

**MINUTES**  
**BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016**  
**9:00 AM**

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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 budget work session was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:00 am 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.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director, Perry Harmon – Public Service Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor and Melissa Youngblood – Media Technology Coordinator.

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens – WBCU

**OTHERS:** Barbara Crayne, Robby Moody, Roger Bailey, Lawrence Flynn, Reverend James A. Williams, Paul Winters, Torance Inman, Scott Sandor, Letiticia Wages, Catherine Childers, Bennie L. Giles, Amber Ivey, Betsy Skipper, Kathy Stepp, Lynn Mornane, Amy Smith, Dawn Childers, Frank M. Hart, Bill Moore, Jane Scarborough, William Graham, Lewis Jeter, Larry Stevens, Rieta Drinkwine, Curtiss Hunter, Melody Porter and Steven Stone

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Finance Director Walker Gallman welcomed everyone to the FY 2016-2017 annual budget worksession. Mr. Gallman began by presenting the budget overview and revenue projections. He discussed the All Funds Summary which includes the following:

- General Fund
- Hospitality & Accommodations
- Solid Waste Management
- Economic Development Fund
- City of Union Drug Fund
- Union Events Center (Bond)
- Union Events Center (City)
- Community Change Funds
- Tax Increment District

The Combined Utility Fund shows a 3% increase over last year's budget. Factors contributing to fiscal year 2017 expenditures are the consumer price index which reflects a 2.3% increase for state and local governments from December 2014 to December 2015. A cost of living increase for employees is not included in the proposed budget. This will be presented to council for their consideration. A 1% COLA will increase the total budget by \$70,000 including the cost of fringe benefits. Health insurance is anticipating a 1% increase beginning January 1, 2017 for employer only. Workman's compensation cost has increased again this year, even with the use of deductibles. There is a need to emphasize preventive measures to decrease and eliminate accidents. Retirement cost for employer will remain the same for FY 2017. Employer cost will remain at 11.06% for members in the SCRS & 13.74% for members in the PORS. Fuel cost is hard to budget,

but we are seeing an increase in the use of vehicles. General liability insurance is stable but we are experiencing an increase in the use of deductions. The total general fund budget shows a 4% increase. Next general fund revenues and current property taxes millage rate for surrounding cities were reviewed. Millage can increase by the previous year's consumer price index (CPI) adjusted for population growth. Since we did not increase taxes last year by the above we can increase property taxes by the following methods: FY 2016-1.46% or 1.2 mills and FY 2017 – 1.62% or 1.4.mills. 2.6 mills is approximately \$32,360.

Lawrence Flynn of Pope Flynn Group addressed council. His discussion included:

- Economic Development
- OPEB Liability
- Retirement Fund Liability
- Utility Fund Transfers
- Hospitality & Accommodation Tax uses.

Mr. Flynn states that an Economic Development Plan is an important factor that promotes growth. Questions to consider when establishing an Economic Development Plan are:

- (1) What are we trying to accomplish (is growth important)?
- (2) What service do I provide and how can I help?
- (3) How will my existing customers/taxpayers be affected?
- (4) What will it cost me?
- (3) Do I have the capacity/infrastructure to support growth?
- (4) Does this fit within my capital improvement plan?
- (5) Relationship with the County?

Next he discussed the Nichols Test – Public Purpose. Questions to consider are:

- (1) What is the intended or ultimate goal or benefit to the public?
- (2) Are public parties or private parties the primary beneficiaries?
- (3) Is the benefit to the public speculative?
- (4) What is the probability that public interest will be ultimately served and to what degree?

Mr. Flynn discussed incentives for new businesses be established by ordinance and Upfront vs. After the fact. He also discussed measuring public purpose and some incentives that can be utilized.

Mayor Pro Tem Garner asked Mr. Flynn if he thought this could be done on some of the buildings downtown. He felt that this could be done.

Next Mr. Flynn discussed (OPEB) Other Post-Employment Benefits and Retirement Systems as well as Transfers. The City has a policy for funding transfers from the Utility Fund to the General Fund. Hospitality & Accommodations Taxes were discussed (revenue and its uses).

Paul Winters, President of the Chamber of Commerce Board addressed council. He thanked council for their continued support. He states that the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet will be held this week. The Chamber of Commerce is requesting funding in the amount of \$51,000 for FY 2016-2017. This amount also includes street maintenance which is about \$12,000 a year. The Chamber's funding request shows an increase over last year's request. Mr. Winters states that the Chamber of Commerce provides administrative support for Crime Stoppers, the Farmers Market, and assist with the Adult & Youth Leadership Programs. Funding at this level will include the City of Union as co-sponsors in any and all Chamber events and activities throughout the entire year.

Letitia Wages, Coordinator for Youth Leadership Union addressed council. She and the (10) members of the Youth Leadership Union County Class of 2016 thank City Council for their continued support. Ms. Wages gave an update of the projects and programs for

Youth Leadership Union. They are requesting the same level of funding as last year in the amount of \$5,000. Youth Leadership Union is also seeking funding from other agencies/organizations.

Reverend James A. Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Union County NAACP addressed Council. Reverend Williams thanked council for their past support. The NAACP is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,200 to fund the MLK Day Celebration which is held the third Monday in January each year.

Catherine Childers, Executive Director of Union County First Steps addressed council. Union County First Steps is a non-profit organization that was established as a public-private partnership to address the needs of the local community as they relate to preparing young children for school. In Union County, they provide a variety of services and programs that work towards this common goal. Ms. Childers states that First Steps appreciate their past support & request that the City fund the program in the amount of \$3,000 over last year request in the amount of \$1,000.

Paul Winters, Director of the Union County Agricultural Fair addressed council. He thanked council for their past support. Last year's funding was used for marketing attraction. Mr. Winters states that the 2016 Fair will continue with that tradition by bringing to Union another marquee event or attraction called "The Sea Lion Splash". This is a sea world quality show that will highlight trained Seal Lions and Seals. This show promises to be educational and entertaining. The racing pigs seems to have gone well at the Union County Fair. The Fair Board has recently partnership with the Walker Day Coon Event which have proved to be a huge draw for the city and county. The support the City provide for the annual fair event will allow the financial support to make the necessary improvements to the facility. The Union County Fair is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000 to fund the attractions and musical entertainment. Mr. Winters reviewed entertainment & attractions from the 2015 Union County Fair. Anticipated dates for the 2016 Union County Fair are October 18-22, 2016.

Kathy Stepp, Vice-Chairman of Meals on Wheels, gave presentation on behalf of the Union County Meals on Wheels Organization. They are dedicated to serving residents in Union and Buffalo area. During 2015, they have served 17,859 meals at a cost of more than \$74,400. They are requesting funding in the amount of one month's value to deliver meals. They are now delivering nearly 1500 meals per month costing about \$5,900 per month. The hospital, along with Midway Barbecue prepares meals for clients. Lynn Mornane Chairman of Meals on Wheels also addressed council. Ms. Mornane reiterated the importance of funding for Meals on Wheels.

Scott Sandor, YMCA Director addressed Council. They currently have a little over 2,700 members. There are 3 full time employees. The YMCA does not prohibit anyone from participating in programs or membership due to an inability to pay. In the YMCA 2015 fiscal year they assisted the community with reduced fees in the amount of \$71,449. Member assistance totaled \$51,465 and Programs (Childcare/Sports) totaled \$19,984. Mr. Sandor states after the drowning last summer they are facing a situation of increased staffing related to the pool operations; swim testing requires every participant under the age of 14 (test, mark and protect system). The pool maintenance is currently dealing with persistent issue of water loss. Facility areas that need attention is the parking lot surfacing, exterior doors, windows from original construction, and various other projects. Equipment is currently in the early stages of a campaign to raise money for replacing equipment in the highest need. The "Y" looks forward to implementing a Diabetes Prevention Program and Enhanced Fitness Class. The YMCA is requesting funding for Pool - \$70,000; Partnership - \$21,380 and Facilities Maintenance - \$25,650. The "Y" Mission Statement is "To put Christian principles into practice that promote healthy Spirit, Mind, and Body, for all.

Bennie Giles, President of the Union Arts Council and Amber Ivey, Coordinator of the Union Arts Council addressed council. They thanked council for their past support and funding. UCAC has weekly and monthly programs. The biggest event of the year with artists from South Carolina and neighboring states exhibiting work was held at the USC-Union Main Building and was called 2015 Art Exhibition. The Arts Council is

requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000. Coordinator Amber Ivey oversees the day-to-day operations of UCAC. She prepares and organizes all of the children's activities, contacts artist and arranges exhibits and receptions, executes all press releases, works with the board to prepare grants, brings in after hour activities, works closely with artists to promote art sales, and handle all paperwork.

Frank M. Hart, 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, the following funding is requested for 2016-2017 in the amount of \$28,640.00. He states that their board is pretty much a working board contributing not only their time, but their own personal financial support to the Historical Society. Other board members include Ola Jean Kelly- Executive Director of Museum and Gene Logan- Museum Treasurer. Their income includes donations, membership funding and the sale of book published by the Union County Historical Society.

Amy Smith, Executive Director of the Union County Department of Disabilities & Special Needs and Dawn Childers addressed council. The Union County DSN Board, in coordination with Union Services, provides a variety of services for individuals with disabilities and special needs. The agency serves an average of 79 adults on a daily basis via the following programs: (A) Day/Work Activity at Union Services (B) Employment Services (C) Mobile Work Crew Services. Their funding request is at the same level as last year's request in the amount of \$1,000. A primary program administered by this agency is Work Services.

Melissa Lawson, Media Technology Coordinator addressed council. She gave an overview of the PEG Channel. The channel has changed from 14 to 192. It has been on air since June 21, 2007. There is one full-time position and 2 part-time positions in this department. The Media Technology Coordinator gave an overview of operation expenditures for FY 2016-2017. DVD's of videos shown on Channel 192 can be purchased at the cost of \$10.00 each. DVD sales thus far total \$1,400.00. The City of Union receives a franchise fee payment around \$27,730 a quarter. Four quarters at this amount would total \$110,920. The franchise fee is a fee that is charged to every Charter Communications customer on their bill each month.

Bill Moore, USC-Union and the Up Country Literary Festival addressed council. Mr. Moore thanked council for their past support. Through generous contributions like those provided by the City of Union, USC-Union is able to keep the event free and open to the public while providing an appropriate venue for the sharing of culture, appreciation of literature & literacy, and learning. They had a generous donor make a donation of \$5,000. They have a surplus of \$4,000. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.

Jane Scarborough of the Olde English District Tourism Commission addressed council. Their goal is to provide Union County with national and regional exposure they would not receive otherwise. The Olde English District promotes a total of 7 counties. OED works closely with the Union County Tourism Commission to ensure that the City of Union is marketed strongly by the OED. The OED is located on I-77 at Exit 65 and has a Visitors Center very accessible to both northbound and southbound traffic as well as Highway 9 traffic and can direct visitors to Union. The OED Tourism Commission is requesting funding in the amount of \$6,921.00. Their marketing program benefits the economy of the City of Union through generating revenue.

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. They library is requesting funding in the amount of \$5,000 to be used for community programming and a hand punch time clock identical to the ones used by the City. The community programming will include literacy events, outreach programs & internal programs for adults, teen and children. UCCL is also requesting a \$15,000 donation from the City for a renovation project. The amount requested is the same amount donated by the City for the 1985 expansion project.

William Graham of the Union County Antique Farm Show addressed council. He states

that in the years past, this show has attracted some 2,000 people as spectators and 75 exhibitors from S.C., Georgia & North Carolina annually, of antique tractors, hit miss engines, old farm equipment, woodworking, carving, blacksmithing, spinning, quilting, steam engines, cotton gin and much more. Funds would help to advertise in larger areas, publicize events more fully, offer more incentives for special craftsman that is featured, and provide t-shirts for all of the volunteers that help this show to be successful. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$2,000.

Lewis Jeter, Business Consultant for Union Small Business Development Center, along with Larry Stevens, Director of the S.C. Small Business Development Center addressed council. They thanked council for last year's funding. In 2014, the Winthrop Region Small Business Development Center was fortunate enough to open an SBDC office in downtown Union. The SBDC main goal is to help small businesses. The funding from the City of Union is being used to offset the cost for small business owners. SBDC is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000. All of the funds allocated will be used to further the programs previously stated in their request. Mayor Pro Tem Garner suggest advertising Union SBDC through our 192 PEG Channel.

Perry Harmon, Public Service Director addressed council. Personnel cost in this budget is 60% of budget? This department handles numerous activities such as grass mowing, catch basins, snow removal, storm damage, 10-45 removals, weed control, street sweeping, litter control, concrete work, asphalt repair, tree trimming and dirt hauling. There is a request in this budget for a Jet-Vac for water clean-up in the amount of \$42,000. Solid Waste Division services provided are roll-out carts, brush and bulk waste pickup. Kenwood Landfill has closed. Mr. Harmon discussed equipment for street and solid waste total cost for the next 3 years. Also the City of Union owns and maintains approximately 20 miles of roads within the Union City limits. The current conditions of the roads vary. C-funds for sidewalk repairs were discussed.

The Finance Director discussed the SWM Summary. Total revenue funds total \$758,200 and total expenses totals \$800,370 with a net loss of (\$42,170) in this division. He discussed ways to balance budget such as transfer from general fund or increase garbage fee by \$1 which would generate \$48,000 or charge for brush pickup. Reserves for the SWM need to be set up for equipment.

Perry Haney, Chairperson of Union Crime Stoppers, addressed council. Mr. Haney states that they could not operate this successful crime fighting program without the continued support of donors. Statistics from the SLED Fusion Center show that in 2015, Crime Stoppers received 171 tips. These tips resulted in 66 warrants served for a total of 66 arrests. There was \$7,500 property recovered with \$550 worth of drugs seized. Crime Stoppers issued 39 checks for a total of \$3,280 in tip rewards. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000.

Curtiss Hunter, Executive Director of the Union County Tourism Commission addressed council. She discussed projected projects for 2016/2017 to bring people to Union which include concert, music festival, Union County Tourism Summit, AG & ART Tour, Advertising (Motor Sports Events), and Equestrianism Event. The AG & Art Tour is a big event held in June. This event is a free, self-guided tour of South Carolina's Catawba Region's farms featuring local artisans and farmer's market. It is the largest free farm tour in the nation and has drawn over 16,000 visitors since it began in 2012. She discussed Coon Hunt information. She discussed the major hunts that have taken place in Union County 2015/2016. Mrs. Hunter discussed the Palmetto Jamboree, Southeastern Treeing & Walker Day Hunt. Steven Stone addressed council. He states the Coon Hunt is a big deal and as a competitive event.

Mayor recommends moving the A & H Tax, as the County does, to Tourism Board to determine funding allocation request.

Kim Lawson, Chairperson for the Uniquely Union Festival addressed council. She thanked council for their past support. The purpose of the Uniquely Union Festival is to showcase Union County & the City of Union with a free event that serves as an

educational, artistic and recreational outlet for all attendees. The festival is an attraction for local citizens as well as regional, national, and international visitors. This year the festival will be back on USC Union's campus which is a great venue for Uniquely Union. Last year an estimated 2,400 people attended the Festival with an economic impact of \$42,000 which is expected this year also. Uniquely Union is requesting funding in the amount of \$30,000.

Kathy Jo Lancaster, Vice-Chair of the Development Board addressed council. She discussed major accomplishments for the past year. She discussed capital investment. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000. Funds will be used to facilitate marketing. Utility Director Joe Nichols, Board Member states they have hired Jim Alexander as Interim Development Director. Ms. Lancaster states that Timken will be holding their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the month of April. They will host an Open House.

Leroy Edwards, Maintenance Shop Director, presented his department's budget. A total of 4 employees work in this department. Fleet consists of over 230 pieces of equipment. This department maintains the entire City's rolling stock. His department performs daily minor and major repairs. Monthly reports will now reflect more detailed information. The Auto Mechanic II vacancy has been filled by Steven Jennings. He is working out well. The Maintenance Shop Director is beginning a new system to keep track of cost that is being spent on vehicle maintenance.

Gloria Rogers, Personnel Director/Clerk gave budget presentation to City Council. Training remains a top priority and employees are urged to develop their work skills. Life & Safety Consultants are used to help curb the rising cost of worker's compensation insurance. Drug & Alcohol testing policy as well as random tests for all drivers who have CDL driver's license remains in place. SMIRF & SCMIT have partnered with LocalGovU, an online training provider specializing in training for local government. SCMIRF & SCMIT member's benefits were reviewed. Budgeted positions were reviewed. There are no budget requests for the Legislative Department. The rising cost of worker's compensation was discussed and additional ways to reduce cost.

Next the Finance Director discussed the estimated fund balance for the Local Hospitality & Accommodations Tax. The total projected revenue for FY2015 is \$390,000. The following will be funded out of the Local Hospitality & Accommodations Fund:

- Uniquely Union	-	\$20,000
- Union County Arts Council		10,000
- Boogaloo		0
- Union County Tourism		15,000
- O & M Tour & Rec. Facilities		188,800
- Special Events		50,000
- Olde English District		2,200
- Union County Historical Society		26,000
- Union County Fair Association		5,000
- Union County Antique		2,500
- USC-Union Upcountry Literary Festival		1,000

The budget worksession will resume in the morning at 9:00 am.

Budget worksession adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2016**

The budget work session continued on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. 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 James Wilson.

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

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens - WBCU

**OTHERS:** Barbara Crayne, Gregg Medford and Amy Austin.

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order and Councilmember Giles gave the invocation.

Amy Austin of the Union County Miracle League addressed council regarding funding for playground equipment. She states that this will be a one of a kind park. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$50,000.

Barbara Crayne, Building License Coordinator addressed council. She reviewed the Planning Department's mission statement. Next she reviewed the organization chart for this department. Ms. Crayne discussed the Planning Department's goals & objectives. She discussed new construction; number of permits issued and business license issued. Sub-standard structure and public nuisance was also discussed. The department is in the process of training on new software for permitting & business licensing. There is a request for a Zoning Coordinator Trainee in this department.

Chief Sam White addressed council. He gave an overview of the Public Safety organization chart. The Public Safety Department consist of 38 full-time employees and 2 part-time employees. Chief White discussed the firefighter's salary. He feels this salary is not compatible with their job duties and request salary is re-evaluated. He feels that top pay for a firefighter's position need to be close to the first step of a PSO's position. Chief White reviewed the Fire Division Apparatus information. He discussed the age and mileage of fire trucks. They will be performing preventive maintenance on trucks. He discussed the Federal Government sues Ferguson, Missouri case. A recent financial analysis determine the agreement would cost the struggling city nearly \$4 million in the first year alone. Ferguson council voted 6-0 Tuesday to adopt the deal, but with seven amendments. A big part of the cost was the requirement that Ferguson raise police salaries to attract better candidates, including more minority officers. The Ferguson case has had a big impact on how police departments are being run in. Chief White discussed body cameras which are now mandated by law. This has worked well for the department. New taser was discussed and was displayed. Training remains a top priority in the Public Safety Department.

Accounting Supervisor Laura Hembree addressed council. She discussed the organizational chart for the Finance & Utility Billing. The Finance Department has an operating budget of \$116,900. This figure does not include personnel costs. The department currently has five (5) employees, whose duties include accounting, payroll, accounts payable, and tax collection. The utility billing department has an operating budget of \$173,600. This figure does not include personnel costs. The department

currently has nine (9) employees, whose duties include establishing utility service, meter reading, billing, collection, and IT troubleshooting. Utility payment options, debt setoff program, red flag and deposits for service was discussed. Since the implementation of the 2% fee for payments processed in the office, online payments have increased by about 40%, 972 customers paid online in February, and the City paid \$3,513.76 for the processing of online payments. This includes the fee paid to the card processor, and also the 25 cent transaction fee paid to QS1. The Accounting Supervisor discussed how the deposit process works for signing up for service. There is a proposed decrease in the overall operating budget of \$11,600 due to lower fuel costs and a decrease in credit card processing fees.

Utility Director Joe Nichols presented the Utility Department budget. He reviewed organizational chart for employees in this department. Last year's request for an Assistant Utility Director whose main focus will be on water and sewer and working in the field has been hired. Adam Harris began employment in January. He is working out well. 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. The top 5 wastewater customers were reviewed. The natural gas distribution system was discussed and PGA was discussed. Lastly, Mr. Nichols reviewed completed projects for utilities and ongoing projects. Also he discussed equipment and vehicle purchase request.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of budget session into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to go out of executive session back into regular session.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

No action taken.

Mayor & Council reviewed budget expenditures request for all outside agencies. They will be funded at the following levels:

- Union County Economic Development	\$15,000
- Grant Writer	36,000
- Youth Leadership	4,000
- Union County DSN	1,000
- Union Co. Carnegie Library	3,000
- NAACP-Union County Branch	2,200
- Union County Crime Stoppers	1,000
- Federation of the Blind	480
- Union County First Steps	1,000
- S.C. SBDC	3,000
- Meals On Wheels	5,000
- Rental Assistant – Flynn Bld.	15,600
- Special Event	5,000
- YMCA Partnership	21,380
- YMCA Facilities Maintenance	25,650
- Chamber of Commerce	35,720
- YMCA	60,000
- Utilities	8,000

- Uniquely Union 20,000
- Union County Arts Council 10,000
- Union County Tourism 15,000
- O & M (Union Junction) 100,000
- Union County Antique Farm 2,000
- Union /County Literary 1,000
- AG & Art (advertising) 1,500

**MOTION** by Councilmember Sloss to approve budget request for outside agencies.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor & Council discussed Union County Miracle League Field request in the amount of \$50,000. Council voted unanimously to fund the Miracle League in the amount of \$10,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Garner would like to see cameras put back on Main Street. Mayor Thompson discussed Wi-Fi for the downtown area. Council will re-visit these items.

Mr. Gallman reviewed the All Funds Summary. He discussed and recommend paying out the Brownsfield Loan from the Economic Development Fund.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to approve above recommendation.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Gallman discussed the deficit for SWM. He discussed the County collecting City taxes since they already collect vehicle taxes. Also he discussed ways to balance budget and briefly discussed reserve funds. Also reducing outside agencies funding requests was discussed.

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that he will need direction on how to proceed with proposed budget.

Mayor and City Council reviewed the following budget considerations:

- *Cost of Living Adjustment*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles to approve the 2.3% COL as recommended by consultant.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Councilmember Wilson to take remainder out of Economic Development fund and transfer to general fund and utility fund to cover the COL adjustment after Brownsfield Loan payout.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Request for Zoning Coordinator Trainee and Wastewater Trainee – this is included in the budget numbers, beginning January 1, 2017*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles to approve above request.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Request for (2) vehicles equipped in Public Safety (\$86,500) and Replacement of Cabinets (\$8,500)*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve above request.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Request for Jet Vac (\$42,000); Pressure Washer (\$5,000); Lawn Mower (\$5,000)*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to approve above request.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *City Hall improvements – Carpet (\$70,000); Paint Exterior (\$35,000); Handrail Handicap Ramp (\$15,000); Generator – (\$55,000)*

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve the above request for City Hall improvements.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Warehouse improvements request – Mini Excavator & Trailer (\$65,000); Bush Hog w/enclosed cab (\$35,000)*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles to approve warehouse improvements request.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Request to replace Truck #710 in the Electric Division (\$30,000) ; Lawn Mower at Water Plant (\$12,000)*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Anthony to approve above request.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Giles.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Construction projects for electric, water, wastewater and natural gas were reviewed.

- *Property Tax- an increase of 2.6 millage will generate approximately \$32,360*

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve tax millage increase.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Finance Director reviewed the Solid Waste Management Summary. The request for garbage carts will be taken out of SWM budget numbers.

- *Rate increase for Electric, Water, Sewer.*

Electric	No rate increase
Water	2-1/2%
Sewer	5%

**MOTION** by Councilmember Giles to approve rate increases.  
**SECOND** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- *Request to decrease credit card fee to 1.5%.*

**MOTION** by Councilmember Harris to approve above request.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Budget recommendations will be incorporated in the FY2016-2017 proposed budget.

Budget worksession adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to adjourn.  
**SECOND** by Councilmember Wilson.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes Approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2016