

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE 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. Councilwoman 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 T. Martin-Jennings, 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

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 May 11, 2010, the special meetings of County Council held on April 19, 2010, April 21, 2010, April 23, 2010 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented service award certificates and gift certificates to Sammy Diamaduros for 10 years of dedicated service, to Barbara Hart for 15 years of dedicated service, to Wayne Baber, Jr. for 10 years of dedicated service and to William H. Howell for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to the Library Board. The Clerk to Council stated there were two positions open due to term expirations on June 30, 2010 for Thad Strom and Tom Crosby. There were two applicants who were Janet P. Marks and Michael D. Cassels.

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Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Janet P. Marks and Michael D. Cassels to serve on the Carnegie Library Board.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that next on the agenda was to consider an appointment to the Tourism Commission. Mr. Trampas Alderman who is the park manager at Rose Hill Plantation applied for the position.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Trampas Alderman to serve on the Union County Tourism Commission.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there were three upcoming vacancies on the Union County Development Board. The positions are currently held by Mr. Joe Nichols, Mr. Douglas Wilson and Mr. Auvis Cole with terms that expire on June 30, 2010.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the three positions on the Development Board.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Jonesville Fire Department, Philippi Fire Department and Cross Keys Fire Department have submitted sufficient documentation to request expansion of their boundaries. The next step would be for Council to authorize a public hearing be held. There has to be fifteen days notice of the public hearing. After the public hearing, then Council can authorize altering the boundaries.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to hold a public hearing for the three fire districts.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if the area Philippi Fire Department is requesting is the same area the Monarch Fire Department previously requested. Mr. Sinclair stated he reviewed the minutes of August 11, 2009 which stated the Monarch Fire Department was interested in expanding their boundaries and went on to describe the information that would be required to be included in the public hearing notice. There were also specific requirements for advertising the notice. The minutes went on to reflect that Councilman English had stated he would give a copy of the laws to the Chief of Monarch Fire Department in order to provide the information needed. The minutes stated a petition had been submitted by the residents in the Neal Shoals area who had no fire protection requesting that Monarch Fire Department expand to include them. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said he found nothing that showed anything past that. Councilman Joey English stated the petitions had been turned in. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie said she has a problem with advertising for a public hearing when someone previously had requested expansion of the same area. Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if Monarch Fire Department could not be included in the public hearing. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the motion would need to be amended to include them.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to amend his motion to state the advertisement for the public hearing would be for the Jonesville Fire Department, the Philippi Fire Department, the Cross Keys Fire Department, and the Monarch Fire Department.

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

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Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Auditor's Office would have to have this information by August 15th in order to affect a special purpose district change by the next tax season. They would like to have it by August 1st.

Mr. Auvis Cole gave an update for the Union County Tourism Commission. In the future, they would like to make quarterly updates in conjunction with the Economic Development Board as there is a huge economic tie in. Mr. Cole stated there were kiosks put in different locations in the county to enhance their existing products and to assist visitors. The locations were the Timken Sports Complex, the dragway facility, and downtown on Main Street in front of the Wachovia building. The new website is up and running. The You Are Here Maps will be going into the kiosks soon. The new website is set up as experienceunioncounty.com. The logo is in the final stages. He said he attended the NASC (National Association for Sports Commissions). Paul Wilkes with the Timken Sports Complex attended with him. They met with USA Softball, USA Baseball, and a host of sports organizations outside of baseball and softball. He was able to talk to two hotel representatives. They want to set up a Hotel Task Force to try to attract another hotelier into the county. The Commission is in the process of putting together two new guides. One is for outdoor recreation and the other is a restaurant and hotel guide. He stated they now have great representation on the Tourism Commission. Graham Williams is serving as the Chair of the Commission. Mr. Cole said a great deal has been accomplished but they realize they still have a lot to do. He stated they appreciate the Council's continued support.

Mr. Gator Hudson asked that the ban on the use of alcoholic beverages at the stadium and fairgrounds be lifted for special events. He said they want to be allowed to sell beer and wine but no alcohol or liquor for special events and fundraisers that have no children. He felt if it is allowed then there would be a lot more events since you would be able to have beer sponsors or whatever. The City of Spartanburg allows the sell of beer in downtown on Thursdays during the summer months for Main Street Live. Greenville and Spartanburg hold events in various locations that include the sale of beer and wine at concerns, plays, theatres and celebrations. Children may be present at them. Union has restaurants where families dine that sell beer, wine, liquor and beverages. Kids are always present. This would draw more tourism for different events. It would bring in more revenue for the county by charging tap fees or whatever. They would ask at all these events that there would be off duty officers that would be paid by whoever would put on the events. They would check IDs and provide proper security for all events. If nothing else, he suggested letting the people vote for it. That way it would be fair rather than having a few people speaking for everybody. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked him what his real interest was. Mr. Hudson said he does not drink but felt it would draw in more people and money for the county. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if he raises money for autism. Mr. Hudson stated he does. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings asked if there was any special group that he represents. Mr. Hudson said he did not represent anyone in particular. People talk around town and ask these questions especially for special events. For example, he had a poker run and if they had served alcohol they would have had more people there. That is not the reason he is doing it and Union County is the only county in

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the area that does not allow it. If they do allow it, it may bring in more people to events which would help the restaurants, gas stations, etc..

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated next on the agenda was Steven Broadbent who was not present. Mr. Sinclair said he spent about an hour and a half talking to him and felt they both furthered their understanding of the situation.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any comments from elected officials and department heads. Clerk of Court Freddie Gault stated they are working on putting the new sound system in the main court room. It sounds a lot better. They are also installing the wiring for the court management system.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they tried to spend approximately \$1,000.00 six weeks or so ago to patch the air conditioning system. The air conditioning system went out last week. They had to spend a few thousand dollars to get it repaired but it is up and running.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they have raised about \$4,000.00 toward the Fourth of July event.

Airport Manager Ron Wade stated they had some new paving and markings for the airport runway and tarmac. Grant funds were used at a seventy five twenty five ratio. The county spent about \$19,000.00 with the remainder of the funds coming from the state. They have had tournaments nearly every weekend at the Timken Sports Complex. They have two more this month.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there is a house in Lockhart that ultimately will be condemned and torn down but the property got tied up in probate. As we get more into the building code business and code enforcement there is a lot to be done. This is only one of many that need to be looked at.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needs to go into executive session to discuss three contractual matters before adopting the budget.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contractual matters.

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

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they had come out of executive session and no votes were taken.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they were looking at employee insurance files and were finding discrepancies.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to continue reconciling personnel and insurance discrepancies.

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

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Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented for third and final reading an ordinance to adopt the Union County Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adopt the Union County Budget Ordinance for 2010-2011 as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if there was any new business.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion that the County take Riverview Road into its system to maintain as it is at the present level.

Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if it meets the requirements under the Road Ordinance and Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings stated yes it does. Councilman Hanvey asked if the Road Committee had looked at it and Councilman Joey English stated it was really close to meeting the necessary standards. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said there needed to be a second to the motion before further discussion.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Joey English said all that was lacking on Riverview Road was some terra cotta and ditches and it might need a load of gravel. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she had a problem taking in a road that needs work when they have declined other roads that needed work. Scarborough Drive was up to code twelve years ago when they initially requested they come under the county's system then fell below the standards. Three Council Members (Dora Martin-Jennings, Randall Hanvey and Joan Little) voted in favor of the motion and three Council Members (Joey English, Kacie Petrie and Tommy Ford) opposed the motion resulting in a tie vote. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked Mr. Jerry Brannon how close to meeting the standards under the county's road ordinance the road was and he replied it was eighty percent. Chairman Tommy Sinclair voted in favor of the motion to accept Riverview Road under the County's road maintenance system.

Joey English: Made a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council