

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
BUDGET WORK SESSION (CONTINUATION)  
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017  
5:00 PM**

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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 special meeting/budget work session was held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. in the City Municipal building with the following present:

**CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Harold Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Robert Garner, Councilmembers Tommy Anthony, Vicki Morgan, Ricky Todd Harris, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig.

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:** Gloria Rogers – Personnel Director/Clerk; Walker Gallman – Finance Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director, Adam Harris – Assistant Utility Director – Public Safety Director; Perry Harmon – Public Service Director and Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director.

**NEWS MEDIA:** Mike Stevens – WBCU and Graham Williams

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Thompson called meeting to order. He gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all. Municipal Clerk Gloria Rogers called the roll.

2. **BUSINESS:**

A. DISCUSSION/MOTION – AIRMEDCARE - PROPOSAL

Mayor Thompson briefly discussed the AirMedCare Municipal Site Plan in the amount of \$37,459.00 per year. This was presented to council by Marilyn Ingle of AirMedCare Network at the March 21, 2017 regular council meeting. Councilmember Morgan asked Mayor Thompson if he could get clarification on services. City Council briefly discussed.

**MOTION** by Councilmember Morgan to table item for more clarification.

**MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to not participate in AirMedCare Site Plan.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Harris.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. DISCUSSION/MOTION – CITY OF UNION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONTRACT

Mayor Thompson states that Robby Moody is ready to start with the Comprehensive Plan. That is something we have to do because we get CDBG funds. He has sent a proposal in the amount of \$20,000 for the entire project by CRPC. The City's last Comprehensive Plan ended the first part of the year. This is a 15-year Comprehensive Plan. This will be funded out of the general fund budget.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go with agreement for CRPC to come up with Comprehensive Plan.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### C. RESUME BUDGET WORK SESSION

Mayor Thompson states that on last Thursday, council asked council asked department heads go back and make some budget cut adjustments.

Finance Director Walker Gallman states that departments met Friday morning to discuss budget cuts. He states that there is no percentage tax or fee increase in the general fund or the solid waste management fund. The COLA salary increase has been reduced from 2.2% to 1.5 %. The departments has reduced or taken out equipment. Positions in Public Safety Department has been changed from PSO to firefighter. Solid Waste brush truck will be deferred and purchased through lease-purchase agreement. Payments will not begin until 2019. No natural gas increase. Outside agencies have been decreased and also hospitality and accommodations. The general fund budget decreased by 5%. Solid Waste has been reduced by \$140,000 for a brush truck and personnel cost. The combined utility fund budget has also been reduced.

Mayor Thompson states that the City will hold off on the bond rating for now because what council does in this budget could affect the outcome of bond rating.

Chief White discussed changing one of the Public Safety Officer's position to a firefighter's position. He also discussed not funding the SRO position at the Achievement Academy. Mayor Thompson discussed moving the SRO at the Achievement Academy back to a full-time PSO position in the Public Safety Department. The vehicles request for Public Safety will be eliminated if the PSO positions are changed to firefighter's positions.

Mayor Pro Tem Garner suggest the City look at the agreement with the Union County School District for the SRO position at the Achievement Academy to review terms of the agreement.

Councilmember Morgan states that at the last meeting she asked if there is anyway to take the burden off the citizens and not have rates increase. She states that although the departments came back with budget cuts, there is still a proposed rate increases in the budget. The Utility Department states that there is no way the City cannot have an electric rate increase when the cost to purchase electric increases. Mayor and City Council discussed proposed rate increases for electric water and sewer. Staff recommendation is to increase electric, water and sewer rates by 5%. Mayor Thompson, Councilmembers Sloss and Craig voted in favor of staff's recommendation to increase electric, water and sewer rates by 5%. Mayor Pro Tem Garner, Councilmembers Harris, Anthony and Morgan voted in favor of rate increase of 5% for electric; 2% for water and 2% for sewer.

City Council discussed a cost of living adjustment for employees.

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to approve a 2% COLA.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Main Street Junction Facility Manager is included in FY2018 budget.

Outside agencies was discussed. Agencies will be funded at the following level:

- Youth Leadership	\$3,000
- Union Co. Disability & Spec	1,000
- Union Co. Carnegie Library	2,000
- NAACP – Union Branch	1,500
- Union County Crime Stopper	750
- Federation of the Blind	480
- Union County First Steps	750
- South Caroling SBDC	2,000
- Meals On Wheels	5,000
- YMCA Partnership	17,000
- YMCA Facilities	35,720
- Chamber of Commerce	35,720
- Union County YMCA	50,000
- Utilities	7,200

Mayor Thompson briefly discussed Code Enforcement personnel issue that was presented to council by County Supervisor Frank Hart.

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

**SECOND** by Councilmember Anthony.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION** by Mayor Pro Tem Garner to go out of executive session back into regular session.

**SECOND** by Councilmember Sloss.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

No action was taken.

Council discussed funding Fair Association in the amount of \$2,500.

City Park was discussed as its use to the public and Mayor Thompson mentioned the possibility of the City putting a Dog Park there.

Councilmember Anthony asked if the Coon Hunters Association made a request for funding. The Mayor states this request should come out of tourism.

Special meeting/budget work session adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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Gloria J. Rogers, City Clerk

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

Special Council Meeting/Budget Work Session

March 27, 2017