

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009 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, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, 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, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, and Mr. James Kollock.

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

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on December 10, 2008 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented a service award and gift certificate to Dot Jeter for 10 years of dedicated service, to Anne Adams for 15 years of dedicated service, to John Greer for 15 years of dedicated service, and to Keith Vanderford for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there was a vacancy on the Catawba Regional Council of Governments and County Council had received four applicants. Councilwoman Dora Martin stated that we did not have all the information needed when the vacancy was advertised. Applicants must meet certain qualifications which Catawba Regional Council of Governments will furnish to County Council in order to advertise the vacancy again. Mrs. Martin stated this needed to be done to qualify for the various grants. The applicants for the position were Marsha Hathcock, Doug Johnson, Darrell Wade and David Fant.

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Dora Martin: Made a motion to advertise the vacancy on the Catawba Regional Council of Governments using the qualifications to be provided.

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

Melisa Glenn appeared before Council to request assistance with getting their road fixed. She said she had checked into this prior to coming before Council and was told it was the owners' responsibility to fix the road. She did some research but could not find who owned the road. Scarborough Drive is located in the South Hills area. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked the Road Committee to look at the road to let the residents know what it would take to bring it up to the standards required for the County to take over the road in accordance with the County's Road Ordinance. Ms. Glenn stated she had copies of the deeds to the property owners that live on the road but they do not say who owns the road. The matter was referred to the Council Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Bridges and County Property.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there were two vacancies on the Union County Stadium Commission due to term expirations.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the two vacancies on the Stadium Commission.

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

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated the South Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Aeronautics had awarded a grant up to \$621.00 for improvements to the Union County Airport. This reflects the State's portion of the money for the surveying and appraisal cost for the acquisition of land adjacent to the airport. The County should be getting a check from the federal level in the next couple of months in the amount of approximately \$200,000 for their portion. Council needed to ratify the grant agreement with the State.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to ratify the grant agreement from the State as requested.

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

Mr. James Harris and Mr. Dusty Hampton with the Tax Assessor's Office gave an update on the Woodsby property. Council had agreed to give the owner six months to make the necessary improvements to the property with the Tax Assessor's Office giving progress reports. They provided Council with updated photos of the Woodsby property located on Monroe Street and stated there was some slow progress being made.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to elect a Vice Chair. He opened the floor for nominations.

Councilman Randall Hanvey nominated Councilwoman Dora Martin.

Mr. Betenbaugh called for any other nominations.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to close the nominations.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Dora Martin will serve as Vice Chair of County Council.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to appoint the Clerk to Council.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to appoint Linda Jolly as Clerk to Council.

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Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider the day and time of the Council meetings.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to leave it the same.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she works until 5:00 p.m. and wanted to discuss changing it. Councilman Joey English suggested changing the Council meeting to the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Petrie stated it would give the public more of an opportunity to attend the meetings.

Councilwoman Dora Martin, Councilman Randall Hanvey and Councilwoman Joan Little voted in favor of leaving the meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Councilman Joey English, Councilman Tommy Ford, and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie voted in favor of changing the meetings to the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for a three minute recess to let Council discuss the matter to see if they could come to an agreement to eliminate his need to vote to break the tie. He also handed out a copy of the appointments to the Standing Committees.

County Council took a short recess.

Council reconvened the meeting.

Councilman Joey English asked that the Council meeting be changed to Tuesday night so that it would not conflict with church on Wednesday nights. After some discussion, a majority of County Council agreed to hold the Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked Council to review the Standing Committee appointments as there had been some changes.

Sheriff David Taylor stated that as the new sheriff he would be at Council's service if they should need anything. He introduced Mr. Perry Haney as his number two guy in the Sheriff's Office. He stated they were in the process of applying for a federal grant to be used for gang education. He suggested the County take \$5,000 from his salary to go toward establishing an employee assistance program for the county deputies. Mr. Taylor said he would be looking at his budget to see how they could make cuts and save money. He told Council if they had any concerns or problems to feel free to contact him.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports but there were none at this time.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any other business.

Councilman Joey English stated they needed to schedule a Road Committee meeting. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh said they needed to look at Pioneer Road, Trammell Drive, Ike Drive and Scarborough Drive. Councilman English called a meeting of the Road Committee for Friday, January 16, 2009 at 5:15 p.m.

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Councilwoman Dora Martin stated that since there is a Planning and Development Committee under the Standing Committees then she turned over to them any zoning and planning issues to be considered for Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to review and approve the financial statement for Catawba Regional Council of Governments.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to approve the financial statement for Catawba Regional Council of Governments.

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council