at the public hearing in favor of the property being rezoned. Two neighborhood residents spoke in opposition of the rezoning.

Mr. Jeff Lawson read the recommendation from the Planning Commission. “The Planning Commission for the City of Union does not recommend to City Council the rezoning of the property located at 413 South Church Street from R-6 Residential to A-2 Highway Commercial.”

Charles Barber, Chairman  
Bobby Joe Gibbs

Kristina Sommer  
Oscar R. Gist, Sr.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Thompson to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation to not rezone the property located 413 South Church Street.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – PINPOINT SYSTEM UPDATE (PERRY HARMON)

Public Service Director Perry Harmon gave an update to City Council on the Pinpoint System. Beginning January 2, 2008 the Solid Waste Department began using Pinpoint system daily. All brush and bulk waste are located by the two garbage trucks while running the route and a printout is made for the pick up of the waste on the following day. There have been almost no problems with the system and our crews depend on and ask for the printouts.

C. AWARD BID – WATER/SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – UNION PLAZA (JOE NICHOLS)

Utility Director Joe Nichols discussed the award bid for the water/sewer system improvement at Union Plaza. Bids were received on February 12, 2008 at City Hall for water and sewer systems improvements for Union Plaza located on N. Duncan Bypass. A summary of the bids and recommendation for our consultants were presented to City Council. They are as follows: Sareault Plumbing-\$44,429; Henderson Plumbing-\$44,963; Palmetto Grading & Drainage-\$51,452; Smith Backhoe and Construction-\$51,782. The recommendation is to accept the lowest bid from Sareault Plumbing, Inc. of Greenville, SC in the amount of \$44,429.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Thompson to award bid to Sareault Plumbing in the amount of \$44,429.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

**ABSTAIN:** Councilmember Henderson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. DISCUSSION/PROPOSAL – WILDFIRE CONNECTION

Sam White, Public Safety Director, discussed a proposal for video surveillance camera through Wildfire Connection. Chief White met with Mr. Terry Tucker, an employee of WildFire. They went around town and looked at different areas. Areas reviewed were the hospital, the recreation department, the Little Cricket, City Park, the YMCA, Foster Park recreation area and the Union Housing Authority (future area) WildFire builds customized wireless video surveillance camera systems for local police departments as well as other local business and civic application in the cities we serve. Each “Free Wi-Fi” city has been granted free-use of the wireless infrastructure for public-safety applications making wireless video surveillance cameras much less expensive to deploy. WildFire has designed an outdoor wireless video surveillance camera solution customized for the downtown area to be referred to as Phase I. An outdoor video camera Field-of-View will be provided at each of the following Phase I locations: Hospital Area, Court House, YMCA, Fair Forest Hotel, Wachovia Bank and Arthur State Bank. The grand total for Phase I is \$47,855. Chief White and the Mayor have discussed pricing of Phase I and feels that the price is too costly for initial implementation. Chief White feels that four or five cameras would be feasible to purchase as a testing tool to see if the cameras are something that would be beneficial to the Public Safety Department. There is currently \$30,000 in budget underruns. Chief White would like to implement part of the system. The recommendation is to fund up to \$30,000 for the cameras out of existing funds and out of any underruns that the City will have between now and this fiscal year. Councilmember Bailey suggested that Public

Safety look at the high crime areas before cameras are placed in the various areas discussed.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to accept recommendation to purchase cameras out of budget underruns up to \$30,000.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Thompson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

None

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record.

Katherine Pendergrass of Liberty Tax Service addressed Council regarding the amendment that was passed last May of 2007 which states that temporary signs supported by humans or animals is prohibited on SCDOT right-of-way. She states that this ordinance may have been violated.

Councilmember Henderson asked that staff explore in more depth the possibility of a local preference ordinance. Councilmember Bailey states that City Council have discussed this in the past and she feels that this needs to be researched to see what other cities and counties are doing in regards to local contractors getting preference on award bids.

Mayor Morgan recommends that the City Clerk do research through the Municipal Association to see what other cities are doing regarding their local procurement preference for contractors and report back to City Council at the next council meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson authorizing the City Clerk to research ordinances and policies through the Municipal Association regarding local procurement preference for local contractors.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Thompson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councilmember Harold Thompson asked for clarification on comments made by Ms. Katherine Pendergrass of Liberty Tax Service during the public comment section of the meeting.

Mayor Morgan asked Building Official Jeff Lawson to respond.

Mr. Lawson states that Ms. Pendergrass runs Liberty Tax Service. She employs labors who advertise their business dressed as the Statue of Liberty and walk along the roadside which is a SCDOT right-of-way, which is not permitted by law, (SCDOT Law). The Building Official made her aware of the City's Zoning Ordinance regarding signs prohibiting advertisement supported by humans or animals on SCDOT right-of-way. She requested a hearing to appeal that section of the Zoning Ordinance. The Board denied Ms. Pendergrass' appeal. Mr. Lawson states that staff is in the process of revising the Zoning Ordinance entirely. The section referred to by Ms. Pendergrass on advertisement supported by human or animals will be reviewed. Mr. Lawson states the overall goal of his department is to enforce the Zoning Ordinance regarding the safety of the general public and to prevent any

potential liabilities. He also states that Ms. Pendergrass was extended the same courtesy to advertise Liberty Tax Service the same way as the new business Bojangles had advertised during their grand opening last Monday. Bojangles advertisement took place inside of the store or within 20 feet of the store. Liberty Tax Service labors were on SCDOT right-of-way. Mr. Lawson states that after the budget process, a public hearing will be held to get input from the general public, business owners and City Council before the City's Zoning Ordinance is revised.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2008