

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 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, and Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension.

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on August 8, 2007 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented service award certificates and gift cards to Melinda Haney for 5 years of dedicated service, to Doug Gilliam for 5 years of dedicated service, to Lisa Ward for 5 years of dedicated service, to Carolyn Williamson for 20 years of dedicated service, and to Avanelle Pettit for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the terms of members David Douglas and Thomas Krpata expire on September 1st on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Krpata had submitted a letter requesting they be reappointed.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to advertise the two positions on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that he and Vice Chair Dora Martin had attended a public hearing held in Carlisle concerning a possible site for a recycling center. There had only been two people in opposition to the proposed site. He had received a letter stating the Carlisle Town Council was willing to sell Union County 1 acre of land on Academy Street for \$5,500.00 for the recycling center.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to purchase the property for \$5,500.00 for a recycling center in Carlisle.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they had held a bid opening for the grading at the Timken Sports Complex. They received sixteen bids with the low bid of \$559,679.20 from Gramling Brothers Contracting, Inc.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to accept the low bid of \$559,679.20 from Gramling Brothers Contracting, Inc.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated one of the members of the Union County Tourism Commission had resigned due to a change in jobs. There was another member of the Commission who had not been attending the meetings but was not sure at what point Council wanted to look at the positions where the members had failed to attend the required seventy-five percent of the meetings. It was suggested that the member be consulted to see if they wished to remain on the Commission or would tender their resignation.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to advertise the position on the Union County Tourism Commission due to the member's resignation and to advertise the other position if the member wished to tender their resignation.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh introduced a resolution that Council would provide a cash match of \$125,000.00 for Community Development Block Grant funding through the Community Enrichment Program and provide up to \$180,000.00 per year for operational and maintenance costs for a robotics and industrial technology training facility to be located in Union County and operated by Spartanburg Community College.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution to provide a cash match of \$125,000.00 for this project and up to \$180,000.00 per year for operational and maintenance costs.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked Tax Assessor Bill Randall about the mobile home in Monarch. The owner had called about donating the property to the County. He asked the Assessor to follow up on this.

Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented for condemnation the Bogan property in Jonesville. Council was provided pictures of the property. All the properties to be discussed had been brought to their attention by the Town of Jonesville.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to proceed with the condemnation process.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

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

Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented for condemnation the Garner property on Main Street in Jonesville. Councilman Joe Lawson asked if they had not previously looked at this as an unsightly property and decided not to do anything about it at that time. Mr. Randall stated that they had taken wood off the house and it did not appear that they planned to make any improvements to the house. They are taking wood off the house and putting it on a nearby barn. The floors are gone on the inside and water is getting inside the house. The house should now be considered for condemnation.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to go ahead and process the way we normally do which would give us that extra month and follow up with getting some pictures of where the lumber has been taken off and some pictures of the inside.

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

Tax Assessor presented for condemnation another piece of property owned by Mr. Garner. Council was provided pictures of the property.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to proceed with condemnation.

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

Nanette Jenkins representing Boogaloo stated they were thrilled with the plays they have been able to produce and the crowds they have brought in. She expressed her appreciation for County Council's financial support and attendance. Betsy Trakas stated they have dreams for Boogaloo and for Union County. They see themselves as a great catalyst for economic growth and development for this county. Boogaloo is a non profit organization and their mission is to preserve the oral histories of Union County through the theatre. They gather stories from people who live in Union and turn those into plays. Another part of their mission is to provide opportunities for the talented actors, singers, dancers, designers, and artists that live in this county and to provide quality entertainment for their audiences. It is an entirely Union County project which comes from the people. It is written, directed, produced and performed entirely by citizens of Union County. They provide two shows a year with about one hundred people involved for each show. They are beginning show number thirteen. There are about one hundred people who are indirectly involved through ticket sales, clerical work, advertising, operating the concession stand, and building maintenance. They reach audiences of about two thousand people per show. Their biggest obstacle is their building as they are currently using the old Berry Builder Mart. Having a new facility is their dream. Mr. David Langley who is an architect with Langley and Associates presented a design for the proposed new facility for the Union Arts Center. They propose building the facility on the old Territex site which encompasses almost one city block and would provide parking for three to four hundred people. The design provides for a theatre, an outside amphitheatre, and reception area. There would be training space that could be used for other public uses. The design was for a two story building with 18,000 square feet with a preliminary budget of 3.4 to 4.2 million dollars. Ms. Nannette Jenkins stated this would be an expensive project but the City has helped them with the first step by getting David Langley's help to get their dream on paper. They asked the Council to consider how they could help them. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that when the County created the

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

Tax Increment Finance (T.I.F.) District with the School District a few years ago the intention was then that those funds would be leveraged for such a multi purpose building. In order for the City to reinstate that T.I.F. District they had to have prior majority approval from the County Council and the School Board. He was not sure how much money that would bring in but suggested they check into it. All the tax money that was allocated to the County and the School District goes straight into that T.I.F. District. The County and School Board gave up their rights to any taxes in order for it to go toward some type of community building. The School Board should also be involved as well as the Tourism Commission.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh informed Council the Tractor Show and the Uniquely Union event would be held this weekend. He received a thank you note from the group associated with the Antique Farm Show expressing their thanks for the County's contribution.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for third and final reading the amendment to the Library Ordinance which would allow for staggered terms of the members so that you do not have half the members coming off at the same time.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adopt the amendment to the ordinance pertaining to the terms of the members on the Library Board.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing the development of a joint-county industrial and business park in Spartanburg County in conjunction with Spartanburg County and a written agreement with Spartanburg County to provide for the manner by which expenses and revenues from such park would be allocated.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance pertaining to development of a joint-county industrial and business park in Spartanburg County as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they had multiple requests from the volunteer fire departments throughout the county asking that due to their financial constraint that their tax levy be increased based on the 3.2% allowed. Those fire departments are Buffalo Fire Department, Bonham Fire Department, Cross Keys Fire Department, Phillipi Fire Department, Santuc Fire Department, and Southside Fire Department. Council will need to consider these requests when they set the tax levy.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented a financial report from the Carlisle Fire Department.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the financial report for Carlisle Fire Department.

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

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council