

**MINUTES**  
**BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018**  
**5:00 PM**

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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).}

The budget work session continued on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson; Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner; Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki 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; Laura Hembree - Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director, Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor and Melissa Youngblood - Media IT Director

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens – WBCU and Graham Williams – Union County News

**OTHERS:** Amy Belue

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

Jason Vance of Catawba Regional addressed council. He briefly discussed demolition projects for the City of Union. He has offered to assist the City of Union, the County of Union and the Development Board with project management services. Mr. Vance presented a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Union and CRPC for the provision of professional services and technical assistance to the City primarily in the areas of construction projects. Utility Director Joe Nichols expressed his support for these services. It was the consensus of council to incorporate for these services in the FY 2018-2019 budget. The contract agreement will be presented to council at their regular meeting on April 17, 2018.

Chief Sam White addressed council. He gave an overview of the Public Safety Department’s organizational chart. Budget request in his department includes the Zuercher Records Management System. This will help solve cases and assist with records management and provide more accessibility to information. This will be in conjunction with the sheriff’s office and Jonesville PD. The total amount of implementation is \$3,339,675. If Sheriff Office and Jonesville PD gets approval for their portion of the funding, it would cost the City of Union \$75,647. He next discussed Palmetto 800 radios. This radio has better frequently and more power. Other agencies may be going to the Palmetto 800 radios and in order to communicate with other agencies in the near future the City will need to purchase. The City can get a discounted price on radios if purchased with the County, pending the County Council’s approval. Also the radios have a user’s fee. If UPSD does not purchase they may not be able to communicate with other agencies in Union if they go to the Palmetto 800 radios. Mayor Thompson states that they will take request under advisement and check on any grants available. Also Public Safety is requesting (2) vehicles in his department. Chief White discussed the promotion process in his department.

Utility Director Joe Nichols presented the Utility Department budget. He reviewed the organizational chart for employees in this department. Mr. Nichols discussed the lineman's salary. He feels that an increase in lineman's salary should be looked at in the very near future to be competitive. Other agencies pay a higher salary due to a lineman being a skilled position. Mr. Nichols discussed the electric distribution system. Total power cost was discussed. Lockhart Power PP charges comparison was discussed. The City of Union electric cost of service was discussed. The top 6 electric customers were reviewed. The Utility Director continued discussion on Purchase Power Adjustment which is the difference between the base cost and the actual monthly cost of power. Capital improvements for electric were reviewed. The Top 5 water customers were reviewed, as well as water districts annual consumption. Comparison of water rate study was presented. Capital Improvements for water and wastewater were discussed. PGA was discussed. Capital improvements for warehouse were discussed and completed projects for 2017 were discussed. Projects under construction were also reviewed. South Boyce Street was briefly discussed. The barricades have been moved. Staff will contact DOT regarding this issue. CDBG Projects were reviewed. There is a request in the electric division for a Bucket Truck replacement at an estimated cost of \$220,000 and a request for a flatbed dump truck at an estimated cost for \$80,000 Comparison of typical residential utility bill was reviewed. Municipal Bonds were briefly discussed.

Councilmember Vicki Morgan and Utility Director Joe Nichols briefly discussed the Union Oil Mill. Mr. Nichols recently had the property appraised as a possible City facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Garner ask that water line replacement be considered for Harris Street and North Evans Street. Utility Director Joe Nichols states that he will look at these street.

Utility Director Laura Hembree discussed the budget summary as follows:

- No proposed tax or fee increases
- \$100,000 for roof for building at 113 E. Main Street
- \$30,000 for paving of parking lot
- COLA – 2.6% increase

Council briefly discussed retained earnings.

Mayor Thompson states that hospitality & accommodations funding can be used for other improvements for the City such as awnings, flags, Foster Park and billboards.

Outside agencies were reviewed and will be funded at the following level:

Youth Leadership -	\$5,000
Union County 4-H	\$1,000
Tourism	\$16,500

Water and Sewer rates were discussed. There is a recommended proposed increase of 2.5% on water and 2.5% on sewer. Base rates for water were reviewed.

Councilmember Morgan asked about hiring a receptionist at City Hall to welcome people and answer phone. Mayor & Council discussed and will take this under advisement.

Other budget items for consideration are:

- Replacement Carts - \$25,480
- Vehicle Maintenance truck- \$30,000
- Electric bucket truck - \$220,000
- Water division - replace Dump truck - \$80,000
- Water division - Backhoe - \$75,000
- Sewer division - truck- \$32,000
- (2) Trucks in Natural Gas - \$70,000

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- Electric Construction - \$636,450
- Water Construction - \$993,000
- Wastewater - \$1,279,000
- Natural Gas - \$536,980

Amy Belue, Main Street Junction Facility Manager, discussed a rental lease agreement for the upstairs office at the Main Street Junction. This will be a 3 month trial period lease agreement at \$300 a month. The tenant is a financial planner. The lease will begin on May 1, 2018. City Attorney Larry Flynn is working on the paperwork. Mrs. Belue also states that she is working on signage for the business with the building inspector. She is seeking council's approval to move forward with the lease agreement.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to approve the lease agreement.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The budget recommendations will be incorporated into the FY 2018-2019 proposed budget.

Mayor Thompson states that he may have to move meeting date of the June regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM

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Gloria J. Roger, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2018