

MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019
4:00 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).}w

The budget work session continued on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 4:00 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, Ricky Todd Harris and Sonja Craig.

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White - Public Safety Director; Robbie McGee - Captain, Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director; Laura Hembree - Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director, Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Melissa Youngblood - Media IT Director; DeWayne Hardy – Public Service Supervisor and Kathy Teague – Business License Coordinator

ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

NEWS MEDIA: None

OTHERS: None

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

Finance Director Laura Hembree gave a summary of budget considerations for FY 2020 that includes the following:

- General Fund
- Personnel
- Outside Agencies
- Hospitality & Accommodations
- Main Street Junction
- Solid Waste Management
- Electric, Water, Sewer, Natural Gas Utilities

Next she recommended a tax millage increase of 3.05 mills which would increase the revenue by \$37,360. Mayor Thompson asked council to vote on the recommended increase.

FOR INCREASE: Thompson, Garner, Sloss, Craig,

AGAINST INCREASE: Anthony, Morgan, Harris

CARRIED 4 to 3

Finance Director Laura Hembree states that this will be incorporated into the FY 2019-2020 budget.

Next the Finance Director recommended adding a \$10.00 brush pickup fee yearly on tax notices. This will generate \$49,000 in additional revenue. After discussing the brush

pickup fee, council voted unanimously to increase the brush pickup fee to \$5.00 yearly on tax notices.

Other budget considerations reviewed are as follows:

- Local Option Tax Credit will absorb a millage increase and/or brush fee
- COLA increase of 2.6% for employees vs. Wage & Comp Study results
- New Employees for FY 2019-2020 (HEO-Gas Division, Electric Lineman and City Administrator – will be incorporated in the budget)
- Equipment & Construction (financing option – Solid Waste Department)
- Solid Waste - \$1 increase equal to \$49,000 in addition revenue (will be incorporate in budget)
- No proposed rate increase in electric and continue the PPA
- No proposed increase in water & wastewater
- No proposed rate increase in natural gas – continue PGA & continue rebate program for new residential customer
- Outside agencies funded by general fund – Council wants the Mayor to send out letter informing agencies of budget cuts because of proposed City of Union projects
- Foster Park Improvements & Organizations fund by Hospitality and Accommodations Funds

The Finance Director discussed the general fund. She states that the general fund is anticipating a large deficit for FY19 in the amount of \$622,380 and also still anticipating a large deficit for FY2020 in the amount of \$578,640 even after elimination and reduction of line items that was discussed at the last budget work session.

Other budget items discussed by the Finance Director reviewed are as follows:

- Outside Agencies revised list for funding as recommended by council
- Hospitality & Accommodations Funding revised list as recommended by council
- Solid Waste revised list as recommend by council. There is a deficit of \$25,010 for FY2019 and a proposed deficit of \$46,600 for FY2020 even after the additional of \$1 increase on the garbage fee

Councilmember Harris asked Business License Coordinator Kathy Teague in the Planning Department about the code enforcement program with the City. Mayor Thompson suggested inviting County Supervisor Fant Hart to our regular council meeting on Tuesday to discuss this program.

Councilmember Harris asked Chief White about fire truck delivery date. The Chief does not have definite delivery date.

Personnel Director/City Clerk briefly informed council of the Wage & Compensation Study. The process has begun.

Mayor Thompson called for an executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

MOTION by Councilmember Craig to go out of budget work session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Councilmember Harris to go out of executive session back into the budget work session

SECOND by Councilmember Sloss

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There was no action taken.

The recommendations will be incorporated into the FY2019-2020 proposed budget.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM

Gloria J. Roger, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2019