

MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018
5:45 PM

{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 budget work session was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 5:45 pm in the City Municipal building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson; Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki Morgan, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig. Councilmember Ricky Todd Harris was absent due to illness.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director, Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor and Melissa Youngblood – Media IT Director.

NEWS MEDIA: Mike Stevens – WBCU

OTHERS: Jamie Tramell, Holden Cooke, Jalin Worthy, Jim Stepp, April Hall, Amy Belue, Reita Drinkwine, Kathy Jo Lancaster, Dalton Williams, Curtiss Hunter, Libby Oliver, Alise Ashby, Paul Winters, Dudley Adams, William Jolly, Caroline Barger, Amber Ivey, William Jeter, Amanda Edwards, Steven Stone, Brian Gaston, Toccoa Switzer, Reonna Vaughan, Taylor Atkinson, Jason Vantossen, Bill Rochester, Lewis Jeter and others.

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.

Jamie Tramell, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce addressed council. She reviewed the Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement which is to improve the economic well-being of member businesses, Key Sponsors as well as the City and County of Union. Ms. Tramell reviewed the 2017 highlights of the UCCC. She discussed the UCCC new website and activities, as well as rebranding. In an attempt to provide the same level of service and dedication in the upcoming year, they are requesting an increase in funding. These extra funds would allow UCCC to provide a part-time assistant. This position would ensure that calls and visits to their office would be handled in a timely manner as well as provide support to the director. They are requesting \$45,000 for the year 2018-2019. This does not include the separate funding for street sweeping which is \$12,000. The total funding request is for \$57,000.

Jim Stepp, Treasurer of the Meals on Wheels made a presentation on behalf of the Union County Meals on Wheels Organization. They are dedicated to serving residents in Union and Buffalo area. During 2017, they served 15,013 meals at a cost of nearly \$69,000. They are now delivering nearly 1,100 meals per month costing about \$4,500 per month. Midway Barbecue prepares meals for clients. Mr. Stepp states that last year the City funded Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$5,000. They are requesting whatever level of funding the City can provide.

Jamie Tramell, Coordinator for Youth Leadership Union addressed council. She reviewed Leadership Union's objectives and criteria for students. Ms. Tramell also gave an update of the projects and programs of Youth Leadership Union and their branding. They are requesting the same level of funding as last year in the amount of \$5,000.

April Hall, YMCA Director addressed council. She states that in 2017 they had 45,921 scans at their front desk which is 5,663 more than 2016. They currently have 338 more members than they did last year. Plans for 2018 include a more strategic approach to membership (website upgrade, health fairs); offer the Livestrong program again and hire a Fitness/Program Director to rebuild their afterschool and fitness programs. The YMCA is requesting Partnership in the amount of \$50,000. Ms. Hall discussed the pool. They want to purchase a slide to bring excitement to the pool. Additional safety measures require more labor hours; they have uneven concrete issues on the pool deck that need to be repaired and they want to add another shed area along with new tables and chairs. They are requesting \$83,000 for the pool. She discussed hiring a maintenance person to help maintain and improve operations in the maintenance area of the facility. They need to replace some windows and doors which are in bad shape and the flooring in the aerobics room needs to be replaced. Ms. Hall also discussed the amount the YMCA gives back to the City in utility cost. Also they will now offer a 15% discount for all city tax payers. There is a facility request in the amount of \$30,000.

Rieta Drinkwine, Director of Union County Carnegie Library addressed council. She thanked council for their continued support. She gave an overview of the activities and programs offered at the library. With the completion of the library renovation, the library will be operating an expanded facility with higher operation costs. They are hoping the City will help them offset their increased utilities with a grant, which will allow the library to allocate more funds towards programs and services. Ms. Drinkwine is requesting funding in the amount of a \$5,000 grant for operating expenses and \$25,000 from the Accommodations & Hospitality Taxes for renovation.

Kathy Jo Lancaster, Executive Director of the Union County Development Board addressed council. She states that the UCDB is responsible for recruiting new industry, retaining existing industry and creating new jobs and capital investments. She states that their planning efforts and hard work over the past months have been productive. She reviewed a high-level look at the highlights of successes in 2017 such as recruitment, retention and expansion; infrastructure and site development. Also she discussed marketing; workforce development and educational partnerships; professional development and capital investment & job creation. Lastly she reviewed the Union County Development Board priorities. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000.

Paul Winters, Executive Director of the Union County Agricultural Fair addressed council. He thanked council for their past support. He presented their logo and branding. The Union County Fair received an award for the best Fair television commercial in the state. Mr. Winters discussed their upgraded billboard and live Facebook streaming for the Fair. He states that the car give-a-way was a great program last year. Next he discussed the impact the Fair has on tourism; 21,500 patrons came through the Fair gate last year. He discussed the new Clemson 4-H partnership with the Fair. Also he discussed the Coon Hunt and the BBQ Festival regarding their use of the Fair Grounds and the cost of their utilities. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000.

Caroline Barger, President of Union County Arts addressed council. She thanked council for their past support and funding. UCAC has weekly and monthly programs. UCAC partners with USC-Union every year to host the Annual Art Exhibition. Amber Ivey, Coordinator of the Union County Arts Council who oversees the day-to-day operation addressed council. She states that they will host a chalk walk this year (April 28, 2018) which they want to turn into a large event on Main Street. Other events planned are an adult water color class; Mommy & Me Tea and summer art classes for teachers. The Arts Council is requesting funding in the amount of \$12,000.

William Jeter, Union County Historical Society President addressed council. He states that on behalf of the Union County Historical Society and specifically for the Museum located at 127 West Main Street thanked council for their support. He states that because of the reduced funding it has been necessary to reduce the days and time the Museum is open and to reduce expenditures to a minimum. Mr. Jeter states that the museum attracts many people to Union and over the year's citizens from every state

have visited the Museum and also persons from foreign countries. They also have a African-American section in the museum. Funding is requested in the amount of \$40,000.

Curtiss Hunter, Director of the Union County Tourism addressed council. She discussed funding requests for 2018/2019 events and projects from Hospitality and Accommodations Tax. She discussed revamping the Uniquely Union Festival for the downtown area and a have a Holiday Festival to highlight the downtown and the business community of Union. She discussed having the Union County Tourism Summit for mid-summer at the Main Street Junction. Also Mrs. Hunter is in the process of planning a concert in Union featuring Hank Williams, Jr. She is waiting to hear from the agent. Next she discussed holiday decorations for Main Street such as Christmas trees and giant ornaments; however there need to be some electrical pole work performed on Main Street.

Steven Stone gave a breakdown of the expenses for Palmetto & Walker Days. He discussed the Ho Ho Holy Smoke BBQ & BlueGrass Festival. He states that they actually re-invented this event. They marketed more to the BBQ and car show. He states that the majority of vendors were from Union. He briefly discussed their meeting with the Fair Board. They are requesting the same amount of funding as last year in the amount of \$17,500 and have a line item in the budget.

Elise Ashby, Union County Tour Chair for AG & Art addressed council. She states that AG & Art is the largest free tour in the county. Last year nearly 1,400 people from 33 different zip codes visited Union County. The tourists spend money on fresh produce and homemade goods, meats and sweets. In addition, tourists had the opportunity to visit historic sites, farm sites and the Arts Council. The AG & Art tour will be held June 23-24, 2018. The dinner will be June 21, 2018 at the Main Street Junction. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$1,500.

Toccoa Switzer addressed council on behalf of the Piedmont Physic Garden. She states the PPG was founded in 2014. PPG operates with an annual budget of \$45,000 and supports itself through grants and memberships as well as through corporate and private donations. Their staff consists of volunteers and college interns. Throughout the year, they open the garden for special workshops and programs as well as tours by appointment. PPG is requesting funding in the amount of \$9,130 for their new shaded garden.

Elise Ashby with the Union County Farm and Craft Market (The Robinhood Group) addressed council. She is asking for funding to support a part-time employee to provide oversight of day-to-day operations during full Market times (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 7am until noon). The new Union County Farm & Craft Market is offering opportunities for local farmers, crafters and artisans and will accept SNAP benefits, which will greatly increase the economic impact for the farmers, so that the residents that receive SNAP will be able to purchase fresh, healthy, local produce and meats. The funding request is in the amount of \$2,500.

Lewis Jeter addressed council on behalf of Union Small Business Development Center He thanked council for last year's funding. He states that Winthrop Region Small Business Development Center was fortunate enough to open an SBDC office in downtown Union and the SBDC main goals are to assist small businesses. He briefly discussed new businesses that Union SBDC has assisted. Mr. Jeter former SBDC Consultant states SBDC is currently seeking a replacement for him. Also Director Larry Stevens is transitioning out of his position into a full-time Professor's position at Winthrop College. They are awaiting a new Director to be named for Union. SBDC is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000 to assist in creating new opportunities for Union business owners. With those funds, they will be able to increase their presence and services to Union business owners during 2018.

Budget work session adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Budget Work Session
April 10, 2018

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2018