

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice Chair Dora Martin-Jennings, 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, Ms. Ann Canada, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Anna Brown with the County News, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Frank Hart, Mr. Ray Treadway, Mr. Brooks Carwile, Mr. Howard Gibson, and Mr. Robert Small. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called the meeting to order. Vice Chair Dora Martin-Jennings 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 Martin-Jennings, District 2 - Present

Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present

Joey English, District 4 - Present

Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 - Present

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 12, 2010 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair recognized for service award certificates and gift cards Olin Brock for 5 years of dedicated service, Iris Whisnant for 10 years of dedicated service, and Linda G. Jolly for 35 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair recognized Shannon Gault who was hired recently in the Tax Assessor's Office. He went to school and became residential certified which allows him to operate independently under the supervision of the assessor.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider the appointments to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. There were three vacancies and three applicants who were David Douglas, Ron Wade, and Charles Barber.

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Tommy Ford: Made a motion to appoint David Douglas, Ron Wade, and Charles Barber to serve on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Board of Fire Control for Carlisle Fire Department. There were three vacancies and three applicants who were Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter and Kimberly Booker.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter, and Kimberly Booker to serve on the Board of Fire Control for Carlisle Fire Department.

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

Mr. William Payne appeared before Council to discuss the Union High School baseball team using the Timken Sports Complex for practice. This is the first year they have had a fall baseball practice which is for twenty one days. They are currently using the Jonesville Middle School and now that daylight saving time has changed they have an hour and ten minutes to an hour and fifteen minutes before the light issue becomes dangerous for the kids. They only have until next Thursday before they finish up the fall baseball practice. He said he knew Council had passed a rule back at the opening of the Timken Sports Complex that the High School baseball team could practice the day before a game at the Complex. With a successful baseball team this year they do not have a place to practice. Their normal place to practice is the football field. He asked Council if they would consider allowing them to practice at the Timken Sports Complex the next six days. Mr. Payne asked if the County would be turning the Stadium back into the baseball fields to practice there or is that going to be an issue in the spring. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said there had probably been four hours of dialogue the last two weeks about baseball practice at Timken. He said the Superintendent understands the issues. He thought the athletic director understood the issues even though he had not talked to the coach himself. He felt there was a pretty clear understanding of the issues and how they may try to resolve them.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any elected officials or department heads who wanted to address Council.

Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey updated Council on the upcoming 2011 reassessment. They are not a hundred percent complete but they are on schedule. She handed out a packet of information to help Council understand more about what reassessment is and how it works in order to help them answer any questions they may receive from the general public. She said that in July of this year the Department of Revenue approved our reassessment to send out our tax notices and implement them for 2011 based on our sales from this past year. The tentative date for mailing out the tax notices for 2011 is May 1st. There are instructions on the notices telling the property owners as to what they can do to appeal. That information is also in the packet of information provided to Council. They hope to have that posted on the county's website as well. She said she would keep Council up to date if anything out of the ordinary comes about. Mrs. Hanvey stated she plans to come back before Council in April with a little more information about what to expect after the notices go out and more information for the public about what they can do if they do not agree with their values. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he wants to get the information

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out before the notices go out since it is important for people to understand what we are doing. He wants to break it down as to what the County is going to do, why we are going to do it, and when we are going to do it. Then later on they will talk about how it is done and ultimately the impact that it will have. Mrs. Susan Hanvey said there would be a countywide reassessment this year which is state mandated to be done every five years. It was supposed to be done in 2010 but the County postponed it for one year. Reassessment is done to try to equalize the property tax values within every county so comparable property is assessed the same. Approval of the reassessment values comes from the South Carolina Department of Revenue. They either accept or reject the values based on certain guidelines. Chairman Tommy Sinclair wanted to reiterate that it is a state approved mandate to do reassessment and is a state approved process of the final outcome. He remembered that the average value of a home sale on the chart was \$78,000.00. The average price of agricultural land was either \$1,100 or \$1,400 and Shannon Gault with the Tax Assessor's Office responded that it was \$1,800. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said this is all the product of a process. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated a manufactured home depreciates in value and asked if the tax note depreciates in value every five years. Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey responded that it depends on the individual home and depends on the upkeep. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings asked if they said the average cost of an acre of agricultural land is anywhere from \$1,400 to \$1,800 and Mrs. Hanvey stated it was. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that was the average selling price over the period this data was collected for the entire county. Councilman Randall Hanvey wanted to clarify that the tax notices for the assessed value on property should go out on May 1st which should not be confused with the actual notice for payment of taxes which are normally mailed out in October. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the notice for reassessment says on it that it is not a tax bill but lets people know their property has been reassessed. If you don't agree with the assessed value then they have ninety days to appeal but once you receive your tax bill it is too late to appeal. The appeal process starts with the Assessor's Office first so that the property can be reevaluated. There is a local Appeals Board that it goes to after that and then an administrative law process at the State level after that.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the delinquent tax sale was about the same as they were before at approximately eighty five or ninety units. The election commission will be holding a runoff for one seat on the school board. He stated that Recreation Director Becky Cobb went to a meeting gearing up for next year being the tenth anniversary of 9-11. It is becoming a community effort to try to collectively recognize that anniversary by looking at first responders, police, firemen, EMS, etc. to celebrate that day.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated they are participating along with Meals on Wheels to raise funds for UCARE this year. Monday will be the last day to sell tickets before the drawings start to give away ten Thanksgiving holiday meals from Midway. Tickets are on sale for one dollar each or six tickets for five dollars. On Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. they will be having a hot dog sale to raise money which will be split between UCARE and Meals on Wheels. Mr. Wade stated they have a gasboy fuel system at the airport which is eighteen or nineteen years old. They cannot find parts for it and are currently without a modem. They are going to have to replace that unit at a cost of \$17,183.00. When they sell aviation fuel they make twenty five cents a gallon. That

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money has rolled over in an account and he has money to do this project. Once he does this project he would have no funds left for the local match required for grants. They hope to have the new system in by the end of the year. They put up a thirty six inch beacon this year, covered a tarmac runway, and parking areas which were painted as well as doing some cosmetic changes to the buildings. Mr. Wade stated there would be a tournament at the Timken Sports Complex this week. They had a tournament last week that was an independent tournament with four teams involved. They are going to attempt to do more of the manufactured tournaments and things where they can control the gate. They have opened a complex in Spartanburg County but their fields will not be the same as ours. They are working on projects where they can co-join with surrounding counties which could bring fifty to seventy teams in for tournaments. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said they try to look at the net revenue and expenses every month which is better than breaking even. Mr. Wade said that typically they are not holding practice at Timken Sports Complex as it is a playing field. He said the Superintendent of Education came to him and Mr. Sinclair and his observation was that they would be playing baseball on their own two fields. Mr. Wade stated the work on the new building at the South Hills Complex is looking good. They are working on the plumbing and they need to address providing hot water and some type of heat to keep the water from freezing since the facility will be open year round. They have started concentrating on how the concession stand will be operated. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there are thirty five ball fields in Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented for third and final reading an amendment to Union County Ordinance Number 248, in certain limited particulars, only, so as to provide for the application and collection of fees and bonds, where applicable, for the demolition of certain buildings in Union County, and other matters related thereto. He stated this should keep us from getting into the same situation we have now on the old Buffalo Mill property. Tommy Ford: Made a motion to adopt the amendment to the Union County Building Codes Ordinance as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented for third and final reading an amendment to the Budget Ordinance for Union County for fiscal year 2010-2011. He stated this would modify the budget and a public hearing was held.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to adopt the amendment to the Budget Ordinance as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any committee reports.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Committee on County Administration and Finance to implement the request of the Clemson Extension Advisory Committee to replace the services left by consolidation using Title III federal funds.

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

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Councilman Joey English stated the Road Committee met and looked at four roads which were Dill Road, Bowman Road at the new race track, Homestead Drive in Tanglewood, and Old Home Place Road in Putman.

Joey English: Made a motion to bring these into the County's system and maintain them as a gravel road.

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings asked if they were dirt roads now. Councilman Joey English said they have a little bit of gravel on them. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings asked if his motion was that they remain gravel roads and Councilman English stated he wanted them treated the same as the other six roads the county took in a couple of months ago. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings asked what condition the roads are currently in. Councilman Joey English said they were about equal to the others they took in since they have gravel on them. Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if the County has the money to pay for this and if it is in the budget already. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Council had approved \$173,540 in the budget for roads and bridges. They have not spent much of that so there are some funds in that account. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated he was under the impression that the other roads they had taken in several months ago would eventually have tar and gravel on them and asked if they were going to stay gravel roads. Councilman Tommy Sinclair said they had some roads where they could not provide basic services to people for school buses, ambulances and police to have access. They had to get them up to where they could provide basic services. Ideally, every road in Union County would be tar and graveled and asphalted. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated the motion was that they be maintained as a gravel road and wanted it clarified as to whether they were going to remain as gravel roads.

Councilman Joey English: Made a motion to bring these roads in as gravel roads now and down the road they would be upgraded.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there is C Fund money that can be used to pave county roads. Councilman Randall Hanvey wanted to make sure the people were not expecting one thing and we were going to give them something else. Councilman Joey English stated these four roads should be just like the other six the county took in.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair restated the motion to take in Dill Road, Bowman Road, Homestead Drive and Old Home Place Road in their current condition and keep them serviceable or trafficable.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair recognized Mr. Ben Ivey who was recently elected to County Council District 4. He will be sworn in and take office in January.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair reminded Council of the Veterans Day events and parade on Thursday. The dedication ceremony for Iverson G. Vanderford is scheduled for Wednesday beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous
The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

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Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council