

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016  
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 Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal Building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki C. Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss, and Sonja J. Craig

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director and Wade Hampton – Municipal Judge

**NEWS MEDIA:** Graham Williams – Union County News

**OTHERS:** Robby Moody, Elise Ashby, Curtiss Hunter, Rieta Drinkwine, David Lance, Rebecca Lance, Princess Edwards and Bruce Morgan

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order. He 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. November 15, 2016 Regular Council Meeting

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve minutes.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Monthly Reports

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept monthly reports.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. Retirement Award Patsy S. Thompson

Mayor Thompson states that Patsy S. Thompson retired from the City of Union with 18 years of service. Mrs. Thompson was not in attendance.

C. Main Street Junction Update - Robby Moody

Robby Moody, Senior Planner, addressed City Council with a completion report for Main Street Junction. Mr. Moody presented a summary of the project including before and after photographs as an information item. He states that Main Street Junction was completed in November and successfully delivered a first-class venue for the use and enjoyment of the greater Union community. This was the City's first design-build project and includes a renovated 10,000 sq. ft. Main Street building, new ½ acre ornamental park and outdoor patio. The following final costs were funded primarily from TIF district GO bond and fire insurance proceeds. The contract total was \$1,525,210. Acquisition, demolition and other related costs of \$65,017 were paid separately. The Montgomery Company was the general contractor for the project and relied heavily on local contractors, labor and suppliers for this project. Approximately 72% of local Union resources were used on the direct construction costs of the project and included a very diverse workforce, both sex and race. In addition, TMC has since hired several local people, so this project didn't just affect the local economy for the Main Street Junction project, but for a more long-lasting period. Also vital to the success of the design and construction of the facilities was the support of the Mayor and City Council and dedication of the MSJ advisory committee: Harold Thompson, Tommy Anthony, Jim Wilson, Joe Nichols, Andrea Powell-Baker, Curtiss Hunter, Graham Williams, Torrance Inman and Robby Moody. Several events from fundraisers to weddings to receptions have already been held at Main Street Junction and bookings have been made through the end of 2017.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 1<sup>ST</sup> READING – LAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF UNION AND CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/ VERIZON WIRELESS**

City Attorney Larry Flynn states that he and Utility Director Joe Nichols worked on the land lease agreement between the City of Union and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless. Mr. Nichols states that Verizon will be putting up a 190 ft. tower which is a concrete structure. Presently there is no cell service out on Hwy. 49 in that area. The tower should complement the area. Mr. Flynn states that this will also generate funds for the City of Union in the amount of \$9,600 annually. Staff recommendation is that Council pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance to enter into agreement between the City of Union and Cello Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – HEATING AND COOLING ASSISTANCE**

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the City of Union has been involved in a Heating and Cooling Assistance Program since 2011. This program generated from the original Community Change Program from

1993. Heating assistance (Electric & Gas) runs from January 1 thru April 30 and cooling assistance runs July 1 thru October 31. Each City of Union customer who qualifies can receive \$100 per season. (No customer is to receive more than \$200 per year). In fiscal year 2016, the "Community Change Program" generated \$19,899.84, assisted 251 customers in the amount of 26,015.33. In keeping with the guide lines already in place, the program will continue on the availability of funds. The Salvation Army and the Carolina Community Actions have indicated with a letter of response to the City of Union that they are still willing to continue the affiliation with the program by qualifying applicants for the assistance as appropriated. Letters from the two agencies agreeing to qualify customers were presented to council. Customers are required to participate in the "Community Change Program" to qualify to receive assistance. Staff recommends the release of Community Change funds to qualifying City Utility Customers.

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.

**ABSTENTION** by Councilmember Sloss due to being on the Carolina Community Action Board.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION COUNTY CARNEGIE LIBRARY/  
FUNDRAISER

Mayor Thompson states that the Union County Carnegie Library will be hosting a "Holiday Cheers Fundraiser" on December 9, 2016. Sponsorships, donations and proceeds will be used in the renovation of the library. Sponsorship levels are as follows: Gingerbread Level- \$1,000; Candy Cane Level – \$500 and Sugar Cookie Level- \$250. Mayor Thompson recommendation is to fund the Union County Carnegie Library on the Gingerbread Level Sponsorship in the amount of \$1,000 for proceeds to be used in the renovation of the library.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to accept recommendation .

**SECOND** by Councilmember Craig.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. AWARD BID – TOSCH CREEK WWTP REHABILITATION OF  
SOUTH CLARIER

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on November 10, 2016, at City Hall for Rehabilitation of the South Clarifier at Tosch Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is the second time this has been bided out; the first time there was only one bid, a little over \$100, 000. It was sent back out for bid. Three (3) bids were received for this project: JL Construction Company, Inc. - \$85,500; Harper Corporation - \$98,634 and Superior Industrial Maintenance Co. - \$138,755. The bid summary and recommendation letter from engineer was presented. The recommendation is to accept bid from JL Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$85,500.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson states that he still needs to get Councilmembers Morgan and Craig's recommendations for persons to be on the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Robby Moody will begin working on this after the first of the year. The Mayor discussed board appointments. Councilmember Anthony will remain on the Main Street Junction Board. Councilmember Craig accepted appointment to the YMCA Board. Councilmember Harris accepted appointment to the Stadium. Councilmember Morgan will attend and represent the City of Union at the Miracle League Board meetings.

Mayor Thompson has talked to Blue Sky who has nailed down exactly what need to be done to restore mural back to how it was originally. The entire project will cost \$6,000 to \$7,000.

Councilmember Harris reminded everyone that tomorrow December 7, 2016 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL/APPOINTMENT**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss personnel matter.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. **APPOINTMENT – CITY OF UNION MUNICIPAL JUDGE**

Mayor Thompson states that the recommendation is to appoint Judge Hampton to a 2-year term at the same compensation package.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to accept recommendation.

**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2017