

**CITY OF UNION, SOUTH CAROLINA
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2007
5:30 PM**

{Summary minutes of City Council meeting. Audio tapes of the meeting are file and are included by reference as part of this meeting. An agenda of this meeting has either been mailed or made available to persons, organizations and local news media as per compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, Section 30-4-80(e)}

A budget work session was held on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Municipal building with the following present.

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Bruce Morgan, Councilmembers Tommie Hill, Keith Henderson, Harold Thompson, Ricky Harris, Orangelow Ruff and Fran Bailey.

DEPARTMENT HEADS: Gloria Rogers-Personnel Director/Clerk; Walker Gallman-Finance Director; Jeff Lawson-Building Official; Mike Petrie-Maintenance Shop Director and Sam White-Public Safety Director. Joe Nichols-Utilities Director was absent due to family illness.

CITY ATTORNEY: Billy Whitney

NEWS MEDIA: Charles Warner-Union Times

OTHERS: Torance Inman, Anthony Summerlin and Hugh Rowland

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order. The invocation was given by Councilmember Thompson.

B. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Chamber of Commerce Director Torance Inman, Chamber Past President Anthony Summerlin and Chamber President Hugh Rowland made a presentation to City Council. Mr. Summerlin discussed the Chamber's FY 2007-2008 goals. Their goals are to evaluate the current standing of the Chamber, to compare the Union Chamber with other Chambers, set goals and initiatives for FY 2007-2008 such as increase visibility, increase income, reduce cost and develop administrative and governing practices. Mr. Rowland reviewed the Chamber's progress report for 2006-2007. Chamber Director Torance Inman reviewed the Chamber activities. The Chamber provides information, promotes businesses, handles quality of life issues, and assists in defining and addressing needs, as well as handling day to day activities. Mr. Inman also discussed leadership projects. The Chamber's total staff consists of two full time employees and one part-time employee. Their total expenses for last year totaled \$99,000 and their total income totaled \$107,000. There has not been a salary increase for staff in four years. The Chamber is requesting funding in the amount of \$49,600.
2. Finance Director Walker Gallman gave an overview of the FY 2007/2008. This year's budget totals \$47,831,910; last years budget total \$47,920,680.

-	General Fund	0% increase
-	Solid Waste Management	1% decrease
-	Combined Utility Fund	0% increase

- Victim's Assistance 73% decrease
- Economic Development 0% increase
- Capital Improvement Fund 40% decrease
- City of Union Drug Fund 92% decrease
- Community Change Program 23% decrease
- Tax Increment District 23% decrease
- Sidewalk Improvement Fund 0 % increase

City Council discussed sidewalk repair. Mayor Morgan recommends a sidewalk study be performed to prioritize sidewalk repair in the City of Union.

This year's budget does not call for a tax increase.

Mr. Gallman discussed the general fund proposed revenues and expenditures:

- Taxes
- Fee in Lieu
- License & Permits
- Intergovernmental Revenue
- State Collected Taxes
- Fines
- Miscellaneous
- Interest

He also reviewed outside agencies funding request. Council will discuss the funding request during the budget recap section of the budget work session. Capital-vehicles/equipment, solid waste management revenues and expenditures were reviewed. The Finance Director gave an overview of the utility fund projections revenues /expenditures including debt service, capital cost and construction.

Overview of other items reviewed and discussed is listed below:

- Proposed & projected revenues electric division
- Comparison of electric rates residential
- Proposed & projected revenues water division – proposed 10% increase on volume
- Comparison of water rates residential
- Proposed & projected revenues wastewater division- proposed 10% increase on volume
- Comparison of wastewater residential
- Proposed & projected revenues gas division

Council discussed electric & gas base rates.

Combined Utility Capital/Vehicle and Equipment was discussed and the Capital Improvements Summary for FY2007-2008.

Mr. Gallman gave an overview of the Personnel Department for FY2007-2008. He discussed the following items:

- City's Employee Growth
- Personnel Issues- recruitment, retention, grow your own skills, training losses and loss of experience – all positions are skilled.
- Personnel Changes – proposed (addition of 1 utility worker in the gas division), proposed 3% cost of living increase, retirement-employer's contribution will increase to 9.2% - employees contribution will remain at 6.5%. Public Safety contribution remain unchanged.

- Insurance – approximately 5-6% increase is being considered by State
 - Worker’s Compensation Program
3. Mayor Morgan presented a list of Special Projects for the City of Union to Council.
- Robotics/Tech Facility (Federal Appropriations Grant - \$600,000 2007) (SC Competitive Grant - \$350,000 2007) – Applied for 1.4 million dollars – 2008 Budget
 - Sports Complex
 - Union Center for the Arts
 - Amphitheater – Foster Park
 - City Hall Building Project
 - Computer Mesh Network
 - Rails to Trails Project – Union Mill to Foster Park (Meeting Monday, April 16th w/Frank Macchiaverna with Norfolk Southern Railroad)
 - Utility Project – Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer
 - Government Access Channel (confirmed) \$18,000 to \$20,000
 - Buffalo CDBG Project – 0.5 million dollars
 - Union Mill Property Development/Union Mill CDBG Project – 0.5 million dollars
 - RIF Grant – Downtown Development/Downtown RIF Grant – 1.0 million dollars
 - City-wide Cleanup – Week after Easter and Week after 4th of July
 - Discussion of New Projects, Business, Industry, Downtown, and Future Growth Issues

GPS Tracking device for vehicles was briefly discussed. This will be re-visited.

A City Skate Board/Water Park on the old Mill Site was briefly discussed by City Council.

C. ADOURNMENT

The Budget Work Session adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2007