

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010  
6:30 PM**

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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 council meeting was held on June 15, 2010 at 6:30 PM at the City Municipal building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson; Mayor Pro Tem Keith Henderson, Councilmembers Tommie Hill, Sr.; Robert Garner, Ricky Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Andy Bailey.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Billy Whitney

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

**NEWS MEDIA:** Graham Williams – Union County News and Derrick Vanderford – Union Times.

**OTHERS:** Benjamin Powles, Olivia Henderson, Debbie Woodard and Larry Robinson.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. Invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson. The pledge of allegiance was given by all present. The roll was called by Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers.

2. **MINUTES**

- A. May 18, 2010 - Public Hearing
- B. May 18, 2010 - Regular Council Meeting
- C. June 1, 2010 - Workshop/Special Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to accept minutes as presented.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Monthly Reports

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

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

The FY 2010-2011 proposed balanced budget totals \$42,912,140. The general fund budget of \$5,204,460 does not include a tax rate or fee increase. The Solid Waste Management proposed budget of \$827,420 will be funded by a \$13 per month fee. This is an increase of \$1 per month from last budget year. The transfer of \$130,000 from the general fund will continue for FY2010-2011. The Combined Utility Fund's proposed budget totals \$36,675,260. Electric and gas rates will not change, but a PPA (Purchase Power Adjustment) and PGA (Purchase Gas Adjustment) will continue. Water and Wastewater rates will increase 9.5% by volume used, also the monthly security light charge will increase by 5%. The following is a list of special revenue funds and their FY 2010-2011 proposed budgets: Victims Advocate - \$15,000; Economic Development - \$2,000; Drug Fund - \$4,000; Community Change - \$10,000 and Tax Increment Funds - \$104,000. The total amount is \$205,000. City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Budget Ordinance at its May regular meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Garner to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Budget Ordinance for FY2010-2011.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

The proposed tax rate levy will remain unchanged at 74.3 mills for FY2010-2011. City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Tax Levy Ordinance at its May regular meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Hill to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Tax Levy Ordinance.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – DEMOLITION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 213 THOMPSON BOULEVARD**

At the September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Special Council Meeting, Council voted to demolish the structure at 213 Thompson Boulevard. The estimated cost to demolish was \$110,000. The cost should total less than \$100,000.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance for demolition of property located at 213 Thompson Boulevard.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – LOCAL HOSPITALITY/ ACCOMMODATION FEES**

An ordinance that will allow the City of Union to implement a one (**1%**) **Local Hospitality Fee** applicable to all restaurants and other food service facilities that prepare or modify food or beverages for immediate consumption was presented to City Council. The ordinance will also allow the City to implement a two (2%) Local Accommodations Fee on

the gross proceeds derived from the rental or charges for any rooms, campground spaces, lodging or sleeping accommodations furnished to transients. The Local Hospitality Fee and Local Accommodations Fee is a means of diversifying the City's revenue to defray service and infrastructure cost associated with tourism related economic and tourism promotion. These fees provide an equitable way for residents and visitors to contribute to offset the cost related to tourism without placing the burden solely on all residents through traditional taxes such as business licenses and property taxes. The Local Hospitality Fee and Local Accommodation Fee, effective August 1, 2010, will only be imposed on applicable business within the City Limits and will be collected by those businesses from their customers. These fees will be in addition to the ones already being collected by Union County. These monies will be remitted to the City of Union, on a form provided by the City, on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis as directed by state law.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Local Hospitality/Accommodation Fees Ordinance.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. DISCUSSION/MOTION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND REQUEST

Mayor Thompson presented an Economic Development fund request. The Union County Economic Development Board over time has realized much success. This success has been the result of the efforts of partnerships with the SC Department of Commerce, local industry, the County of Union, the City of Union, the Upstate Alliance, and utility providers. Much has been done to uncover the most successful economic development strategies. One particular area is the development of a tactical Marketing Plan. The Development Board is requesting \$5,000.00 to assist in this effort. The recommendation is to award \$5,000.00 to the Economic Development Board for marketing. Funds to come from PMPA account.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Henderson to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR PLUG IN CAROLINAS

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that the purpose of this project is to provide and deploy Plug In vehicle charging stations in seven cities in the state of South Carolina. Plug In Carolina, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, has secured \$480,000 from two grants. The grant related to this Project has been secured in partnership with the South Carolina Energy Office through the Department of Energy's Clean Cities Grant. The purpose of this Project Agreement is to define the roles and obligations of the applicable parties and confirm their commitments to these roles and obligations. This Project Agreement is entered into, by, and between the undersigned Project Administrator, as agent for Plug In Carolina and the City of Union. Plug In electric vehicle chargers are commonly referred to as Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) and are in this agreement. \$75,000 for ten (10) plugs in vehicle charging stations. Plug In Stations suggested sites include: USC Union, Quick Jobs, Wal-Mart, Timken Sports Complex, Timken Industrial Services, Union County High School, Union County Development Board, Gestamp, Union County Museum parking lot, and Lockhart Power. Plug In

Carolina, is solely responsible for the grant documentation and grant administration. Failure to authorize by June 15, 2010 will result in another City being awarded this endeavor.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to approve Partnership Agreement.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

G. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE  
CHAPTER 15.2 – PUBLIC NUISANCES**

An ordinance amending Chapter 15.2 entitled “Public Nuisances, General of the Code of Ordinances were presented to City Council for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance with necessary changes made before 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

H. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE –  
CHAPTER 15.2 – ARTICLE III UNSAFE BUILDINGS AND  
STRUCTURES**

An ordinance amending Chapter 15.2 – Article III Unsafe Buildings and Structures were presented to City Council for 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to table ordinance until clarification by City Attorney Billy Whitney.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to withdraw previous motion to table item.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

City Attorney Billy Whitney briefly discussed the amendment to the ordinance regarding unsafe buildings and structures.

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Councilmember Robert Garner thanked City Council for attending the “Damage Assessment” training conducted by S.C. Emergency Management Division on June 3, 2010.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record. (Please limit your comments to 3-5 minutes)

Benjamin Powles of 102 Green Street (Mill Hill area), addressed City Council. He is requesting that the property at 204 Hicks Street be brought up to code.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND PERSONEL MATTER**

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Garner.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

No action taken.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Ruff to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2010