1978 WL 34972 (S.C.A.G.)

Office of the Attorney General

State of South Carolina June 30, 1978

*1 Mr. Richard Ruhle City Attorney P. O. Box 107 Anderson, SC 29622

Dear Mr. Ruhle:

Mr. McLeod has referred your recent letter to me for reply. You have stated that the mayor and council were elected on June 6, 1978, and that after the election they attempted to increase the salary of the mayor and council to be effective when they assume office on July 1, 1978. You have inquired if this action would violate the provisions of Section 5-7-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976.

Section 5-7-170 states in part that

[t]he council may determine the annual salary of the mayor and councilmen by ordinance, but <u>no ordinance changing</u> such salary shall become effective until the date of commencement of the terms of councilmen elected at the next general <u>election</u> following the change (emphasis added)

It is my understanding that the increase in salary was implemented after the general election. Therefore, the salary increase could not go into effect until the commencement of the terms of the council elected in the next general election. Very truly yours,

Treva G. Ashworth Assistant Attorney General

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