

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2010 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice Chair Dora Martin, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Joey English, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, Acting County Attorney Pete 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. Councilwoman 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 March 9, 2010 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented service award certificates and gift cards to Neil McKeown for 25 years of dedicated service, for Jeff Lawson for 25 years of dedicated service, for Scarlett Alexander for 5 years of dedicated service, and for Timothy Wade for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Dr. Fred Barker came before Council to discuss the Hospital Board appointments. They had previously informed Council they were struggling with how the medical staff was responding to the new change in the law taking voting board positions off the Board and having the now mostly employed physicians becoming non-voting positions. With the amendment to the State law eliminating mandatory physician's board seats on the Hospital Board, the medical staff believes it is a critical time to work with County Council to make

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the most informed and appropriate appointments to the Hospital Board. The medical staff requested the Council receive input on nominees from the medical staff and hospital. They recommended using an application which they provided to qualify candidates to provide consistency and serve as a tool to receive input from the medical staff executive committee and the hospital board on nominees. Health care is more complicated than ever and we need expert management and leadership so they need to work together.

Mr. Steven Broadbent stated he lives in the middle of a junkyard. It has been twelve months since his neighbor declared bankruptcy and moved his business into what is his front yard. It makes noise six days a week during day light hours by smashing cars and driving them around using a forklift. Article 4 and Section 1 of the County Building Codes Ordinance addresses junkyards and salvage yards. It says no one can put wrecked vehicles on their property other than within an enclosed building or fence such as the neighbors don't have to look at the mess. There is nowhere on his property where he can stand and not see wrecked cars with few exceptions. Noise causes stress and he is very stressed out and his patience is at an end. He understood from speaking to Mr. Sinclair the matter has been forwarded from the Appeals Board to the attorneys to review the ordinance. The Building Code went into effect on July 1, 2009 and he has since filed a number of complaints. Mr. Greer who owns Union Auto Salvage presented his appeal in March. He was issued a citation on December 12th giving him 120 days to achieve compliance. Today is number 121. He and his wife have a right to live in their home in peace which supersedes Mr. Greer's right to conduct an illicit and noncompliant business. There are more cars coming in and no lawful place for him to put them. He asked Council to execute this with full prejudice and as much expediency as possible.

Dr. Alan Charles came by and gave out some handouts earlier on the Cross Keys House and had already left the meeting.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any comments from elected officials or department heads.

Clerk of Court Freddie Gault stated he and Solicitor Kevin Brackett had been talking about the sound system in the main court room. They have a proposal to replace the sound system at a cost of \$22,000.00. Solicitor Brackett will pay \$15,000.00 toward the cost and Mr. Gault stated he would pay the balance out of his funds.

Joey English: Made a motion to let them fix the sound system as stated.

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

Sheriff David Taylor stated they had been awarded a grant of a little less than \$22,000.00 for security in the courthouse. He has written an RFP to put it out for bids. They hope to have that in motion in May. This would be for security of the courthouse and the courtroom. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they are now issuing ID cards. Sheriff Taylor stated they would be replacing the judge's emergency response system.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced an ordinance to adopt the Union County Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011.

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Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the Union County Budget Ordinance for 2010-2011 as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced an amendment to the County ordinance pertaining to the appointments to the Hospital Board.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with referring the amendment to a committee and to accept first reading of the amendment to the County ordinance pertaining to the appointments to the Hospital Board as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any committee reports.

Councilwoman Dora Martin stated the Committee on County Administration and Finance had met but at this time they did not have a report to make as it was not complete.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the budget is in the news and the City Council had decided they could not provide the funds for the 4th of July celebration. The County has money in the budget for this year for our half of the cost. Some departments have been asked to hold down spending. Solicitor Brackett is exchanging some entry level salaries verses some experienced salaries to save the County money. Mr. Sinclair stated he would be bringing Council a proposed line item budget for them to consider.

Sheriff David Taylor stated he had talked to City Police Chief White and they plan to stop providing assistance with funeral escorts. The Sheriff's Office does not plan to cut out that service and will continue to provide that service to the public with or without the City's help.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated that because the budget is in the shape it is in with a lot of places laying people off and eliminating positions she would not want to be responsible for sending anyone to the unemployment line. If there are any vacant positions open then they should be eliminated. If we have any positions that become vacant then Council should evaluate the position to see if it should be filled. If it is a position that needs to be filled then we need to advertise in house first to see if we can get some applicants in house and then not replace within that department if feasible. Mr. Sinclair stated if they think they can absorb it or hire from within then that becomes a budget savings.

Sheriff David Taylor said he had already been notified by the School Board they are not going to have a School Resource Officer next year at Jonesville and Lockhart. He has an opening that he has not filled to keep that deputy a position.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other business but there was none.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council