The City of

Union

SOUTH CAROLINA

UNION CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

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

November 10, 2026, 6:30pm

101 Sharpe Ave.

THE MEEING MAY BE VIEWED ELECTRONICALLY ON OUR CITY OF UNION YOUTUBE PROFILE.

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

Prepared by
Donya Sumner

1. **MEETING CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD THOMPSON**

2. **INVOCATION-MAYOR THOMPSON**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Swearing in of elected City of Union councilmembers

- Jackie Earls-District 1
- Robert Garner-District 2
- Pamela G. Sloss-District 3

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. September 15, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

Human Resource Department	Dena Lancaster
Public Service Department	Dwayne Hardy

Public Safety Department	Chief Robbie McGee
Planning Department	Amy Knox
Maintenance Shop	Blane Lancaster
Utility Department	Lance Davis
Finance Department	Laura Hembree

7. ANNIVERSARIES

Lance Davis	City Administration	5 Years
Adam Caudill	Gas Department	6 Years

8. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER 2nd READING

A. Ordinance for Camping on Public Property

9. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

A. Match Resolution for Union Downtown Streetscape

B. Match Resolution for Streetlight Upgrades

10. APPOINTMENT AND SWEARING IN OF MUNICIPAL JUDGE

A. Council Consideration and Vote on Appointment

B. Administration of Oath of Office

Prepared by
Donya Sumner

11. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

THE FLOOR IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS. CITIZENS OF UNION OR OTHERS WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR TIME WITH THE CLERK CAN NOW ADDRESS COUNCIL FOR ANY MATTERS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA OR OTHER MATTERS YOU WISH TO BRING BEFORE THE COUNCIL. SPEAKERS ARE ALLOWED UP TO 3 MINUTES AND POSSIBLY LONGER IF THAT SPEAKER IS RECOGNIZED IN ADVANCE AS REPRESENTING A LARGER GROUP WITH SIMILAR CONCERNS. TO PRESERVE THE DECORUM OF THIS PUBLIC MEETING, AND TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE ELECTIVE MEMBERSHIP OF CITY COUNCIL, THIS WILL BE THE ONLY TIME WE WILL RECEIVE UNSOLICITED COMMENTS TONIGHT FROM THE PUBLIC.

David Gioia

14. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Prepared by
Donya Sumner

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Agenda Item: 5A-5C	**Meeting Date: November 10, 2026**
Agenda Section: New Business	**Prepared By: Christian Latham**
Subject: Approval of Special Meeting Minutes	**Date: October 23, 2026**
	Department: Legislative

BACKGROUND:

5A. Special Meeting Minutes
5B. Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
5C. Regular Meeting Minutes

RECOMMENDATION:

Reviewed by Dept. Head:	**Reviewed by City Administrator**
Council Action: Motion by	
2nd by	
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UNION CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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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

Special City Council Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2026

101 Sharpe Ave.

1. **CALL TO ORDER - MAYOR HAROLD THOMPSON**

2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
   MOTION by Councilmember Rogers to go into executive session.
   SECOND by Councilmember Garner
   CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY

   a. Legal matter

3. **MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING**
   MOTION by Councilmember Rogers
   SECOND by Councilmember Harris
   CARRIED UNAIMOUSLY

   MEETING ADJOURN 5:57pm

The City of Union SOUTH CAROLINA

UNION PUBLIC HEARING 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-ABSENT

District #6- Monty Cooke

Union Public Hearing Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

101 Sharpe Ave.

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR HAROLD THOMPSON**

2. **BUSINESS**
   A. Marty -Request to rezone Tax Map #064-00-00-119 from A-2 Highway Commercial to R-15 Residential

3. **Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm**

The City of Union SOUTH CAROLINA

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- ABSENT

District #6- Monty Cooke

Regular City Council Meeting MINUTES

October 20, 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. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes- September 15, 2026.

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to accept the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes from September 15, 2026
SECOND by Councilmember Rogers
CARRIED UNAMINOUSLY

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. MONTHLY REPORTS

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

MOTION by Councilmember Rogers to receive monthly communication reports.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. **C.D. Rhodes and Chief Robbie McGee- Statement regarding homelessness and panhandling.**

C.D. Rhodes- I wish it was just as simple as passing this law or passing this ordinance would solve all of your problems but unfortunately, I can't. This is a problem that has affected any city of reasonably size, everywhere across the country has faced this problem. Because it is such a common issue there are very few solutions that have been tried and tested in courts and the legality of the situations is the legality factor. They are places like other jurisdictions in other cities that have tried approaches such as banning panhandling, banning someone prohibiting them from asking others for money. Ordinances and laws like that have repeated been struck down by really all of courts including the U. S. Supreme Courts on numerous occasions. Any ordinance at the end of the day or laws at the end of the day that tries to limit what one person says to another person in a non-commercial context is what we are talking about here is certainly going to be challenged and going to be invalidated by courts. And if that comes to pass because this involves fringing on someone's constitutional rights, which is what we are ultimately talking about getting rise to claims in Federal court that can and have led to substantial financial liability for the jurisdictions who have tried to enforce this. Laws that have limit on loitering have been ruled unconstitutional including the one here in The City of Union a number of years ago. Bans against obstructing traffic and obstructing the sidewalks have also repeatedly been ruled unconstitutional, The City of Charleston had an anti-panhandling ordinance that was repealed in 2015 in response to a threatened challenge by ACLU and others. So, you have an ordnance for consideration in front of you tonight this is some additional tools that will help curve some of the impact for panhandling but unfortunately, I am standing up here today to deliver the message that this is just an incredible challenging issue to deal with answers out there. There are no perfect solutions. At the end of day there are lots of behavior that folks can do that involves

panhandling and asking for money that such simply can not be criminalized and if you try to do that they are going to be challenged and they are going to be overturned and that leads to a very good chance to substantial financial liability for the city without actually solving the problem and likely making it worse. So, this is another tool for Chief and his officers to make use, to improve the situation but I don't want to give you, and I don't want to give the public a false sense of this being a perfect solution, it is not. There is no perfect solution out there. It certainly isn't from the lack of trying to find one, among cities in South Carolina and across the nation, that's just where we are today. I am happy to answer any questions that you may, but I do think the ordinance that you have in front of you tonight does move forward and gives Chief and his officers another tool. Chief would like to add anything to that.

Chief Robbie McGee- I would like to thank Mr. Rhodes he has worked for about 6 or 8 weeks on this; I appreciate him helping us out with this. I would like to say I think this is better than what we had, it's not perfect but better than what we had. It does give us something to work with.

Mayor Thompson- any questions? Alright thank you gentlemen.

c. Elise Asby- Farmer's Market and The Robinhood Group

Elise Asby- Good afternoon, everyone I am Elise Asby I am the executive director of the Robinhood Group and for the last 10 years the Robinhood Group has managed the farmers' market. Since 2021 we operated the food share hub and the fresh packet. A couple of years ago we were awarded a grant to put 7 community gardens around the county, we ended that grant with national farmers market week and the state made a proclamation for national farmers market in the city. The proclamation was given out at the library, and they have a copy of it in there somewhere. We were also awarded only one of the grants for the RFFI please don't ask me what that stands for, but it's for infrastructure for farms based agriculturally based in valued added food organizations in the county. With our grant we were able to get a commercial kitchen, we have been asked many times when it is coming, when is coming, when it comes, there have been a lot of delays and setbacks with it. It is finally here; it is here we are in the process of getting all of our electrical work done and getting our permits taken care of. So that is still coming, we will hopefully be getting that taken care of in November it could be done by the end of October, but I have number of conferences I have to attend. On to the next point, we have been the longest serving president for the South Carolina's Association Farmer's Market, this is the 2nd year that we have created and served on panels at the South Carolina's Black Farmer's Coalition annual meetings. We have made plans for the Carolina Farm Tourist Association and plan to do one at the end of this month. Let's go back to fresh packs, so in 2021 we became a food share hub, primarily because we were part of a grant to provide fresh produce to diabetics and prediabetics patients in the county. We had to be a food share hub in order to get that grant. So became one. One of the tenants that I was most adamant about was that we have to buy from our local farmers, being the manager of the farmers' market, couldn't go and buy fresh produce from other people or places, or from the vendor. We were the only hub in the state that bought primarily from our local farmers. In 2025 because I got tired of fighting with them about not buying from their vendors and buying from our local farmers, we cut ties with food share hub with food share South Carolina. And we became the Farmer's Market Fresh Pack, again we primarily buy produce from our local farmers. We have one of our last 3 distributions this Thursday, there will be some good fresh produce, and we do buy some produce from the vendor apples, bananas, stuff that we don't grow here and when it's not in season its best not to buy it. Now to the farmers market for the last 10 years we have managed the farmers market, there have been a lot of questions about the farmers market lately and I really want to address them. The first is who put me in charge, the farmers and the city and the county. The city did it when I came up and asked for funding

for the farmers' market and you gave it to the Robinwood group on behalf of the farmers' market, the county the same. You guys did the same when I came up and asked for money, you gave it, you didn't give it to Elise Ashy you gave it to Robinhood group to do whatever I said I was going to do with it for the farmers market. That kind of put me in charge of the farmer's market, when the farmers completed their applications and paid dues that continued to put me in charge of the farmer's market. I told them what I was going to do, they paid for it and we did it. People have asked about the dues being charged at the farmers' market, well as long the farmer's market has been a farmer's market, rather it was 3, 4, or 20 vendors and farmers there were dues. Prior to the Robinhood group taking responsibility for the farmer's market, the farmers collected dues, they gave the dues to the chamber, the chamber put them in a box and left it there until the end of the season. The farmers came and got the money and then they went out to dinner. That was because no farmer trusted each other to open up a bank account for the farmer's market. It wasn't until we became the manager that we were entrusted with those funds. And what we did with those funds where we put with signage, we put up a porta potty because we didn't want the farmers not having a porta potty. We did events and activities; we covered the insurance on the activities that went on at the farmer's market. And a couple of those were the beginning events, mental and physical health fair, which brought the agencies from across the county together, to tell them what they did in the county, so people knew what was going on. The most important thing is that let's back up a little tiny bit. In 2014 the city gave, allowed, moved the farmers market to its location where the housing for USC Union and they moved it to the place where it is now. They didn't do that on my behave because I wasn't here. The city put the farmers market where it is. The city knew that the property was leased by the YMCA, I don't know if you all asked the Y if the farmers market could go there but in the accessors plat, it says for 106 Lakeside Drive that, that property is the YMCA and the farmer's market. Sometime in 2014 the farmer's market was given its own address, and that was 511 East Main Street. I don't know who did it, it happened in 2014, I wasn't here. In 2016 when I came on as the manager, I came to the city and asked for funding for an ebt machine, for those of you who were here I'm sure you remember that. I was granted those funds so we could have an ebt machine, so that we could provide the farmers with more access to funding. That happened and again nothing was told about talking to the Y about doing any of these things, it just happened. When I came and asked for funding for additional stalls, we were given it, I don't know if the YMCA was contacted, about those additional stalls there. I just always figured that the property it's the city's property, the Y is there, the farmer's market is there as well. When I came and asked for funding for building that the farmer's market fresh packs are currently working out of, I was not informed that I should talk to the YMCA, the city gave us funding for that building that is there. All of that to now I am being asked to move, the city has the county to over the responsibility of the farmers' market. And the county has graciously accepted that. The library has said they would take over senior vouchers, it is kind of interesting and I think part of that is because the state agency that runs the senior voucher program was contacted by the county by the city and told that y'all don't handle senior vouchers and that I was not going to. I was contacted by the state what's going on I said I don't know but I have the 1200 vouchers in my office. I didn't say I wasn't going to do it. I had every intention of doing it, because it was my hard work that moved that increased the number of vouchers from 200 to 1200. That $60,000 that comes into the county for low-income senior citizens and for the farmers, none of that money passes through Elise Asby except for to distribute the vouchers, I don't get a kick back from the farmers I don't get a kick back from the seniors. They get the vouchers, they buy the stuff from the farmers, the farmer puts the voucher in their bank account. I am very proud of the fact that we went from 200 vouchers when the council of aging was doing the distribution to 1200 vouchers. I hope that the library can continue that and grow that program. I understand that the city has the county to move the farmer's market, I have been contacted by the city's attorney to move the buildings, well that's going to kind of hard because the big building can't be moved, you went in there you saw it right. It can't be moved

anywhere. So, unfortunately, I have to leave it there but again the thing is that you helped pay for it. Lance said in a meeting that I had with him that he questioned why or how we were able to do that. Whenever I come up and speak, I always ask at the end if there are any questions. No one has asked any questions but now we have a problem the first was that the YMCA is having a problem with the farmers' market being on the property that it leases, and it is having difficulties because their insurance has increased. We offered, the Robinhood group offered to pay the increase. I don't know if that was ever relayed to the YMCA, but the next thing was the letter from the city's attorney that said you have to move. Now again a lot of stuff that has been said a lot of stuff that has been done some farmer who has never been a vendor at the farmer's market sent the city some document that said I was charging some crazy prices, no one ever contacted me and said Hey did you do this. Hey what is this? So, when I found out about it, I made it clear that was not from me. That was not from the Robinhood group, I had no idea where it was from because it didn't say on the piece of paper except for some email address. I have a point and I am trying to get to it weirdly as possible. I don't know how we are going to move the big building, I am going to asl the city to help me move all the other stuff. We will move from the property because that is what is demanded of us now. It is not going to hurt me, it is going to hurt the farmers, the citizens of that county, the low-income residents of the city and county. So please take into consideration helping us move what we can from that space. Any questions, any comments, any concerns. No okie dokie.

Mayor Thompson- Thank you ma'am

6. ANNIVERSARIES

Alan Brett Adams	Gas Department	11 years
Jared Anderson	Gas Department	8 years
Dylan Beheler	Public Safety	9 years
Sarah Cobb	Finance	23 years
Dwayne Hardy	Street & Sanitation	24 years
Laura Hembree	Finance	19 years
Steven Means	Street & Sanitation	25 years
Dell Mitchell	Public Safety	21 years
Mickey Parker	Public Safety	25 years
Andrew Treadway	Maintenance	5 years
Anthony Worthy	Street & Sanitation	5 years

7. **RETIREMENTS**

Mayor Thompson- We have 3 retirees Mickey Parker, Scott Hood, and Jimmy "Butch" Carter all public safety.

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

8. **COUNCIL TO CONSIDER 1st READING**

A. Request to rezone property located N Duncan Bypass Tax Map Parcel ID #0064-00-00-119 from A-2, Highway Commercial to R-15 Residential

Lance Davis- Marty, our COG representative, informed me there was a mistake in the request that had the wrong zoning code, it will be added to next month's agenda.

B. Camping on public property and other property is generally open to the public.

Lance Davis- I have nothing to add to that, that is the ordinance as it's written and described by Mr. Rhodes and I recommend approval.

MOTION by Councilmember Garner to pass the 1st reading of the Ordinance for camping on public property.
SECOND by Councilmember Rogers
CARRIED UNAINMOUSLY

9. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER RESOLUTION

A. COG Foster Park Improvement project

Lance Davis- As you guys know we are currently, the amphitheater project is under way, we will talk about that in a second, but this some additional work, additional funds that came available for some additions to Foster Park. Based on what the estimate costs, that will dictate what those are, it's a $500,000 grant with a 10% match. The target is what has been discussed is the restroom facility that we had remove from the amphitheater because of budget, it being added into this potentially putting a splash pad to replace the water feature that used to be there years ago near the picnic shelters, and some miscellaneous swings benches or things like that. Just to continue what we have been doing, trying to invest in the park. The recommendation or the request is city council to approve the $67,825.00 in local funds to allow us to move forward with the grant, the requirement for the match is $50,000.00 but based on the estimate that's why it is a little bit higher.

MOTION by Councilmember Rogers to pass the resolution for the Foster Park additions
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNAINMOUSLY

10. DISCUSSION OF MOTION

A. Kids in the Park Project

Lance Davis- In your packet are the details to this, this was something was brought to us by the Union Community Foundation, they have received a grant to install a kiosk, their request is to put one at Foster Park and 2 others out in public park locations in the county. Basically, it would require us to sign this agreement with them just to agree to maintain the area, it's our park, we will maintain it anyway. They will provide the sign, I think we will put it up, there are brochures that try to encourage kids to be outdoors, giving them some tasks and things to do just to encourage outdoor activity. They will provide brochures, they will restock them and really isn't any cost to us other than installing the sign, which we will do with our crew, and cutting grass, we will be doing that anyway. Seems like a good program the county is going to be same thing at these 2 other locations. So, the recommendation is to approve.

MOTION by Councilmember Rogers to approve the Kids in the Park project at Foster Park.
SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNAINMOUSLY

11. ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Thompson- anyone from council have anything they would like to add.

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Lance Davis- Just a couple of quick things, just wanted to update you on a couple of projects we have going on. With the fleet we are very close to completion, they've been moving quickly and like I said they are very close to completion. I think they in mind of a soft start maybe next week and easing into the next week, they still have some organization to do, in addition to people, equipment, tools, and other things from the 2 shops. Miss Dena is working on the particulars of an open house so everyone can get a good look at it. It's a nice facility and we are excited to get it going. I did mention to you guys and I can show it to you later but because it is a shared city and county shop, Blaine developed a logo to utilize for that purpose, we didn't think it was necessary to focus on us or the county brand on it since we have equal share in this thing. We will be rolling that out soon as well.
The amphitheater work is doing well we have moved a lot of dirt already. Likely this week or next week most of the heavy dirt work. Will be done and we will start building something. So, the stage will start taking shape and you will start to see most of the dirt hauling is complete. That will make to where the upper trail can be open pretty much all the time and we hope it will be able to stay open until the bottom is tied back in. Excited to finally see that it is starting to take shape now. The heavy work is getting close.
The municipal judge, as you know our municipal judge left a few weeks ago, we have already completed our interviews, Laura is working through the process with Robbie getting finance pieces together to make an offer. We hope that by next session we will be ready to get point and get that judge in place. Anyone has any questions.

Councilmember Harris- Where are we at on a Utility Director.

Lance Davis- So it was posted about 4 weeks ago, that was Dena and I's goal, she actually sent me all the applications today, started digging through them. We had 11 applicants and I was encouraged there are some pretty good applicants there. Sent them to Laura today, so the 3 of us will start digging through those and I hope to be setting up some interviews next week. I was encouraged by the response and there are some quality applicants there.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Gioia- Yeah David Gioia, it's an Italian name that is why everyone has a hard time pronouncing it. Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Council, alright let's see what we got here. Some interesting news 2025 average temperature for the year in South Carolina was 65.8 degrees. That is the 18th warmest year on record since 1895, and that's not bad though. With this global warming that's definitely good news. The warmest on record was 2017 that's 9 years ago. So that's 9 years of plenty of time for global warming to cause problems. Its not getting worse and worse over the years. So that's pretty good news. Much less polluting gasoline cars, high technology cars and solar panels. Telsa has an electric flying car now, I just watched a little bit of the video, I don't know what the purpose of that is. Some people have certain advantages for flying cars but if you want to watch the video just to keep up with Telsa's technology, they're the ones that get ahead of that in the US. Also, these folding houses I first saw them from China, but Amazon sells them. I think some are built in the US if they are approved in certain cities. Just note that someone invented a new waterproof system, where those big hinges are when they fold the house down. They're built with some pretty good materials like composite and all that. There is a new patent channel that goes down there and the hinges won't leak water into the house anymore. You don't have to seal them or caulk them up anymore. It is a guaranteed patent, you put it down, unfold the house together and it is already 100% guarantee that the house won't leak. So, if you want to keep up with folding houses or keep up with that technology just look for waterproof houses. So that's pretty good news, these houses are amazingly inexpensive and you could hook two together to make a bigger house and they're much less expensive for someone who can't afford to buy a stick-built house. They also use a lot of materials that are resistant to ants, cockroaches, and termites. They use steel beams and aluminum, composite outside roof and composite materials inside. The whole thing is like a cinder block house.

Shelia Michelle Sinclair- Bill is just a relative of mine, Mr. Shilling is a distant relative and he is my supporter.

Mayor Thompson- Can I have your address please.

Sheila Michelle Sinclair- 116 Springdale Drive, Union South Carolina. But I want to start off by saying yes, my name is Sheila Michelle Sinclair. I also want to start off with the South Carolina Code Law 16-11-700 dumping litter on private or public property prohibited exceptions responsibility for removal and penalties. On October 5th, I was going around Union County, because I door dash, I saw a lot of trash on the properties of Mr. Greer which owns the Moose Mart Car Lot. I went and spoke to him, and asked Mr. Greer, do you mind if I pick this litter up and dispose of it, nobody was there. He said yes that will be fine, Michelle. Well, that is what I did. I took this nasty trash to the dumpster except for 2 of the signs here that the men were holding, this is panhandling and this is asking for money. One of these homeless men bragged that he makes $400 to $500 a week sitting on our corners in Union. There is a difference in a homeless person and a person that don't give a rats. That's the difference these people in Union County I have seen it. October 5th I was arrested for taking this man's property that the man wasn't even there. 5 police officers from Union City came to my house, I had a 13 year old child there, not one officer asked her do you have anything medically wrong with you, do you have someone that can come pick up you up. I am a type 1 diabetic at 4 o'clock that morning I was just a buzzing the buzzer for someone to get me a coke cola because my blood sugar had went down to 59. And he laughed at me, he told his mama and daddy had sugar and both of them were dead. I said Sir that's what I am trying not to do is die up in here. But all this that everybody feels so sorry for these people and giving them money and giving them drinks and giving them this that and other. I'm sorry I am a good person, I would help anybody that needed it but I'm not going to stand there and hand my money to do drugs and or do alcohol, neither one, I don't do neither one and I don't want to see this when I am driving my car down the road. I don't want to see these nasty variants begging even people from out of town to give them something. But what's so sad about this situation is has slowed down a little bit but it hasn't stopped. After I have pictures here I would be glad to let you see them.

Mayor Thompson- your time is up.

Sheila Michelle Sinclair- Mr. Shillings was arrested the day after they arrested me for him doing the same thing.

Mayor Thompson- okay.

William Shillings- I was on that list

Mayor Thompson- Do you resid in the city?

William Shillings- They put me on the list, and the lady called me back

Mayor Thompson- Do you resid in the City?

William Shillings- I live in the county.

Mayor Thompson- okay, then we don't have to hear any comments unless you live in the City.

Sheila Michelle Sinclair- It would be very helpful if you would let him speak for just 2 minutes.

Mayor Thompson- Nope. You're Welcome. Okay, anything else?

Motion by Councilmember Rogers to adjourn the meeting

SECOND by Councilmember Harris
CARRIED UNAIMOULSY

Meeting adjourned 7:11p.m.

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Agenda Item: 6A	**Meeting Date: November 10, 2026**
Agenda Section: COMMUNICATIONS	**Prepared By: ALL DEPARTMENTS**
Subject: APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS	**Date: November 2, 2026**
	Department: ALL DEPARTMENTS

BACKGROUND:

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

Department reports available upon request

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of monthly reports

Reviewed by Dept. Head:	**Reviewed by City Administrator**
Council Action: Motion by	
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REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Agenda Item: 8A	**Meeting Date: November 10, 2026**
Agenda Section: Unfinished Business	**Prepared By: C.D. Rhondes**
Subject: Ordinance for Camping on Public Property	**Date: November 2, 2026**
	Department: Legislative

BACKGROUND:

The 2nd reading of the proposed ordinance establishing regulations prohibiting camping, sleeping, and storing personal belongings on public property within the City of Union. This outlines enforcement procedures, exceptions, and an appeals process for trespass warnings. The ordinance received it's first reading on October 20, 2026 and is being presented for second reading and final approval

RECOMMENDATION:

Reviewed by Dept. Head:	**Reviewed by City Administrator**
Council Action: Motion by	
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Ordinance No. 1126-01

CHAPTER 16: OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 16-5. Camping on public property and other property generally open to the public.

(a) Definitions. As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Public property" shall mean public parks, buildings, grounds, public streets, highways, or any outdoor area that is open to the general public, whether owned by the City, by another governmental body, or subdivision thereof, or a private property owner, including public parks and public sidewalks adjacent to public parks.

(2) "Camp" or "camping" shall mean the use of public property for living accommodation purposes, including without limitation, sleeping or making preparation to sleep, including the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping; storing personal property; making any fire or using other heat sources for, or that may be used for, the preparation of food; using tents, shelters, boxes or similar materials, or a vehicle for sleeping or preparing food. The above-listed activities constitute camping when it reasonably appears, in light of all the circumstances, that the participants in conducting these activities are in fact using the area as living accommodations.

(3) "Storing personal property" shall mean keeping one's personal affects, including without limitation, clothing, bedrolls, cookware, sleeping bags, luggage, knapsacks, or backpacks, for any substantial prolonged length of time. This term shall not include parking a bicycle or other mode of transportation.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any individual to camp, engage in camping, to sleep, to store personal property (as such terms are described in subsection (a) of this section), or to sit or lie down on any public property so as to interfere with ingress or egress from buildings within the City.

(c) Police officers of the City and other code enforcement personnel are authorized to issue a trespass warning to any individual who is in violation of this provision. The trespass warning shall be limited to the specific property parcel where the violation occurred. The specific property parcel consists of the boundaries set forth on the official property tax maps for Union County.

(d) Exceptions. This code section shall not be construed to prohibit the following behavior:

(1) Persons sitting or lying down as a result of a medical emergency;

(2) Persons in wheelchairs sitting on sidewalks;

(3) Persons sitting down while attending parades;

(4) Persons sitting or lying down while attending performances, festivals, concerts, fireworks, or other special events;

(5) Persons sitting down while patronizing sidewalk cafes;

(6) Persons sitting on seats in bus zones occupied by people waiting for the bus;

(7) Persons sitting or lying down while waiting in an orderly line outside a box office to purchase tickets to any sporting event, concert, performance, or other special event;

(8) Persons sitting or lying down while waiting in an orderly line awaiting entry to any building, including shelters, or awaiting social services, such as provision of meals;

(9) Children sleeping while being carried by an accompanying person or while sitting or lying in a stroller or baby carriage; or

(10) Camping as permitted by the responsible city or county department.

(e) In determining whether an exception applies, law enforcement shall apply a reasonableness standard and consider the direct or circumstantial evidence of the intent of the person engaged in the conduct.

(f) Trespass warnings shall be in writing and issued for a period not to exceed one year.

(g) A copy of the trespass warning shall be provided by mail or hand delivery to the individual given the warning. The written trespass warning shall advise the

recipient of the right to appeal and the location at which to file the form to initiate the appeal.

(h) A written trespass warning shall also be issued when officers of the City police department are acting on behalf of another governmental agency or private property owner and issuing a trespass warning to an individual located on public property not owned by the City or on private property in any outdoor area that is open to the general public, which shall be considered subject to a public access easement. For purposes of this section, the term "public access easement" shall mean an easement in favor of the City granting general public access to private property or limited public access to patrons and invitees of a particular business establishment or establishments.

(i) Any person found on or within any City facility, building, or outdoor area, including public parks and public sidewalks adjacent to public parks, or in any facility, building, outdoor area or park of another governmental agency or private property owner in violation of a trespass warning issued in accordance with this section may be arrested for trespassing after notice, except as otherwise provided in this section.

(j) Any person found on or within any public property belonging to another governmental agency other than the City or found on or within any private property subject to a public access easement in violation of a trespass warning issued in accordance with this section may be arrested for trespassing after notice.

(k) Any person found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of violating this article, shall be subject to the maximum penalties now provided, or which may hereafter be provided, by the laws of the state for violations of criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of the municipal courts of this state.

(l) The City Administrator, or his designee, shall upon request, authorize an individual who has received a trespass warning to enter the property or premises to exercise his or her right to free speech, as provided for in the Constitution of the United States of America and the State of South Carolina, if there is no other reasonable alternative location to exercise such rights or to conduct necessary municipal business. Such authorization must be in writing and shall specify the duration of the authorization and any conditions thereof.

(m) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of any City employee or official with arrest powers to issue a trespass warning to any person for any lawful reason for any City property, including rights-of-way when closed to general vehicular or pedestrian use, when the issuance of such a trespass warning may otherwise be authorized under state law.

(n) This section shall not be construed to limit the authority of officers of the City police department to arrest or cite individuals for violating any section of the City Code or the statutes of this state.

(o) Appeal of trespass warning. A person whom a trespass warning is issued under this section shall have the right to appeal the issuance of the trespass warning as follows:

(1) An appeal of the trespass warning must be filed, in writing, within 20 days of the issuance of the warning and shall include the appellant's name, address (or other means of contacting such individual), and contact information. No fee shall be charged for filing the appeal. "Issuance" for purposes of starting the time to appeal means either by personal delivery or when notice of the warning is placed in the mail, whichever occurs first.

(2) Appeals shall be heard by the Mayor, City Administrator, and Planning Director (the "Appeals Board").

(3) Within 30 business days following the filing of the appeal, the Appeals Board shall schedule a hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be provided to the appellant in one of three ways:

a. By providing the appellant a copy of the notice of hearing in person at the time he or she files the appeal. When it is not reasonably practical or possible to provide notice in this manner, the appellant shall be informed that notice of the hearing will be provided in accordance with either paragraph b. or c. below;
b. By leaving or posting the notice at the front desk of the City police department or leaving the notice with the clerk of council; or

c. By telephone if a telephone number has been provided or mailing when an address has been provided.

(4) The Appeals Board shall hold the hearing as soon as possible, but no later than 40 days from the filing of the appeal unless agreed to by the parties.

(5) Copies of documents in the City's control which are intended to be used at the hearing and which directly relate to the issuance of the trespass warning to the appellant, shall be made available upon request to the appellant at no cost.

(6) The appellant shall have the right to testify and to call witnesses and present evidence and the right to engage an attorney to represent him or her. The appellant shall have the right to bring a court reporter at his or her own expense.

(7) The Appeals Board shall consider the testimony, reports or other documentary evidence, and any other evidence presented at the hearing. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but fundamental due process shall govern the proceedings.

(8) The City shall bear the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the trespass warning was properly issued pursuant to the criteria of this section.

(9) If the appellant fails to attend a scheduled hearing, the Appeals Board shall review the evidence presented and determine if the trespass warning was properly issued pursuant to the criteria of this section.

(10) Within seven business days of the hearing, the Appeals Board shall issue a written decision on the appeal which shall be mailed to the appellant at the address provided. If appellant has not provided an address, the appellant shall be instructed that the written decision will be available for pickup at the front desk of the City police department on a specific date.

(11) The decision of the Appeals Board shall be final, and the appellant shall be deemed to have exhausted all administrative remedies. Such decision may be subject to judicial review in the manner provided by law.

(12) The trespass warning shall remain in effect during the appeal and review process, including any judicial review.

DONE IN A MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED, this 10th day of November 2026.

_____

Harold E. Thompson, Mayor

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

_____

Christian Latham, City Clerk

First Reading: October 20, 2026

Second Reading: November 10, 2026

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Agenda Item: 9A	**Meeting Date: November 10, 2026**
Agenda Section: New Business	**Prepared By: Angela Kirkpatrick**
Subject: Match Resolution for Union Downtown Streetscape	**Date: November 4, 2026**
	Department: Legislative

BACKGROUND:

The City of Union is seeking $60,000 in funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission to develop a downtown streetscape improvement plan. The project aims to revitalize the historic downtown area, reduce vacancies, and create a more welcoming environment for businesses, residents, and visitors. The grant requires 20% local match of $15,000, bringing the total estimated project cost to $75,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Reviewed by Dept. Head:	**Reviewed by City Administrator**
Council Action: Motion by	
2nd by	
To	
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
CITY OF UNION)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Union, South Carolina, has an historic downtown area with a high vacancy rate; and

WHEREAS, the City of Union seeks to develop a plan to physically revitalize the downtown area through streetscape improvements to create a more welcoming environment for businesses, residents, and visitors; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Union intends to make an application for $60,000 to the Appalachian Regional Commission to fund a downtown streetscape plan; and,

WHEREAS, this program requires local matching funds of a minimum of 20 percent of the total project cost; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Union Council, in Council assembled, hereby agrees to provide the required match of $15,000, which is 20 percent of the estimated project cost, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the project.

ADOPTED THIS THE 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026

BY: _____
City of Union Council

ATTEST: _____

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Agenda Item: 9B	**Meeting Date: November 10, 2026**
Agenda Section: New Business	**Prepared By: Angela Kirkpatrick**
Subject: Match Resolution for Streetlight Upgrades	**Date: November 4, 2026**
	Department: Legislative

BACKGROUND:

The City of Union is seeking $75,000 in funding from the South Carolina Energy Office to upgrade several streetlights and improve energy efficiency. The project aims to reduce energy costs and modernize existing streetlighting. The total estimated project cost is $91,545 with the City providing a $6440 in-kind match and a $10,105 local cash match.

RECOMMENDATION:

Reviewed by Dept. Head:	**Reviewed by City Administrator**
Council Action: Motion by	
2nd by	
To	
Page of	

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
CITY OF UNION)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Union seeks to make energy efficiency improvements to reduce energy costs; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Union, South Carolina, has identified several streetlights that need to be upgraded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Union intends to make an application for $75,000 to the South Carolina Energy Office to fund the streetlight upgrades; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the project is $91,545; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Union Council, in Council assembled, hereby agrees to provide the necessary in-kind match of $6,440 and local cash match of $10,105, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the project.

ADOPTED THIS THE 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2026.

BY: _____
City of Union Council

ATTEST: _____