UNION CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MINUTES

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Mayor- Harold Thompson

District #1- Jackie Earls

District #2- Robert Garner

District #3- Gloria Rogers

District #4- Ricky T. Harris

District #5- Pam Sloss

District #6- Monty Cooke

Regular City Council Meeting MINUTES

July 21, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

101 Sharpe Ave.

THE MEETING MAY BE VIEWED ELECTRONICALLY ON OUR CITY OF UNION YOUTUBE PAGE

https://www.youtube.com/@CityUnionSC

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD THOMPSON**
2. **INVOCATION – MAYOR THOMPSON**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**:

a. June 16, 2026 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
b. June 16, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
c. July 6, 2026 Special Called Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes from June 16, 2026.

SECOND by Councilmember Rogers

CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Rogers

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept the Special Called Council Meeting Minutes.

SECOND by Councilmember Rogers

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CITY COUNCIL TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATION MONTHLY REPORTS:

MONTHLY REPORTS

Human Resources Department	Dena Lancaster
Public Service Department	Dwayne Hardy
Public Safety Department	Robbie McGee
Planning Department	Amy Knox
Maintenance Shop	Leroy Edwards
Utility Department	Lance Davis
Finance Department	Laura Hembree

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to receive communication monthly reports.

SECOND by Councilmember Rogers

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. ANNIVERSARIES

Jamie Babb	Electric Supervisor	26 Years
Matthew Kendrick	Electric Department	12 Years
John Redding	Firefight	5 Years
Corey Scott	Electric Department	7 Years
Bryan Shaver	Public Safety Officer	8 Years

A round of applause was given for all as a "thanks" for their years of service.

7. PROCLAMATION – DR. JAMES R. "JIMMY" MARTIN II DAY

James R. Martin was recently named the Chancellor of NC A&T University in Greensboro, N.C. He will be given the key to the city at a function on August 2 at Main Street Junction.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve the Proclamation.

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. AWARD BID – AMPHITHEATER PROJECT

Lance Davis- So, this is the award bid for the for the Graham Amphitheater. We received bids on June the 30th from three entities, Sossaman Construction, Dunbar Construction, and Raby Construction. The low bid was $1,439,218.54. The bids come in above the budgeted amount and above the grant amount. If you recall, the grant amount is $976,925, and we have some private money committed for $100,000. The balance between the construction budget and the grant funds of the $452,293.54 that needs to be approved. Again, that doesn't include the $100,000 private money, but just for the grant's purposes, we have to commit to the full amount. In this year's budget, we had previously approved $150,000 for this project. So that leaves an actual amount that we didn't budget for about $212 to 215,000. Laura and I've talked, $150,000 was already going to come out of ED funds. We can use that for that purpose. So, the recommendation would be to award the bid to Sossaman and then commit to the additional funds of the $452, 293.54.
The Mayor asks for any questions.
Councilman Harris asks where the money would come from and if there is enough in those funds.
Mr. Davis confirms from Economic Development and that yes, there is enough. Mr. Davis pulls the plans up on the screen for reference and explains to council the boundaries and orientation of the project. Total investment, if you discount the private money, it puts us in the neighborhood of less than $400,000 for a really nice investment.
Councilman Harris asks for the seating capacity.

Mr. Davis does not have that answer but will get it to Council.

MOTION by Councilmember Garner

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY.

9. AWARD BID – CITY GATE STATION

Lance Davis - The city gate station is the beginning of our natural gas system. It's at the intersection of Highway 176 and Dogwood Club Road in Spartanburg County. That station was originally constructed in the mid 1950s. It had some minor renovations, but the majority of what's there is original, and it has long since been in need of upgrade. As a part of our pipeline project for the Valera project on the former Kohler site, we've already done the 8-inch main extension as well as the meter station for the project that the Valera project funded completely. And they've already paid us for all these. This is the last step of our infrastructure project. It's very specific work, which is why it's not needed in the same manner as a lot of our open bids. We direct solicited, and Magnolia River has their engineers for these projects. They've laid out all the various firms that they that they had quoted with the best pricing and the best combination, because we had to decide what our mesh points between these two or three different contractors were going to be. It ended up being between Prestige and First Cut. That's all laid out in their recommendation letter. Again, just as with the 8-inch main and the Valera meter, the Valera team has committed to fully fund this, but we just like before, we have to approve the bid to the contractor, they bill us, and then we get reimbursed from the project. And to date, they reimbursed us every dime. This is a well-needed upgrade to that facility that really needed to be done regardless and now is going to be done with their funds instead of our funds. So, the recommendation is to award the bids to Prestige for $165,500, and the proposal for the installation and the fabrication of the station to First Cut for $392,139.30.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to accept the bid for the City Gate Station

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY.

10. 2nd READING – REZONING OF THREE (3) PROPERTIES ON HART STREET

Thank you, Mayor. Good evening, Council. This is a request to rezone 1.86 acres on Hart Street near the intersection with Duncan Bypass. The property owner intends to sell this as commercial, so they'll already have that commercial zoning, making it a little bit more appealable to, you know, to develop this commercial land use near that intersection. Your planning commission considered this last month and recommended unanimously approving the A2 commercial zoning. So happy to answer any questions.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to approve the planning commission recommendation

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY.

11. 1ST READING - MAIN STREET JUNCTION FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE

Alana West- Thank you, Mayor. Good evening, Council. Like I said, the proposed rental agreement and new fee schedule was given to you at last month's council meeting. We're just asking that it go as an ordinance and it needs to pass first reading. Nothing has changed since last month.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to pass the first reading of ordinance adopting the new Main Street Junction Contract

SECOND by Councilmember Rogers

CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Harris - Harris: I understand we have the first block of the city sidewalks pressure washed. Then we'll push a little bit further for the painting of the fire hydrants. Thank you.

Councilmember Garner – We got an email today concerning the incident last night on the Boulevard. You have already made an arrest in that case, I'd like to thank him for the hard work.

13. INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Laura Hembree- The HVAC project that's been going on for several months, all payment documentation has been submitted. We do have one more walk-through next week, and then we're expected within the next several days to have the full grant reimbursement. And if you just walk around City Hall, you see the new thermostats and things, and the upgrade has made the cooling, so far, and the upcoming heating for the building more energy efficient. This was a long, long time coming. We were awarded a grant last week for a drainage project on Willow Lane, and that is a CDBG grant in the amount of $911,362. And our Council of Governments: Catawba Regional, they submitted the city and county project: the Union

Jonesville Regional Wastewater Project, for an impact award, and it won through National Association of Development Organization. The project won and will be featured with photos and timelines in their training materials and other publications. We've put a little bit of release out there just to notify the public. And this project was one of a lot of candidates from 40 different states. It's an honor for our community to be recognized on a national level.

Mayor Thompson- Let me just thank the staff for everybody pulling in and working together. We've been kind of short-staffed, but we see the continuity there, like we haven't skipped a beat. I appreciate all the hard work and dedication tomorrow.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public made a comment.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

a. Personnel Matters

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters

SECOND by Councilmember Rogers

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss

SECOND by Councilmember Harris

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:45PM