

**MINUTES
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 29, 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 29, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

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

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

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney

NEWS: Steve Ramsey - WBCU and Charles L. Warner, II – Union Times.

OTHERS: Chip Boyles - MASC, Bill Balkum, Susan Balkum, Torance Inman, Laura Hembree, Dennis Russell, Ralph Woodward, Reginald McBeth and Debbie Woodard.

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

B. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – LAND EXCHANGE – JOE NICHOLS**

The City of Union is seeking a SRF loan for the closure of the Beltline WWTP and construction of the Beltline Pump Station. The City of Union needs to acquire fronting on SC Hwy. 215 (approximately 200 ft x 200 ft.)

MOTION by Councilmember Ruff to pass 1st reading of the Land Exchange Ordinance.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – DIXIE YOUTH BALL TEAMS**

The City of Union received a request from Dixie Youth to help fund their trip to the State Competition they attended last week. They have requested that the City fund half of the trip in the amount of \$750. The County will fund the other half. The City has PMPA funds available to fund the request.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to fund Dixie Youth in the amount of \$750 with PMPA funds.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. DISCUSSION/MOTION - VETERANS DAY PARADE REQUEST

City Council tabled this item until further information is received from the Veterans Day Committee.

4. DISCUSSION/MOTION – SIDEWALK – HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mr. Dennis Russell, Housing Authority Director addressed City Council regarding sidewalks. Mr. Russell states that the Housing Authority has Rehab Inspectors that are hired by HUD every year to inspect the Housing Authority properties. A problem that the Housing Authority has had in the past is identifying sidewalks as to whether the sidewalks belong to the Housing Authority or to the City. The Housing Authority hired a firm out of Atlanta to come in to correct sidewalk trip hazards. The Housing Authority automatically loses 6 points for sidewalk trip hazards site which affects funding and the rating of the Housing Authority. Mr. Russell is requesting a letter from the City of Union stating which sidewalks and curbs belong to the City or to the State to present to the Rehab Inspectors.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson authorizing staff to provide a letter to the Housing Authority identifying City and State sidewalks.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CONSIDERATION TO HIRE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Chip Boyles, Upstate Field Manager for the Municipal Association of South Carolina addressed City Council regarding hiring a City Administrator. Mr. Boyles discussed the 3 forms of government: the Mayor-Council form, the Council form and the Manager forms of government. He states that even though the City of Union is under the strong form of government, a City Administrator could still be hired. There are several municipalities (Fountain Inn, Easley and Seneca) that are under the “Strong Mayor” form of government that has a City Administrator. Mr. Boyles states that he can assist City Council with a job description, advertisement and a salary pay scale for a City Administrator.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson to proceed to hire a City Administrator and develop a job description for the position.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Utility Director Joe Nichols discussed the City of Union building inspections. Mr. Nichols recommends that the City contract with the company, RCI of South Carolina, Inc. to perform the City’s inspections on a part-time six-month trial basis until a full-time Building Inspector is hired. RCI of South Carolina, Inc. is a Chapter One Building Code Consultant Firm specializing in the following five major disciplines: Building, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Fire Protection Systems.

MOTION by Councilmember Hill to hire RCI of South Carolina, Inc. on an interim basis for six-months to perform building inspections.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record.

Mr. Torance Inman addressed City Council. He has concerns about the November Election for the Mayor's race. Mr. Inman states that because the Mayor's race is by write-in, the Mayor's duties, as well as the salary, need to be defined.

Mr. Ralph Woodward states that he wants to reiterate what Mr. Inman previously stated. There needs to be a clear understanding of what the next Mayor's duties and salary will be. Mr. Woodward states that when the citizen of Union voted for a strong mayor form of government, they voted just for that, not for Mr. Morgan to be the City Administrator, City Council did. He also stated that with the City's budget, Union needs someone qualified to run the City whether they are from Union or from somewhere else.

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

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

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.

Mayor Thompson states that former Building Official Jeffery Lawson has been terminated.

- E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes Approved _____ 2008.