

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007 AT 4:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh, Vice Chairperson Dora Martin, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Joey English, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilman Joe Lawson, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: None

Notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda giving the date, time and place of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the hall of the Union County Courthouse and a copy was mailed to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, WBCU Radio Station, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Mr. Darrell Wade, Ms. Ann Canada, and Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called the meeting to order. Chaplain Dora Martin gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Joan Little, District 1 – Present

Dora T. Martin, District 2 – Present

Tommy E. Ford, District 3 – Present

Joey D. English, District 4 – Present

Randall Hanvey, District 5 – Present

Joe G. Lawson, District 6 – Present

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on July 11, 2007 and to adopt the minutes as written.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented service award certificates and gift cards to Sue Farr for 5 years of dedicated service, to Kindra Horne for 5 years of dedicated service, to Elnora Jeter for 10 years of dedicated service, to Frances Martin for 10 years of dedicated service, to Harriette Belk for 15 years of dedicated services, and to Linda Mitchell for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented information on an unsightly property located at 418 Church Street in Jonesville. He stated they had no response from Mr. Garner who is the owner and no improvements had been made. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that since we do not currently have an ordinance in place that allows disposition of unsightly properties that this matter be tabled until the ordinance pertaining to building codes is passed and the new building inspector has been hired.

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Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented information on a second unsightly property located at 109 3rd Street in Ottoray. The owner, Mr. Helton was to have the grass cut and clean up the property but nothing has been done.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros to review the attorney's opinions received on unsightly properties and make a recommendation to Council on what they can do legally.

Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented for condemnation the Burgess property in Ottoray. They have not been able to get in touch with anyone about this property. Councilman Joey English stated he understood a neighbor planned to purchase the property. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh suggested Mr. Randall contact Louann Hill to see if she still plans to buy it.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented information on the tech school facility to Council and called for a five minute recess to allow Council time to look over the material.

Union County Council took a recess at 4:42 p.m.

The Union County Council meeting reconvened at 4:49 p.m.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the process of establishing a robotics training facility started at the LSP negotiations in December of 2005 at the State Commerce Department. Officials with LSP said it would be nice to have some technical training close to their facility. From there, they met with officials with Spartanburg Community College to discuss the possibility. There were a number of meetings which resulted in the City of Union hiring an architectural firm, Langley and Associates, to reflect what Spartanburg Community College and USC-Union said they would like to see in a facility. This resulted in plans for a four million dollar facility. We have the opportunity to apply for an EDA Grant and the filing of that grant would depend on the location of the facility. The City of Union purchased a 21 acre site on the Spartanburg Highway and in June of this year USC Union had a meeting and suggested the facility be located downtown. Mr. Betenbaugh stated that Harold Shapiro with Catawba Regional Council of Governments stated if they plan to apply for the two million dollars worth of grants then it has to be determined where the facility will be located. The County Council agreed they would handle the recurring costs of operations and maintenance. There have been requests put in on the federal level for two million dollars in grants earmarked for this project but those have not been approved. He said he had talked to Senator Peeler because he understood there were some recurring funds allotted in Columbia to go to Spartanburg Community College that allowed them to build the facility in Cherokee County. Senator Peeler told him he would look into the matter and get back to him. Mr. Betenbaugh stated the County has to apply for the CDBG Grant because it is for counties who have no technical school presence. Who applies for the ADA Grant would be solely decided based on the location of the facility. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh suggested having the architect scale back the plans to allow for a two million dollar facility much

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like Cherokee County has. August 15th is the deadline for asking for application assistance from Catawba Regional COG. Senator Peeler said he supports a technical facility in Union County. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated that if the City purchased the land for this purpose then why is there a question about the location. If there is a question about the location then it should be addressed to the City and not the County. After further discussion, Council asked Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh to ask the City of Union to get the architect to scale down the plans for the facility to two million dollars, that the County would cover the \$100,000.00 in matching funds for the CDBG funds, the County would cover up to \$180,000.00 a year for Operations and Maintenance (O&M), and since the City has purchased the property for that purpose, then it is up to the City of Union to decide on the location of the facility. If additional funding is found through federal grants or other sources then the plans can be revised. If the County intends to apply for the one million dollars in CDBG grant funds for this facility then the County would have to provide ten percent in matching funds of \$100,000.00.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to approve the \$100,000.00 in matching funds for the CDBG grant.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they should be closing by Friday of this week on the airport property at a cost of approximately \$140,000.00. County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros stated there are restrictions, easements, and right-of-ways on that property and did not know what effect they would have in the future. Mr. Betenbaugh stated they are all beyond the gas line and did not feel it would be in anything other than the clear zone area. There is a timber deed that is good for another eight months. Councilman Joe Lawson stated they understood that these were in place from the very beginning.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they are moving forward with the purchase of the Drug Task Force building for the Sheriff's Office from the U. S. Forestry Service at a cost of \$28,000.00.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh announced the Arts Council is having a Bluegrass event next Saturday night in Santuc and tickets are available at various locations. The Food Lion will be holding their ribbon cutting ceremony next Wednesday at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading the amendment to the Library Ordinance which would allow for staggered terms of the members so that you do not have half the members coming off at the same time.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the amendment to the ordinance pertaining to the terms of the members on the Library Board.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to allow the Supervisor to negotiation with the Forfeited Land Commission to advertise for bids to demolish the buildings on the forfeited land properties.

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Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that would mean demolition of some trailers and houses on those properties which are already owned by the county. The vote was unanimous.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to give \$2,000.00 to the Farm Show Committee to help defer the expenses of moving a log cabin to be used for educational purposes.

Joe Lawson: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to set the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funding for the robotics center up to \$180,000.00 per year once it is operating.

Joe Lawson: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to allow the Supervisor to get some more bids to put windows in the 911 building at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Joey English: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to go out of executive session.

Joe Lawson: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that no action was taken during executive session.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any other business but there was none.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented audits and financial statements from the Union County Historical Society, the Union Hospital District, Union Soil & Water Conservation District, the Union County Disabilities and Special Needs Board, Union/Laurens Commission on Higher Education, Spartanburg Area Mental Health, Youth Leadership Union, and the Union County Council on Aging for Council to review and approve.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to approve the audits and financial statements as presented.

Dora Martin: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Dora Martin asked that the meeting of the Committee on County Administration and Finance scheduled for August 15th be held at 1:30 p.m. instead of 1:00 p.m. Council was in agreement.

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Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joey English: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council