

City of West Columbia, SC

Public Hearing on Budget for Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases

June 1, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Bobby E. Horton, Mayor
Jack L. Harmon, Mayor Pro-Tem
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
Boyd Jones
Marsha Moore
Tommy Parler
B.J. Unthank

Members Absent:

Cathy Shannon, death in family

Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator
Mardi McKinnon, City Clerk
Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator
Donna Smith, Economic Development Director
Brian Carter, Planning and Zoning Director
Members of the Public and Press

Rick Hodge, City Treasurer
Charles Garren, Public Works Director
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Sid Varn, Planning & Engineering Director
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Horton called the public hearing to order at 6:07 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, and The Columbia Star* were notified of the public hearing by e-mail on May 28, 2010.

Agenda Item II – Opening Remarks

Mayor Horton recognized City Administrator Jenny Cunningham who stated that the Water Sewer Operating budget is balanced with a ten percent increase in water/sewer rates and no increase in connection (tap) fees or hydrant fees. She said the anticipated revenue of \$700,000 from the rate increase is needed for the additional 2009 State Revolving Fund (SRF) debt service for recent improvements to the water and sewer systems. Mrs. Cunningham explained that the ten percent rate increase would amount to a \$2.25 increase on in-city bi-monthly bills or \$1.13 per month. She said the ten percent rate increase on out-of-city bi-monthly bills would include a \$2.00 surcharge to recover the cost of repairs to the Laurel Road standpipe. She said the surcharge would generate about \$400,000 of the \$750,000 needed to repair and upgrade the tank and the rest would come from the operating budget. The tap fees and hydrant fees would remain the same for in-city and out-of-city customers. Mayor Horton noted that even with the rate increases and the surcharge on out-of-city customers the city's rates are still lower than neighboring municipalities.

Agenda Item III – Public Comments on Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases

Mayor Horton asked if any council members had any comments or questions on the proposed rate increases and received no response. Mayor Horton asked if any members of the public had any comments or questions on the proposed rate increases and received no response.

Public Hearing on Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Increases

June 1, 2010

Page Two

Agenda Item IV – Adjourn

Mayor Horton entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Valentino McKinnon, CMC
City Clerk