

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2006
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 September 19, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Bruce Morgan; Councilmembers Harold Thompson, Ricky Todd Harris, Fran Bailey, Orangelow Ruff and Paul Glenn. Councilmember Keith Henderson was absent due to illness.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney was absent due to illness.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Jeff Lawson, CBO MCP-Building Official; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Sam White, - Chief, Perry Harmon – Public Service Director, Walker Gallman – Finance Director and Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director .

NEWS MEDIA: Charles Warner – Union Times and Kevin Shehan – WBCU Radio

OTHERS: Clara Morgan, Shirley Ham, Brenda Cameron, Harriett Berry, Azalee Glenn, Fran Love, Torance Inman, Renee Alexander, Judson Gregory and Arthur Gregory.

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

2. **Minutes**

1. August 15, 2006 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to accept minutes as presented.
SECOND by Councilmember Thompson.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **Communications**

A. Monthly Reports

The monthly reports of all departments were included in the council packages and are on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

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

4. **Business**

A. **ORDINANCE – 2ND READING - RECOVERY OF COLLECTION COSTS**

The Setoff Debt Collection Program has proven to be an effective tool to collect delinquent debts owed to the City. The City has participated in this program since 1993. The Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) asked the law firm of Sowell & Gray to review the procedures used in the Setoff Debt Collection Program and recommend any changes that would strengthen the program. An ordinance relating to the recovery of collection cost as part of delinquent debt collected was the result of the research. The collection costs are fees charged by the Municipal Association for processing claims under the Act. The City is allowed to charge a fee up to \$25.00, but elected not to several years ago. The law firm also recommended an addendum to our customer contract to make debtors award of additional cost for administrative costs incurred in processing a claim. City Council passed 1st reading at its August 15, 2006 regular meeting.

MOTION by Councilmember Ruff to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance.
SECOND by Councilmember Glenn.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. **ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – GRANTING CONSENT APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE FOR CABLE SERVICE & SETTING FRANCHISE FEE**

A franchise ordinance for cable service and fees was presented to Council for 1st reading.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to approve ordinance.
SECOND by Councilmember Glenn.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. **DISCUSSION/MOTION – SPONSORING LOCAL PIANIST RYAN SMITH & CONCERT PIANIST EMILE PANDOLFI**

Ms. Harriett Berry of the Union Arts Council addressed Council. On September 28th Pianist Ryan Smith, a Union County native, will be in concert at USC Union Auditorium at 7:30 PM. This is a fundraiser for Union County Music Club Scholarship Fund. A fundraiser for a proposed Arts Center Building will be held October 26, 2006 at 7:30 P.M. at USC Union Auditorium. Mr. Emile Pandolfi, an international pianist, will be in concert. His fee is normally \$7,000, but in order to help the Arts Council, Mr. Pandolfi's fee is \$5,000. The Arts Council is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000 to help support the Emile Pandolfi concert.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to approve funding in the amount of \$1,000.
SECOND by Councilmember Glenn.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. **ORDINANCE – 1ST READING - PURCHASE OF PROPERTY ON GADBERRY STREET**

An ordinance authorizing the purchase of 203 Gadberry Street was presented to City Council for 1st reading. This property is located behind the Graham Cash Building off of Main Street. It borders the property of the Teritex Building which Council has looked at developing in the future, as well as meeting parking needs for Main Street. This property is a part of the TIF District. The Mayor has negotiated with the owners for a price of \$52,000. The owners had originally asked for \$75,000 for the property.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey authorizing the purchase of property on 203 Gadberry Street in the amount of \$52,000.

SECOND by Councilmember Glenn

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. RESOLUTION – CDBG – UNION MILL PROJECT

A resolution to support the CDBG grant application to obtain funding to continue to upgrade the Union Mill property was presented to Council for approval.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to approve resolution.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. DISCUSSION/MOTION – APPROVE \$12,000 FOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTRACT CLEANUP SERVICES FOR MAIN STREET

Torance Inman, Director of the Chamber of Commerce addressed Council. Upon the completion of Phase I of the Opportunity Grant and the beginning Phase II, which will invite and direct more people to the downtown, it is important that the Main Street be continually cleaned and properly maintained. From a cleaning prospective the Chamber feels it can contract an individual to regularly sweep and clean the street of debris and trash. The area of Main Street would be that portion from the corner of Herndon Street east to the corner of South Church Street. This would include the side streets of Pinckney, Gadberry, and Mountain north and south to Sharpe Avenue and Hunter Alley. It is estimated that this project would cost approximately \$12,000 plus supplies. This undertaking would preclude the City from hiring additional staff and decrease the destructive wear and tear of the street cause by the heavy equipment currently being used. Additional assistance will be needed following special events and activities such as the Downtown Open House, Christmas Parade, etc.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to approve \$12,000 for Chamber of Commerce contract cleanup services for Main Street.

SECOND by Councilmember Glenn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – REVISION OF ANNEXATION AGREEMENT – JEFF LAWSON

Jeff Lawson, Building Official, discussed the revision of an annexation agreement. Staff will be working on the revision over the next few months.

H. DISCUSSION/MOTION – REVISION OF ANNEXATION POLICY

Jeff Lawson, Building Official, presented a Utility Extension Ordinance to Council for 1st reading. This ordinance applies to locations outside the city limits requesting water or sewer service.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to pass 1st reading of the ordinance.
SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – ORDINANCE TO ANNEX
PROPERTY AT 513 N. DUNCAN BY-PASS

The owners of the property located at 513 North Duncan Bypass are requesting annexation of their property into the Corporate Limits of the City of Union with an A-2 Highway Commercial Zone Classification. The property is adjacent to properties which are zoned A-2 Highway Commercial and it does comply with the regulation requirements for this Zone. The recommendation is to pass 1st reading of an ordinance.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to pass 1st reading of ordinance to annex property at 513 N. Duncan By-Pass.
SECOND by Councilmember Glenn.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

J. DISCUSSION/MOTION – PHASE II OPPORTUNITY GRANT
CONSULTANT CONTRACT

Jeff Lawson, Building Official, discussed Phase II of the Opportunity Grant Consultant Contract proposals. After reviewing each of the proposals, the City of Union Opportunity Grant Committee and City Staff feel that the proposal submitted by Frazier Associates in the amount of \$68,800 would be the lowest responsible proposal best suited to the needs of the City of Union.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to accept contract submitted by Frazier Associates.
SECOND by Councilmember Thompson.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

K. DISCUSSION/MOTION – REQUESTS FROM USC-UNION

Mayor Morgan presented a letter from USC-Union. The letter is from Dean Edwards. The letter states that the University has two problems. The gazebo, a gift to the campus from the City of Union, located in front of the Central Building need to be cleaned and resealed. The University is requesting assistance in the cleaning and resealing of the structure. The second concern is a large oak tree behind the Central Building. It is slowly dying. The major concern is that the tree is leaning and overhangs the City of Union's power unit. If the tree falls or a large limb falls, it would destroy the power unit. It also could destroy the chiller unit for their HVAC. These damages would result in a major outage and a major expense to repair. The City currently has a contract in place to do tree trimming and tree removal. The Mayor recommends allowing the City's utility department to use the existing contract to remove the tree.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to go out for bid for the cleaning and resealing of the Gazebo and the approval of the City's utility department to remove the oak tree behind USC's Central Building.
SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

Mayor Morgan announced that the City has been working on its website during the last couple of months. The website's address is www.cityofunion.org. The City's budget in its entirety is posted on the website for viewing. Council minutes are posted on the website as they are approved by City Council.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A. Please address the Mayor and Council from the lectern and state your name and address for the record.

Judson Gregory, Owner of Snow White Laundry on 176 Duncan Bypass, addressed Council. He states that he is at the meeting to protest a letter that was sent to his attorney on a legal matter.

Torance Inman, Director of the Chamber, introduced the new Administrative Assistant, Ms. Renee Alexander. Ms. Kaye Kendrick, Administrative Assistant will retire from the Chamber of Commerce with over 32 years of service. A farewell celebration will be held for Ms. Kendrick on September 27, 2006 from 4:00 PM till 6:00 PM at the Inn at Merridun.

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

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to go out of regular session into executive session to discuss two contractual matters.

SECOND by Councilmember Thompson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

SECOND by Councilmember Glenn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

No action taken.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to adjourn.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2006