

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008  
4:00 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 special council meeting was held on July 21, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson; Councilmembers Tommie Hill, Keith Henderson, Ricky Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Fran Bailey.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director, Joe Nichols – Utility Director, Walker Gallman – Finance Director, Perry Harmon-Public Service Director, Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director and Gregg Pickens – Captain of Public Safety Department.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Billy Whitney

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

**OTHERS:** Laura Hembree, Donnie Betenbaugh, Frank Alexander and Reginald McBeth.

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

1. Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Councilmember Henderson. The pledge of allegiance was given by all present.

B. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **ROBOTIC TRAINING FACILITY**

County Supervisor Donnie Bentenbaugh addressed City Council regarding the Robotics Training Facility Project. The City purchased the 21-acre site in 2006 for the purpose of building a technology center. Mr. Betenbaugh is requesting that City Council deed the 21-acres of property to the County in order for them to start the grading process for the Robotics Training Facility. The facility will be used for educational purpose.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to transfer the 21 acres of property to the County to be used for educational purpose only or the property will revert back to the City and also any facility built on the property must obtain its utilities from the City of Union.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. TIMKEN SPORTS COMPLEX

County Supervisor Donnie Betenbaugh addressed Council regarding the Timken Sports Complex. He states that they are taking bids for the utility and lighting installation with the rest of the construction.

Utility Director Joe Nichols discussed the Timken Sports Complex. He states that the City originally agreed to provide in-kind services in the amount of \$800,000. The City has already spent \$90,000 to \$92,000 for in-kind services. Mr. Nichols states that the County has already received bids from contractors to do the electrical work. He recommends that whatever funding City Council has appropriated for the Timken Sports Complex Project be given to the County less the amount of in-kind services the City has performed because project has already gone out for bid.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept Utility Director Joe Nichols recommendation.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Henderson.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION** by Councilmember Henderson to accept the Utility Director's recommendation and ask the County to submit invoices for the Timken Sports Complex Project for reimbursement for the remainder of funding and also the Timken Sports Complex must obtain it utilities from the City of Union.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

County Supervisor Donnie Betenbaugh request that the City charge the County an economic development rate for power. The City will review this request.

3. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPOINTMENT OF PMPA DIRECTOR & PMPA ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

City Council will need to appoint a PMPA Director and an Alternate Director.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to appoint Utility Director Joe Nichols as PMPA Director.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Bailey

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to appoint Walker Gallman as Alternate PMPA Director.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Hill.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Councilmember Henderson states that he is concerned about the City not having an active Building Inspector. Finance Director is working with the City of Spartanburg to see if they could assist the City of Union with inspections on a part-time basis. Councilmember Henderson also states that the employees in the department need to know who they should report to. The Mayor states that the Business License employee should report to Finance Director Walker Gallman and the other two employees should report to Utility Director Joe Nichols. A memorandum will be sent to these employees.

Special Council Meeting  
Monday, July 21, 2008

D. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 4:28 PM.

---

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes Approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2008.