

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2016
4:00 P.M.**

{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 July 19, 2016 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, Yates Giles, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Jim Wilson.

CITY ATTORNEY: Larry Flynn

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White - Public Safety Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director and Perry Harmon- Public Service Director

NEWS MEDIA: Mike Stevens – WBCU.

OTHERS: Robbie Moody

1. Call To Order

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order.

2. Business

A. Comprehensive Plan

Robbie Moody of Catawba Regional Planning gave an overview of the Comprehensive Plan and why it is important and how the process works. Mayor Thompson informed him that a Comprehensive Plan for the City of Union dates back to the 90's. Mr. Moody discussed the planning history in South Carolina designed to minimize land use conflicts and guide growth. Early planning and zoning in SC dates back to the 1920's. The Home Rule Act of 1976 sets out police power to regulate health, safety, and general welfare and the 1994 Act enables legislation for comprehensive planning, zoning ordinances, land development regulations and sets fundamental rules for counties and cities. Key sections of the 1994 Planning Act includes formation of advisory bodies; development of Comprehensive plan; adoption and administration of codes; continuing education requirements; mediation, alternate dispute resolution; vested rights and restrictive covenants. Mr. Moody next reviewed the planning documents & roles for City Council; Planning Commission; Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Staff. He discussed the comprehensive plan mandatory elements. They are population; economic development; housing; natural resources; cultural resources; community facilities; land use; transportation and priority investment. He discussed the planning process that includes review and coordination with other related plans. There are six core values that reflect the county's values. They are a strong diverse economy; sustainable well managed growth; a safe & healthy environment; increased collaboration among jurisdictions; enhanced social equity and high quality educational opportunities. Mr.

Moody states that during the project approach we should establish goals and objectives based upon Union's strategic priorities and develop a project proposed schedule. Public participation such as organizing and conducting information sessions to engage in a variety of community members such as community meeting at local schools; topic specific workshops and attending meetings of other groups should be a goal. The review of the Comprehensive Plan should be a part of the annual budget process. Mr. Moody asked Council if there were any questions or comments. Councilmember Sloss suggest getting information out about the project through events such as the Union County Fair and football games to gain community input. Mr. Moody suggests putting a Steering Committee in place. He will be involved in this process. Mayor Thompson states that the guidelines suggest a committee of 4 to 10 members. This committee should include councilmembers and a representative from their district to serve. Mayor Thompson suggests each councilmember bring a name to the August meeting. Mr. Moody will conduct orientation for this committee.

Councilmembers briefly discussed the conditions of motels in Union County. Mr. Moody states that this would be a valuable asset if someone wanted to make the investment in motels.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Council workshop adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2016.