

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

{Summary minutes of City Council meeting. 8uAudio 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

The regular meeting of City Council was held on January 15, 2019 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 Morgan, Pamela Sloss, Ricky Harris and Sonja Craig.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Sam White – Public Safety Director; Leroy Edwards– Maintenance Shop Director and Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director

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

OTHERS: Melissa Youngblood, Amy Belue, Toccoa Switzer, Troop 42 and others

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. December 18, 2018 Regular City Council Meeting

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

B. December 27, 2018 Special City Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to approve minutes
SECOND by Councilmember Craig
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Monthly Reports

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept monthly reports as information
SECOND by Councilmember Morgan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Piedmont Physic Garden

Toccoa Switzer, Board Member of the Piedmont Physic Garden addressed Council. She states that the PPG is a small botanical garden located here in Union and PPG's mission is to exhibit and promote the medicinal, economic and environmental importance of plants to the people of Union County and the surrounding piedmont region of SC. Next she states that last November PPG, along with their community partners; USC-Union, the Union County Arts Council and Union County Tourism Commission were awarded a \$3,000 Elevate Upstate Grant as part of the community vibrancy initiative established by Ten At the Top and the Hughes Investments of Greenville. The matching grant will allow them to start an environmental art festive in the historic center of downtown Union. This festival will take place over a two day weekend in April of 2020. In order to receive the \$3,000 matching grant they must raise another \$3,000 from within the community. Ms. Switzer made a request for the City of Union to consider funding in the amount of \$1,500 which is half of the required amount needed to receive as matching grant. They would need a commitment of matching funds by March of this year.

Mayor Thompson recognized scouts from Troop 42 who was in attendance at tonight's meeting. Troop 42 is working on their citizenship merit badge.

4. **BUSINESS**

A. **ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING THE CITY OF UNION'S CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE CITY'S BUILDING CODES AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

Attorney Flynn states that the City of Union is required by the State of South Carolina, as a result of a change implemented by the State of South Carolina to amend its Building Codes to allow residential builders to obtain permits in certain circumstances. Sections of Chapter 4 of the Code of Ordinances are to be amended and restated or added to read, in their entirety, as follows:

- a) Add to Section 4-4.2 (6); Section 8-9. (6) and Section 19-14. (6) as follows:
 - 6) A residential builder, as defined in Section 40-59-10 *et seq* of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, who received his or her license by exam, is authorized to obtain a permit to perform work on the trades of Electrical, Plumbing and HVAC.
- b) Add Section 11-4(e) as follows:
 - e) A residential builder, as defined in Section 40-59-10 *et seq* of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, who received his or her license by exam, is authorized to obtain a permit to perform work on installation, alteration or service of consumer's gas piping or gas appliances.

Mayor Thompson states that the update will get the City in-line with LLR state codes.

Staff recommends council approve 1st Reading of the Ordinance to add provisions to the City's Code of Ordinances pertaining to the City's Building Codes and other related matters.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to pass 1st reading of the ordinance

updating the City of Union building codes

SECOND by Councilmember Morgan

CARRIED 6 TO 1

ABSTAIN: Councilmember Harris abstain from voting; he is a licensed contractor

Attorney Flynn notified council that he had met with Chief White regarding parking Downtown. He and the Chief are in the process of making some recommendations; however they will need direction from council on the parking and signage.

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL ANNUAL “CHALK WALK”

Mayor Thompson states the Union County Arts Council is currently working on their 2019 annual Chalk Walk. The event will be held on April 13, 2019 for everyone. The sidewalks will be covered with colorful masterpiece of art work created by people from kindergarten to 80 years of age. The UCAC will provide the participants with enough chalk to complete their art work. UCAC is asking for a donation of \$500 to support this event. The donation will be used to cover the cost of supplies and several awards for the winners. He states that the sponsorship by the City over the past two years has allowed the City to host the event that was educational, community oriented and fun. As an event sponsor, the City of Union’s sponsorship will help bring the joy of arts to many. Finance Director Laura Hembree states that the “Chalk Walk” funding request can be taken out of the Hospitality Tax.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to support the Union County Arts “Chalk Walk” in the amount of \$500

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – UNION COUNTY 4-H WINTER PROJECT

Mark Cathcart, Union County 4-H & Youth Development Agent addressed council regarding conducting a winter pic project that encompasses all upstate counties of S.C. There are 48 4-H’ers that will participate in this project. There will be several counties that will host a pig show so that the 4-H’ers can show what they have learned; that gives Union the potential for 48 families to spend the day in Union, but, in order for Union to host a show there will have to be pens built at the Union County Fairgrounds. The cost for supplies to build these pens will be \$650. Mr. Cathcart is requesting that the City consider a sponsorship in the amount of \$650 for this project. The pig show will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019. Staff recommendation is that council consider a \$650 sponsorship for the Union County 4-H Club for supplies to build the necessary pens to host this show in Mach.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to accept recommendation

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. DISCUSSION/MOTION – FIDELITY ASSOCIATES – “FOUR SEASONS FOR LITTE PEOPLE”

Mayor Thompson states that for the last 10 years the City of Union has sponsored the “Four Seasons for Little People”. The books are given to the area kindergarten children each year. The cost for the book is \$1.93 book/child. A total

of 314 are shipped in September for 2019 & 2020 school year. The children receive their books at school to take home and keep so their parents can see the book and also see that they are coming from the City of Union as well. The recommendation is to for council to allow the Mayor to enter into agreement with Fidelity Associates to supply area kindergarten children with books (Four Seasons for Little People) for the 2019-2020 school year. The recommendation is for Council to allow the Mayor to enter into agreement with Fidelity Associates to supply area kindergarten children with books (Four Seasons for Little People”) for the 2019-2020 school year.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to accept recommendation

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL MEETING-DATE CHANGE**

Mayor Thompson states that the regular City Council meeting is held on the third Tuesday of every month. Due to a scheduling conflict of the Mayor and City Council the February meeting needs to be rescheduled. The recommendation is to set the February City Council meeting for February 11, 2019.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to set the February City Council Meeting to February 11, 2019

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. **DISCUSSION/MOTION** – USC-UNION ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT – SPONSORSHIP

Annie Smith, Marketing & Development Director of USC – City Council. Ms. Smith states that she also helps raise money for the Athletic Department of USC Union addressed City Council. Ms. Smith states that USCU Athletic Department is soliciting sponsorships to design their marketing, t-shirts, etc. Instead of large banners, individual wind screen banners will be created for each sponsor and those logos will be attached to the outfield fence at City Park, “Home of the Lady Bantams”. She states that the City of Union has given for the last three (3) years She is asking the City to be a continued sponsor. Sponsorship over \$300 this year will have the individual sponsorship logo printed and put at City Park on the outfield. If council so desires to sponsor the USC-U Athletics, a motion is in order.

MOTION by Councilmember Morgan to sponsor the USC-Union Athletics at the \$1,000 level with funding coming from the money that was left from the warranty program

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dan O’Shields addressed City Council concerning the Blue Sky Mural behind Main Street. He states that it is really a community treasure but has not been in very good shape for several years; however Blue Sky did come to stabilize the Mural but there still is a matter of finishing it up. Mr. O’Shields states that he met with the Mayor and they talked with Blue Sky over the phone and there seems to be a price issue with the finishing of the mural. He feels that there seems to be three choices to make regarding the Mural; let it go as it is and it would continue to be a sore spot with the City; bring somebody else to do it at a cheaper rate or pay

Blue Sky what he wants. Mr. O'Shields encourages and recommends bringing in Blue sky and bit the bullet and have Blue Sky finish the Mural. Mayor Thompson states that this will be discussed at a workshop.

Curtiss Hunter, Union County Tourism Director reminded City Council about the Governor's Conference and their early bird registration discount.

Rieta Drinkwine, Executive Director of the Union County Library announced that they have finally got everything moved back into the library and anyone that wants to volunteer is welcome to assist.

April Hall, Executive Director of the YMCA invited everyone to attend the YMCA. They are doing a lot of great things at the "Y". She also thanked the City for their continued support. Also she announced that there is not a joiner's fee through January 31.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

Mayor Thompson gave an update on a six month report for DataMax. The City has collected \$94,000 under this program. The Mayor states that this is a good Program.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - CONTRACTUAL MATTERS -
PMPA

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter regarding PMPA

SECOND by Councilmember Anthony.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

No action taken

Councilmember Harris states that it was brought to his attention that the ad for the City Administrator's position states that you have to live inside the City. He recommends that the ad be revised to state that the City Administrator live in Union County and extend ad to February 14, 2019.

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to revise the ad stating that City Administrator can live in Union County and extend ad date

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn

SECOND by Councilmember Craig

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Regular Council Meeting
January 15, 2019

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2019