

**MINUTES  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 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 January 17, 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 Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris and Sonja Craig. Councilmember Pamela Sloss was absent.

**CITY ATTORNEY:** Larry Flynn

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director and Laura Hembree- Accounting Supervisor

**NEWS MEDIA:** None

**OTHERS:** Jeff Shacker, Robby Moody and Hutch Hall.

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

**2. Business**

A. Municipal Association of South Carolina - Jeff Shacker – Field Services Manager

Jeff Shacker, Field Services Manager, of the Municipal Association of South Carolina gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Forms of Municipal Government and the Local Option Sales Tax. Mr. Shacker first reviewed the forms of Municipal Government and their responsibilities. There are three forms of Municipal Government in S.C. This was established with the Home Rule Act of 1975 that actually followed a constitutional referendum where the State Constitution was amended after the voters stated they wanted Home Rule. There were a number of statutes that was consolidated regarding municipal government which can be found in Title 5 – Chapters 1-17. It addresses police and other powers of the city, the role of council and the role of councilmembers. There are a few other things it addresses as well. Chapter 9 basically spells out the authority of the Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, in the Mayor-Council form of government. Council's authority is established in Chapter 7. There are two areas of functional responsibilities in local government which can be defined as policy and administration. Policy is the legislative branch which is the council. The executive branch is administration, the execution of those policies. Council puts the policies in place and it's the job of the staff and the Mayor who is the head of the administration branch to ensure the policies are put into action. Mr. Shacker states that the Mayor-Council form of government is the most utilized form of

government in the State of South Carolina. He also states that council determines the policies of the City; appoint the Municipal Clerk, the Municipal Judge and the City Attorney. The state statute designates the Mayor as the presiding officer. The Mayor is responsible for preparing the budget and reporting to council on the financial condition of the City as well as the oversight of departments and the day to day operations of municipal government.

Next Mr. Shacker discussed the Local Option Sales Tax. This is the most utilized sales tax enacted by counties. It requires a referendum approval which Union passed in November. The Local Option Sales Tax was authorized in 1990 and there were a number of cities that passed it immediately. The primary purpose of the Local Option Sales Tax is tax relief; 71% is credited against the property tax bills, city and county millage. There is a component which is a maximum of 29% available for general use by a city or county. Collection of the 1% local sales tax begins in May following a successful referendum. Union has a few more months before the revenue starts to flow. There are two funds with the Local Option Sales Tax; the property tax credit fund and the county municipal revenue fund. The property tax credit fund is the 71% as mentioned. It goes toward tax relief; that is a statutory requirement. The 29% is the county municipal revenue fund. There will be more relief on the county taxes than on the municipal. There are five local governments in Union County that will factor into how money is distributed which are Union County, City of Union, Jonesville, Lockhart and Carlisle. Most of the property tax fund money that goes toward tax relief is coming to Union and the rest will be distributed in much smaller portions to the other three municipalities. The municipal revenue fund is distributed using two factors; one is the location of the sale and the other is population. The State of S.C. issues (LOST) checks monthly based on prior month's collections. Two checks are issued; property tax relief check (rollback) and the county/municipal revenue check.

Mayor Thompson thanked Mr. Shacker for his presentation.

**3. ADJOURNMENT:**

Council workshop adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

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