

**MINUTES  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017  
5:00 P.M.**

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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 council workshop was held on April 24, 2017 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 C. Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director; Perry Harmon- Public Service Director and Laura Hembree – Accounting Supervisor.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens – WBCU

**OTHERS:** Lawrence Flynn, Libby Oliver, Robby Moody, Jami Trammell and Melody Porter

**1. Call To Order**

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

**2. Business**

**A. ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

Mayor Thompson states that at the budget worksession City Council discussed an economic incentive package to assist small downtown businesses. During this worksession, council asked Attorney Lawrence Flynn of the Pope Flynn Group to put together an ordinance. The Mayor states that Attorney Flynn will go over the ordinance at tonight's meeting. He states that this will be the time for council to discuss and add anything to the ordinance if they wish. The ordinance will be presented at the May regular meeting.

Attorney Lawrence Flynn addressed council. He states that the ordinance is a rough outline of an Economic Development Incentive Policy. There are a number of existing holes in the document; however, he has created the legal framework to make the incentives legal and valid. Attorney Flynn states that this will be a legislative document of the City of Union and it has to meet the public purpose test as previously discussed as whether or not the incentives that the City offer will benefit the city and its citizens at large generally greater than it does the developer who ultimately will benefit from these incentives. Other benefits to consider are increased property values within the City; increased revenue from property taxes, business license fees and permit fees; increased tourism and commercial activity within the City; and the

improvement of the character of the City by preserving historic buildings within the City and promoting the construction of new buildings that are compatible with its historic character. That is a broad overlay of the incentive policy. The incentive areas will need to be described in the ordinance such as the entire city at large or a particular area such as the downtown area. Attorney Flynn continued to review the Economic Development Incentive Program Ordinance which included application for incentives; general eligibility criteria and specific criteria for incentives. He states that it would be City Council's decision on what incentives they want to provide in the Economic Development Incentive Program Ordinance.

**B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – TO CREATE AN ORDINANCE TO DEDUCT WORKERS COMPENSATION PREMIUM FROM UNINSURED CONTRACTORS INVOICE**

Mayor Thompson addressed City Council. He would like to get council's approval to work with City Attorney Larry Flynn to create an ordinance to deduct workers compensation premium from uninsured contractor's invoice doing work for the City of Union. The Mayor states that the City of Union has a lot of small businesses that don't or can't afford workers compensation insurance. The City of Greenwood came up with an ordinance to help their contractors do work for their City that doesn't have workers compensation insurance. This will create an opportunity for small businesses to bid on work for the City of Union. There was a brief discussion regarding creating the ordinance to deduct worker's compensation premium from uninsured contractors invoice such as the contractor being on the City of Union's insurance policy which would make the City of Union liable for the contractor even though the premium would be deducted out of the contractor's invoice. The Mayor states that the ordinance will help small businesses. He requested council's approval to have the City Attorney draft an ordinance for their review.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve the Mayor's request.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Thompson announced that recently Spartanburg Herald Journal had an news article that listed Union as one of the top 10 most business friendly cities in South Carolina.

**3. ADJOURNMENT:**

Council workshop adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2017.