

MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2019
5:00 PM

{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 budget work session was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:00 pm 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, Pamela Sloss and Sonja Craig .

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF: Gloria Rogers – Municipal Clerk/Personnel Director; Sam White, - Public Safety Director, Kenny Thomas – Public Service Director; Joe Nichols – Utility Director; Laura Hembree – Finance Director; Leroy Edwards – Maintenance Shop Director; Rebecca Lance – Accounting Supervisor - Melissa Youngblood – Media IT Director; DeWayne Hardy – Public Service Assistant Supervisor and Kathy Teague - Business License Coordinator

NEWS MEDIA: None

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

OTHERS: Kenneth Black , Jane Scarborough, Jami Trammell, Barbara Holley, Jim Stepp, Kathy Stepp, Janet Graham, April Hall, Mark Cathcart, Caroline Barger, William Jeter, Graham Williams, Curtiss Hunter, Paul Winters, William Earl Sprouse, Elise Ashby, Leanne Arthur, Raymond Sligh, Dawn Fallaw, Coie Switzer, Stephen Stone and Brian Gardner

Jane Scarborough, Executive Director of the Old English District addressed council. She states that the Old English District Tourism Promotions are designed to generate visitors and overnight stay for Union and our Districts. The Old English District consist of seven counties including Union County. OED works closely with the Union County Tourism Commission and the Chamber to ensure that the City of Union is marketed strongly by the OED. OED is located on 1-77 at Exit 65 and have a Visitors Center very accessible to both northbound and southbound traffic as well as Highway 9 traffic and can direct visitors to Union. OED is requesting funding in the amount \$8.037 from the Accommodations & Hospitality Taxes.

Jami Trammell, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce addressed council. Mrs. Trammel presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Chambers new members, Chamber events, prospect visits and their annual report. She is requesting the same level of funding as last year in the amount of \$57,000.

Jami Trammell also Coordinator for Youth Leadership Union addressed council with a PowerPoint presentation regarding Youth Leadership Union’s objectives and criteria for students. The presentation also gave an update of the projects and programs of Youth Leadership Union. The length of the program runs from August to May. Youth Leadership Union is requesting the same level of funding as last year in the amount of \$5,000.

Kathy Stepp, Vice-Chairman of the Union County Meals on Wheels gave a presentation on behalf of the Union County Meals on Wheels Organization. She states that they are

dedicated to serving residents in the Union and Buffalo area and during 2018, they served 14,637 meals at a cost of nearly \$58,000. They are now delivering nearly 1,500 meals per month. There are 10 routes and they serve 70 people daily. Midway Barbecue prepares meals for clients. Mr. Stepp states that last year the City funded Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$5,000. They are again requesting funding in the amount of \$5,000.

Janet Graham, Business Consultant, for SBDC addressed council on behalf of Union Small Business Development Center. Ms. Graham states that SBDC helps small businesses by providing free consultations to assist and advise them as they grow. They also help entrepreneurs develop business plans to prepare to find financing and get them open for business. There is no charge for their service. She briefly discussed a new business that SBDC assisted in Union. SBDC is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000. She states that these funds will increase their presence and services to Union business owners during 2019.

April Hall, Director of Union YMCA addressed council. She states that in 2018 they had 45,081 scans at their front desk. She discussed corporate sponsors. She discussed goals for 2019. The YMCA is requesting Partnership in the amount of \$30,000. Ms. Hall discussed the pool. They want to purchase a slide to bring excitement to the pool. They are requesting \$80,000 for the pool. Also she states that they need to replace windows and doors which are in bad shape. Ms. Hall discussed the amount the YMCA gives back to the City in utility cost and they now offer a 15% discount for all citizens who live inside the city. There was also a request in the amount of \$40,000 for facility maintenance. The total request funding for the YMCA is \$150,000

Mark Cathcart, Union County 4-H Youth Development Agent addressed council. Mr. Cathcart discussed 4-H Youth Programs. One of the programs he particularly discussed was the 4-H Legislative Day. He states that he had the opportunity to take 13 young ladies to the SC State House. He feels this program is a great opportunity for the 4-H'er's to see firsthand how our government works and learns parliamentary procedures. He states that the Clemson University does not provide operating money for their program. Regular members pay \$10 annual registration fee; they receive a T-Shirt and can join any club offered with no additional charge. They also receive a monthly newsletter. Mrs. Cathcart also discussed other programs and upcoming activities and events for the Union County 4-H Youth Programs for 2019. The funding request on behalf of Union County 4-H and Youth Program is requesting funding in the amount \$4,500.

Kenneth Black, Chief of the Union County Fire Rescue addressed council. He thanked council for the opportunity to present his request. Mr. Black states that Union County Fire Rescue responds to emergency calls within the City limits such as vehicle accidents, medicals, missing persons and drowning within the city limits. He is requesting funding in the amount of \$10,000 to continue with response and further training to help the citizens during their time of need.

Jami Trammell addressed council in reference to the Uniquely Union Festival being brought back to the downtown area on Main Street. Mrs. Trammell states that she has been getting calls from citizens inquiring about the Uniquely Union Festival. Mrs. Trammell states that Uniquely Union is great for tourism because it is a free event that will attract all local citizens as well as regional, national and international visitors. She also discussed the economic impact Uniquely Union Festival has on tourism and the tourism industry in Union.

Caroline Barger, President of Union County Arts Council thanked council for their past support and funding. Ms. Barger states that throughout the year UCAC hosts and participates in several events that brings in tourists and also partners with USC-Union every year to host the Annual Art Exhibition. Amber Ivey, Coordinator of the Union County Arts Council who oversees the day-to-day operation addressed council. She states that other events held are musical events, tasting events, family teas, the annual Chalk Walk and participation in the Ag& Art Tour. The Arts Council is requesting funding in the amount of \$12,000 from the Accommodations & Hospitality Taxes.

William Jeter, Union County Historical Society President addressed council. He states that on behalf of the Union County Historical Society and specifically for the Museum located at 127 West Main Street thanked council for their support. Mr. Jeter states that they have approximately 2500 books that have been donated from the Carnegie Library and USC-Union and they are covered up with people seeking information in person or on the phone. They are always asking, since the Museum is the only place in town to do genealogical research, why is the Museum not opened longer? Mr. Jeter states that it would great if they could add another day to the schedule and another employee. Mr. Jeter states that the museum attracts many people to Union and over the year's citizens from every state have visited the Museum and also persons from foreign countries. They also have an African-American section in the museum. Funding is requested in the amount of \$50,000

Paul Winters, Executive Director of the Union County Agricultural Fair addressed council. He thanked council for their past support. He discussed the impact the Fair has on Union County. This year they will go with a western theme. They will have such acts as Daring Knife Throwing, Horse Tricks and Gun Spinning. Some of this year's fair attractions will include RC Racing and Pit Stop Tire Change Challenge. They are looking for sponsorship for station cars. Mark Cathcart discussed the livestock show at the Fairground. He discussed the new Clemson 4-H partnership with the Fair. The Fair Association is requesting funding in the amount \$10,000.

Raymond Sligh of Union County Antique Farm Show addressed council. Last year was a bad year because they did not get to have the show because of the hurricane. This years' show will be held September 21, 2019. Mr. Sligh is requesting funding in the amount of \$2,000. He states that funding from this event, in the past, has been through Accommodations & Hospitality Taxes from both the City of Union and the County of Union, sponsors, and donations allowing them not to charge exhibitors or participants who come to enjoy the show. Also he states that the event has been a tremendous asset in helping promote Union tourism for the last sixteen years.

Curtiss Hunter, Director of the Union County Tourism addressed council. She discussed a Visitor's Center at 103 West Main Street. Mrs. Hunter is asking for immediate funding consideration in the amount of \$15,000. She also discussed the holiday décor for Main Street. She is requesting a one-time expense for (3) custom made Christmas Trees for Main Street - \$1,400, (4)- 21" trees (two at 176 entry, two 49 East entry) - \$12,856 and (2) - 40" Skyline (2) at each end of Main Street downtown area - \$6,954. She also requested immediate funding consideration for the Union County Tourism Summit in mid-summer in the amount of \$4,500.

Leanne Arthur, Union County Tour Chair for AG & Art addressed council. She states Ag & Art Tour is an annual event and is the largest free tour in the county. The tourists spend money on fresh produce, homemade goods, meats and sweets. In addition, tourists had the opportunity to visit historic sites, farm sites and the Union Arts Council. This year the AG & Art Tour will be held June 22-23, 2019. Ms. Arthur is requesting \$3,000 for the entrance fee to be a part of the Ag & Art Tour. The funding is for two years, 2019 and 2020 next year. She thanked Council for their past support.

Elise Ashby of the Union County Farm & Craft Market addressed Council. They are asking for funds to help support and grow Union County to purchase materials to build, at most eight additional Market stalls. They currently have eight stalls, two picnics tables and space for tables and tents on the grassy areas. The additional stalls will enable more local farmers and artisans to sell their produce, meats, eggs, baked goods, soaps and other homemade items to resident and visitors. They are requesting funding in the amount \$5,000. Ms. Ashby states that last year farmers and artisans saw an economic impact of 35% increase in revenues.

Dawn Fallaw, Garden Administrator of the Piedmont Physic Garden addressed council. They are requesting \$50,000 out of the Accommodations & Hospitality Tax for an Amphitheatre/Outdoor Classroom. The semi-shaded concrete structure will provide large scale seating for educational talks, theater and musical performances, award ceremonies,

and pavilion movies. The estimated cost of the project is \$139,000. The Piedmont Physic Garden plans on having fundraisers to help fund the project as well.

Coie Switzer, Board Member of the Physic Garden addressed council regarding a Environmental Art and Music Festival. Ms. Switzer states that this past November, the PPG, USC-Union and UCAC and UCTC was awarded a \$3,000 matching grant to start an Environmental Art Festival as part of a community vibrancy initiative established by Ten at the Top and Hughes Investments of Greenville. She also states that the first Environmental Arts & Music Festival will be held September 27th – 28th, 2019 in the heart of downtown Union. They are requesting funding in the amount of \$3,750 out of the Accommodations & Hospitality Tax.

Steven Stone, a representative for the Coon Hunter's Association gave a breakdown of expenditures for last year's event. Mr. Stone states that they are in their fifth year of the event. They are requesting the same amount of funding as last year in the amount of \$17,500.

Mayor Thompson states that the continuation of the budget work session will be held on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION by Councilmember Sloss to adjourn.

SECOND by Mayor Pro Tem Garner

CARRIED UNANIMIOUSLY

Budget worksession adjourned at 8: 28 pm.

Gloria J. Rogers, Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved _____ 2019

