

**MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015
5:30 PAM**

{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 21, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the City Municipal building with the following present:

COUNCIL: Mayor Harold Thompson; Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Yates Giles, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Jim Wilson.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Captain, Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Mike Petrie – Maintenance Shop Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor and Melissa Youngblood – Media Technology Coordinator.

NEWS MEDIA: Mike Stevens – WBCU, Charles Warner – Union Times and a Derrick Vanderford – Union Times.

OTHERS: Toccoa Switzer and Curtis Hunter.

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

Finance Director Walker Gallman reviewed the summary of the proposed budget for FY-2015/2016. Mr. Gallman discussed budget considerations such as the general fund, solid waste management, electric, water, sewer, natural gas utilities, personnel, tax increment, hospitality & accommodations tax and outside agencies. Next he reviewed the All Funds Summary which included the Tax Increment District. The proposed FY2016 budget totals \$45,309,640, a 2% decrease from last budget year. The general fund revenue by type was discussed. The property tax millage rate was reviewed for surrounding cities. The City of Union has one of the lowest tax mill, besides Easley who has the Local Option Sales Tax. This year is reassessment year. The Finance Director discussed several options that council could take to balance the budget. Options are to raise taxes by 1 mill which would generate \$13,170; increase other fees; hold a local option sales tax referendum; reduce expenditures/outside agencies. The City is mandated by state law to have a balanced budget. There is not a tax, utility or garbage fee increase in the proposed budget. There is a 2% COLA in the proposed budget.

A proposed budget for FY2015/2016 will be presented to council for 1st reading at the next regular council meeting.

Budget worksession adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes Approved _____ 2015

