

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 October 17, 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, Keith Henderson, Fran Bailey and Orangelow Ruff. Councilmember Paul Glenn was absent due to illness.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney

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

NEWS MEDIA: Charles Warner – Union Times, Kevin Shehan – WBCU Radio and Spartanburg Herald Journal Reporter.

OTHERS: None

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**

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. September 19, 2006 | Regular Council Meeting |
| 2. September 26, 2006 | Special Council Meeting |

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to accept minutes as presented.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

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 Henderson to accept monthly reports.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Business**

A. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CITY/COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AGREEMENT

A City/County Animal Shelter Agreement was presented to City Council for approval.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to approve the agreement.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. MOTION – RENEWAL OF ASSISTANCE FOR 2006/2007 WINTER HEATING BILLS

City Council is concerned about the impact winter heating bills have upon our elderly and low-income customers. City Council and staff have heard many hardship stories. City Council may wish to make \$10,000 available in Community Change funds to supplement The Salvation Army's FEMA funds in support of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. The funds may be used to assist City utility customers who qualify or as the City Council may otherwise direct. Use of these funds to help with heating bills is in keeping with what we have always said funds will be used for. The Salvation Army and Carolina Community Actions have indicated that they are willing to qualify applicants for the assistance as appropriate. In the event \$10,000 in Community Change funds is exhausted prior to winter's end, a further \$20,000 in Utility Fund Retained Earnings is budgeted as a supplement for this use as well. Should Council agree to renew the release of Community Change funds to assist City utility customers, a motion is required.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to approve the renewal of the release of Community Change funds to assist City utility customers.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. DISCUSSION/MOTION – MODEL POLICY- TERMINATION OF UTILITIES DUE TO NON-PAYMENT

At our last Council Meeting Council was presented with a "Model Policy" to terminate utilities due to non-payment. This policy was approved by "SCAMPS". The City's version of the termination policy was discussed, with a few minor modifications. This policy will not change the way the City currently bill our customers or the notification for payment or disconnect date. The City will not implement a 3% penalty for past due payments and customers will continue to have approximately 30 days to pay their bill. This policy will not change the way the City currently bills customers or the notification for payment or disconnect date. This policy will also include a payment plan for qualified customers, a third party notification program and a special needs program. Staff has already begun a third-party notification program and has enhanced our special needs program. The third-party notification will give staff a contact in the event your bill is up for disconnection. The special needs program will require a person to obtain medical certification. The special needs form will have to be either faxed or emailed from the medical provider's office. Both of the above forms will need to be resubmitted each year between November 1 and November 30. The recommendation is to adopt the termination of utilities policy as the policy the City of Union will use in the future to

discontinue utilities for non-payment. Also, to authorize the Mayor to submit this policy to the Office of Regulatory Staff.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to adopt model policy.

SECOND by Councilmember Thompson.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. ORDINANCE – 2ND READING - PURCHASE OF PROPERTY
LOCATED ON FURMAN FENDLEY HIGHWAY

The City of Union, Union County, Union County Schools, Spartanburg Community College, and the University of South Carolina-Union are partners in the effort to create the Upstate Regional Robotics Training Center. They join many other businesses, government, and community leaders in the region who recognize that such a facility could help attract new industry and jobs and bring a renewed sense of economic prosperity to the region. The Upstate Regional Robotics Training Center project would serve new and existing industry with a world-class robotics training facility. It would augment upstate South Carolina's role as a leader in research, development, and manufacturing for the automotive industry and help to develop a highly trained, well educated work force necessary to support modern high-tech industry. The project would be directly responsive to the need posed for robotics training by LSP Inc., a major supplier to BMW and to Timken US Corporation, suppliers to the aerospace, automotive, industrial, rail and super precision industries. Both companies are major employers in the region and provide above average wage jobs. City Council authorized the Mayor and Staff to enter into negotiations for the purchase of property on the Furman Fendley Highway near Industrial Park for the purpose of the Upstate Regional Robotics Training Center. The recommendation is to take the money, the interest, from the old High School funds for the Robotics Training Center. The remaining balance in the old High School funds will be almost \$832,000. The ordinance passed 1st reading at its September 26, 2006 Special Meeting.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to pass 2nd reading of the ordinance and accept the recommendation.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. APPOINTMENT – HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

City Council must fill a vacancy on the Housing Authority Board for an expired term. The position was solicited by public notice in the Union times. Request letters for the vacancy were submitted by the following: Mr. Ralph P. Woodward, Jr. and Ms. Lillie Marie Davis. Council will need to appoint a Housing Authority Board Commissioner.

MOTION by Councilmember Ruff to appoint Mr. Ralph P. Woodward, Jr. as Housing Authority Commissioner.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

F. ELECTION COMMISSION BOARD

City Council must fill a vacancy on the Election Commission Board for an expired term. The position was solicited by public notice in the Union

Daily Times. A request letter for the vacancy was submitted by Ms. Sara Thomas.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to appoint Ms. Sara Thomas to the Election Commission Board.

SECOND by Councilmember Harris.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

G. DISCUSSION/MOTION – BID TO CLEAN AND RESEAL GAZEBO AT USC-UNION

We solicited bids from the following three firms for the cleaning and resealing of the gazebo at USC-Union; Custom Builders, Quality Yard Care and Unlimited Construction. There was only one firm that submitted a bid. The bid is listed below for Council's consideration: Unlimited Construction in the amount of \$3,000. Staff recommends awarding the bid to Unlimited Construction.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson to award bid to Unlimited Construction in the amount of \$3,000.

SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

H. AWARD BID – WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS – 49 WEST APARTMENTS

Bids were received on October 3, 2006 at City Hall for water system improvements at 49 West Apartments off of West Main Street. A summary of the bids and recommendation from the consultants were discussed. The recommendation is to accept bid from Boulware Plumbing & Construction in the amount of \$63,050.00.

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to accept bid from Boulware Plumbing.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I. DISCUSSION/MOTION – SPONSOR FOR HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

A letter was received from Union County Health Care Foundation asking the City to become a sponsor of this year's Autumn Splendor event. The sponsorship funds will be taken from PMPA funds.

MOTION by Councilmember Henderson to become a silver sponsor in the amount of \$500 taken from PMPA funds.

SECOND by Councilmember Ruff.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

J. ORDINANCE – 1ST READING – AMENDED UTILITY EXTENSION

An amended Utility Extension Policy applying to properties, as determined by the City of Union which is located outside the city limits requesting water and/or sewer service was presented to City Council for 1st reading.

MOTION by Councilmember Thompson to pass 1st reading of the amended

Utility Extension Ordinance.
SECOND by Councilmember Bailey.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Mayor Morgan announced that on October 26, 2006 at 7:30 p.m., Emile Pandolfi, a concert pianist will be in concert at USC-Union auditorium. On November 9, 2006 the ETV Road Show will be broadcasting in Downtown Union at the corner of N. Gadberry and E. Main Street.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION by Councilmember Bailey to adjourn.
SECOND by Councilmember Henderson.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2006