

**MINUTES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017  
6:00 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 public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki C. Morgan, Pamela Sloss, and Sonja J. Craig. Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner and Councilmember Ricky Todd Harris were absent.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director Sam White – Public Safety Director and Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor.

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens – WBCU Radio

**OTHERS:** Curtiss Hunter, Libby Oliver, James Hunter Oscar Gist, Sr., Reita Drinkwine, Linda Casey Clark, Harriett Bruce, Jack Kelly, Linda Kelly, Melody Porter, Elise Ashby, Alexander Tucker and others.

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

**2. Business**

A. Hearing To Solicit Public Comments In Connection With The Proposed Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018.

Mayor Thompson asked the Finance Director to review the proposed budget. Mr. Gallman states that this is a public hearing for the proposed 2017-2018 budget for the City of Union. The Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Proposed Budget All Funds Summary is \$45,975,700, an increase of 1.82% over last fiscal year. The General Fund's projected revenues are \$5,383,170. Expenditures are proposed at \$5,893,150 a decrease of approximately 3.8% under last year's budget. This leaves a deficit of \$509,980 to be funded by fund balance. Also, to offset some of this deficit we should receive new money for revenue generated by the 1 cent local option sales tax beginning this month. This revenue will also provide taxpayers a credit against property taxes beginning next year. There is no tax or fee increase proposed for the General Fund. Capital equipment and improvements in the amount of \$216,200 is included in the proposed expenditures amount above. The Solid Waste Management fund is almost a breakeven with a budget of \$764,380, an increase of less than 1%. No fee increase is proposed for FY2018. If approved, a brush truck will be purchased under a lease purchase agreement. The Utility Fund projected revenues are \$37,448,640. Expenses are proposed at \$38,474,720, an increase of 3.3% over last year's proposed budget. The deficit of \$1,026,083 will be funded by retained earnings. A 5% electric rate increase is proposed and the PPA will continue to true up the cost of power each month. Water proposed rate increase is at 2%. Also, customers with meter sizes 2 inches and above will see an increase in their base charge. Sewer customers will see an overall increase of 2%. Natural Gas base rates will not increase, but the PGA will continue to true up cost of gas each month. Capital equipment in the amount of \$58,000

and infrastructure of \$3,686,180 is included in the total utility proposed expenses above. A 2% cost of living raise is proposed for City employees. The General Fund and Utility Funds will use fund balance/cash reserves to balance. The following is a list of special revenue funds and their FY 2017-2018 proposed budgets. They are Local Hospitality and Accommodations -\$405,000; Main Street Junction - \$111,450; Economic Development Fund - 200,000; Drug Fund - 7,000; Community Change - \$30,000 and Debt Service-Tax Increment - \$ 90,000.

Mayor Thompson asked if there was anyone from council that would like to comment on the proposed budget ordinance.

No one from council commented.

Mayor Thompson asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to comment on the proposed budget ordinance.

No one from the public commented.

**3. Adjournment**

Public hearing adjourned at 6:06 P.M.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2017