

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2008 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, 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

Joe G. Lawson, District 6 – Present

Joey English: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on February 13, 2008 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented a service award certificate and gift card to Mr. Jimmy Crocker for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Fair Board. Councilwoman Joan Little from District 1 nominated Charles Farr. Councilman Randall Hanvey from District 5 nominated Angela Worthy.

Dora Martin: Made a motion the nominations come to a close and approve the appointment of Charles Farr and Angela Worthy to serve on the Fair Board.

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

Mr. Hal Johnson with the Upstate Alliance gave Council an annual update. It is their vision to market the upstate so they can compete for global business. He discussed changes within their organization, their vision, mission and focus. They have hired a

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2008

consultant from Atlanta who specializes in looking at regional groups like theirs and making recommendations on how to improve opportunities for the communities that they work for as well as the private sectors that support them. His presentation covered their 2008 Operating Budget, marketing efforts, leads and prospects, RFI breakdown, and target markets. They sponsored the dinner for the Governor's Rural Summit and Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh spoke about Union County's Robotics/Tech School which gave us statewide recognition.

County Council took a five minute recess at 5:02 p.m.  
County Council reconvened the meeting.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked Council if they could hold a budget meeting on March 26th beginning at 9:00 a.m. with department heads giving their power point presentations and the outside agencies doing their presentations. Council was in agreement.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he got some information that Senator Graham wants to come to Union on March 26th at 11:30 a.m. to make a one million dollar check presentation for the EDA Grant for the Tech School project.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the sports complex has a projected completion date in November. They are working on a grant application request for the Baseball Tomorrow Fund and McDonalds.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he was in Columbia on Monday and met with John Frampton who is over the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) concerning John D. Long Lake. They said they were not interested in doing anything with that property other than the purposes it serves now. They are willing to work with Union County as a partner and possibly with PRT to develop recreational opportunities at that lake.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that he had received a letter that on March 20th at 10:30 a.m. Congressman Bob Inglis has called a meeting with the Corps of Engineers and asked if the Lake Committee, the County Council and the City Council would attend. The Lake Committee voted that they would not be attending the meeting. Mr. Betenbaugh stated they had met with Senator DeMint's office and he would like to hold a similar meeting to discuss the project and all the viable opportunities associated with it. They would like to take a look at the entire study and try to see all the positives aspects and see what next step it takes to develop the project. Mr. Betenbaugh stated he personally did not feel it serves any purpose to attend the meeting with Congressman Bob Inglis. It would much better serve Council to meet with Senator DeMint. Councilwoman Dora Martin stated she did not feel Council needs to go to a negative meeting and felt if Council was going to participate in a meeting it should be one promoting the ideas shared by Council. She felt Council would be better served to wait and attend Senator DeMint's meeting to hear the positive ideas.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2008

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh said that in the meeting with Senator DeMint's staff he was pleased with the optimism that was brought to the meeting. He went to talk to them about the Tech School and the \$1.7 million dollars needed for funding. There are approximately 160,000 acres of national forest land in the Enoree Ranger District. We are in region 8 which is made up of thirteen states and Puerto Rico. There are five ranger districts in South Carolina. We are not only the least funded for recreation in Laurens, Union, Newberry, Chester and Fairfield in our State but the least funded in Region 8 at \$108,000 a year. Union County Council puts more into recreation in our county than what they do on 60,000 acres or 160,000 acres. They have basically written off recreation in our national forest by not funding it. We have to make sure everyone is aware they are not properly funding and adequately maintaining what we have in Union County. There are 60,000 acres of land that is not being developed or getting the proper usage.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he is still working with Charter Communications. They will be notifying us next month about the county wide channel. This would be a channel that would reach all boundaries of Union County wherever there is cable access.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they did a lot of construction work on the Oakridge Road in the Jonesville area. They put in a new pipe and they had to tear up a lot of the asphalt in the road surface. They received two bids for repairs. The bid from Sailors Asphalt was \$18,176.00 and from Sloan Construction for \$26,500.00. Mr. Betenbaugh requested Council allow them to move forward.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the bid from Sailors Asphalt of \$18,176.00.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they also had some quotes on the concrete work needed for the Carlisle recycling center which they would bring to Council at a later date.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any elected officials who wished to address Council or any other updates but there were none.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance to develop a jointly owned and operated Industrial/Business Park ("American Yuncheng Park Project") in conjunction with Spartanburg County, such Industrial/Business Park to be geographically located in Spartanburg County and established pursuant to South Carolina Code of Laws of 1976, 4-1-170, et sequitur, as amended; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County providing for the expenses of the Park, the percentage of revenue application, and the distribution of fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes to the counties and relevant taxing entities; to provide that job tax credits allowed by law be provided for businesses locating in said Park; and to permit a user fee in lieu of ad valorem taxation within said Park.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to the American Yuncheng Project as stated.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 12, 2008

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

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for Council to review and approve the audits and financial statements for Wallace Thomson Hospital, Chamber of Commerce and Union Services.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the audits and financials statements as presented.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh requested an executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to go into executive session as requested.

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

The Union County Council went into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to close executive session and return the meeting to regular session

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

The Union County Council returned the meeting to regular session

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council