

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017
6:30 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).}

The regular meeting of City Council was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 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 was absent.

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 and Perry Harmon – Public Service Director

NEWS MEDIA: Graham Williams – Union County News and Michael Stevens – WBCU Radio

OTHERS: Rebecca Lance, David Lance, Princess Edwards, Jean Harris, Marilyn Ingle, William Jeter, Rebecca Rochester, Ray Jones, Ruby Jones, Alise Ashby and Teresa Crawley

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. February 17, 2017 Regular City Council

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

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept monthly reports.
SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. AirMedCare – Marilyn Ingle

Marilyn Ingle of AirMedCare Network – Medical Flight Transport Service addressed council. Ms. Ingle discussed AirMedCare and Regional One Membership Program which include medical aircraft service in 33 states for trauma care. She is requesting City of Union be a part of a Municipal Site Plan so that everyone in the city has access to any of their aircraft at no out of pocket costs as long as they are flown from Union County. The cost for the City of Union Municipal Site Plan is \$37,459.00 per year.

C. Patriot’s Lake - William Jeter

William Jeter addressed council regarding the Lake Project. Mr. Jeter states that the formation of the reservoir for the upstate is a viable project that needs to be pursued. He presented a slide presentation and gave a background on how the lake project started. In 2003, the Union County Development Board asked him and about 20 other people to come up with a vision for the future of Union. Mr. Jeter states that benefits of the Lake Project includes water source, quality, fire control, recreation, fishing, boating and camping. He also states that this project is to support population increase and improve the quality of life. Project cost is \$187,000,000 according to engineer.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. DISCUSSION/MOTION - “A” BOND CREDIT RATING

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that the City currently has over \$600,000 in Debt Services Reserve Funds with the State Revolving Loan Fund. In the past the City was required to fund a reserve fund for each loan issue and will continue unless we can receive an “A” bond credit rating. If an “A” credit rating is obtained; SRF will not require a DSRF and will release the DSRF being held currently. This rating will also give flexibility to obtain funding from other institutions. Mr. Gallman asked Teressa Crawley of Southern Municipal Advisors to discuss this process and cost. Ms. Crawley discussed “A” Bond Credit rating and cost and the subject of how you prepare for a bond issue rating and why might you want one. Staff recommendation is to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with Southern Municipal Advisors.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – “WBCU” – MIRACLES & MUSIC”

Mayor Thompson states that WBCU will host a country showdown with a day of fun and music as well as area musicians and a talent show. The day is designed to showcase area and outlying talent and give a day of fun to the citizens of Union and surrounding areas. The event “Miracles and Music” is planned for Saturday, May 6th at the Union County Fair Grounds from 12-6 PM. Added to the event this year will be a fashion show following the

musical portion of the day. Last year's event was a huge success. Not only did they see local talent, but this event has proven to be an instrument to pull competitors and spectators from outside Union County. Approximately 40% of the competitors were from outside the county along with all the judges. Mayor Thompson states that staff is looking at taking these ads and giving them to the Chamber to Commerce to let them work up a system to give to downtown business owners.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to participate in the Gold Package to help assist downtown businesses with advertisement.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. AWARD BID – POWER LINE CLEARING AGREEMENT

Utility Director Joe Nichols states that bids were received on March 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. from a three-year power line clearing agreement. Bids were based on a 40-hour week that included labor, equipment, overhead & profit. Bids were advertised on the SC's procurement website, SCBO, and the Union County News. One (1) bid was received and no errors were found in the bid: Caldwell Landscaping & Clearing, Inc. - \$2,993.20. The recommendation is to award bid to Caldwell Landscaping & Clearing Inc. They have had the contract for the past four (4) years and have met the terms of and conditions of the agreement. This price reflects a 9% increase over the amount we currently compensate the contractor. Staff feels this is a cost reasonable increase to Caldwell Landscaping & Clearing, Inc.

MOTION by Councilmember Anthony to accept recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson gave an update on projects.

- Demolition project – total of 34 demolitions; 7 have been completed by the property owners; 6 more completed by the CDBG grant; still working on 4 for demolition
- NIP Program is coming to an end
- City will follow code enforcement process for people not cleaning up property in the City
- City has a lot of contractors to come in that can't afford the state workman's comp insurance – want to put ordinance in place to make it easier for local contractors to get some of work that's coming up
- Work will start soon on Harwood Heights and Thompson Boulevard area – intersection near the Dairi-O. Funding was approved during Transportation Meeting in Rock Hill last week
- Sidewalk update – portions of South Street has been completed. Cherokee Avenue has been completed and the next area is Douglas Heights. Work is being done on Catherine Street and Arthur Boulevard. This is being done with C-fund money, by City and SCDOT
- May Street CDBG project have closed; paperwork has been signed. McBeth Street final close-out is coming up. Work is underway for Foster Street.
- There is a proposed budget cut by the federal government for CDBG money

Mayor Thompson asked if there was anything council would like to add.

Councilmember Craig has a list of items she wants to present, mainly aesthetics that would make the City look better with people coming in.

- There is a dead tree on Richard Street that needs to be removed on the corner; it has been there for a long time; at the corner of Richard and Monroe Street, there is trash, televisions and tires on the side of road that need to be cleaned up all the way to Stutts Avenue.
- On North Church Street, there is a Day Care Center; the sidewalks and drain is totally decaying; need to be made safer for the buses to go in and out of the driveway. They are carrying small children.
- Foster Park Pond –on back side where the parking lot- grass needs to be planted to look more uniformed
- Some of the fencing at the warehouse on Calhoun Street needs to be replaced. It would say a lot for the City and what City thinks of the people that live there.

Mayor Thompson states that there is a cemetery in the Chamber Town area. It once belonged to a church that walked away from it years ago. It needs to be cleaned up. In the next few weeks, the Mayor will get with the Housing Authority, if they participate, to see if they can find someone to undertake this project. Mayor Thompson states that he will get together with Public Service Director Perry Harmon to see what kind of chemicals they have to kill roots at cemetery because it really looks bad. Mayor Thompson has researched and there is a state code that allows public money to be used to clean up cemeteries. The City received \$6,000 from the Sewer Line Warranty Program and he hope that the City can use that money to get cemetery cleaned up.

Councilmember Anthony asked about Billboard clean up. Mayor Thompson states that Property Maintenance Inspector Gregg Medford is working on this. He has contacted Billboard owners.

Mayor Thompson states that the budget worksession will resume tomorrow night at 5:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2017