

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2006  
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).}

A special council meeting was held on September 26, 2006 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

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

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director, Jeff Lawson, CBO MCP-Building Official, Joe Nichols – Utility Director and Walker Gallman – Finance Director

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens

**OTHERS:** Faye Henderson

A. **CALL TO ORDER**

1. Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Councilmember Harold Thompson. The pledge of allegiance was given by all present.

B. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – GRANTING CONSENT TO APPLICATION FOR FRANCHISE FOR CABLE SERVICE AND SETTING FRANCHISE FEE**

A franchise ordinance for cable service and fees passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading at its meeting on September 19, 2006.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Thompson to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – APPROVAL TO PURCHASE PROPERTY ON 203 N. GADBERRY STREET**

City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of an ordinance to purchase property on 203 N. Gadberry Street at its September 19, 2006 meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Thompson.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – APPROVE ANNEXATION ON 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. City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the ordinance to annex the property at its September 19, 2006 meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Thompson.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **ORDINANCE – 2<sup>ND</sup> READING – APPROVE REVISION OF ANNEXATION POLICY**

City Council passed 1<sup>st</sup> reading of an ordinance to amend the utility extension ordinance at its September 19, 2006 meeting.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Bailey to pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **DISCUSSION – ROBOTICS TRAINING FACILITY AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL**

Mayor Morgan briefed Council on the Robotics Training Facility. Last year City Staff began with the recruiting of LSP and along with that was a request from LSP to have some robotics training. Council allowed the Mayor to submit an appropriation request for funding for the Robotics Training Facility through Congressman Bob Inglis, Senator Jim DeMint and Senator Lindsey Graham's office in Washington, D.C. There is funding for the Robotics Training Facility in two appropriations bills currently moving through Congress. The Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved an Appropriations Act which included \$500,000 for the Robotics Training Facility. However, the process of writing that bill, is far from finished, and changes will be made to the bill. The House version of the Appropriations Act which passed the House contained \$100,000 for the Robotics Training Facility. Mayor and Staff, along with County Supervisor, will meet with members of the COG on October 11, 2006 to discuss EDA grant funding, which the COG will request on behalf of the City, a minimum of 1.5 million dollars for EDA grant funds. The City and County continues to work with the University of South Carolina-Union and Spartanburg Community College on the Robotics Training Facility.

6. **DISCUSSION – MODEL “CUT-OFF” POLICY**

Finance Director Walker Gallman addressed Council. He states that last week he sent Council a copy of a model “cut-off” policy that was approved by SCAMPS. Article 25, of Chapter 31, Title 5 of the Code of Laws of S.C., requires municipalities furnishing electricity or natural gas to their citizens to establish written procedures for terminations of utilities and consider establishing third party notification and specific needs

programs. The City currently has a special needs program that needs updating, however; the City does not have a third party notification program but would like to go ahead and implement. Mr. Gallman discussed several points that are different from our current policy. Notification for termination of service on the utility bill will continue. The notification will provide the termination day, which will be approximately 7 days after being notified. A payment plan of up to three months may be offered to customers experiencing extraordinary circumstances. Payment plans may be entered into only three times in a 12 month period. The availability of public or private assistance in paying bills must be provided to customers. Standards for determining weather conditions are included in policy. If at 7:00 am the high for the day is forecasted to be 99 degrees Fahrenheit or higher or if the low is forecasted to be 35 degrees Fahrenheit or lower, the City will not terminate service. The City will look at three website locations to determine the high and low temperature for each day. The Finance Director will bring back the model "cut off" policy to Council at its October regular meeting for approval.

7. UPDATE OF NATURAL GAS RATES

Utility Director Joe Nichols briefed Council on natural gas rates. Natural gas rates are declining compared to last year's rate.

C. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

D. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**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.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Thompson to add an item to the agenda authorizing Mayor Morgan to enter into negotiations with the owner(s) of the herein referenced property for the purchase of property near the Industrial Park area on Furman Fendley Highway and referenced on Tax Parcel Number 55-0-0-24.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Ruff.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Special Council Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes Approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2006