

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 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 Randall Hanvey, Councilman Joey English, 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.

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 August 10, 2010, the special meeting of County Council held on August 2, 2010, the special meeting of County Council held on August 10, 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 Michael Manus for 5 years of dedicated service, Michael Vinson for 5 years of dedicated service, Donald Ray Sanders for 5 years of dedicated service, Kathy Teague for 5 years of dedicated service, Lorene Bevis for 20 years of dedicated service, Sundres Glenn for 20 years of dedicated service, Allyson Ayers for 20 years of dedicated service and Nadie Gault for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair recognized Mr. Walker Babb by presenting him with a Union County Dollar for his forty plus years of service as a fireman and reserve police officer. Sheriff David Taylor stated Mr. Babb had been a reserve deputy with the Sheriff's Department since 1985 and had in more than five thousand hours of volunteer time with Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair recognized Mrs. Gail Cobb by presenting her with a Union County Dollar for her service with the Booster Club for ten years and for handling the high school football tickets for eighteen years.

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Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider a vacancy on the Library Board due to the resignation of Chrissy Mobley. Mr. James Wicks had expressed an interest in serving on the Library Board.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint James Wicks to fill the unexpired term on the Union Carnegie Library Board.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider a vacancy on the Tourism Commission as Nancy Rosenwald had left. Ms. Jeannie Mobley had expressed an interest in serving on the commission.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Jeannie Mobley to fill the unexpired term on the Union County Tourism Commission.

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

Mrs. Virginia and Mr. Steven Beahrs from Buffalo expressed their concerns about the old Buffalo Mill property not being cleaned up and about other properties that are not being taken care of. This has resulted in a rat infestation because nothing is being done. She stated the County needs an ordinance with enough teeth that Code Enforcement Officer Scott Coffey can go in to have these people get the yards cleaned up. Councilman Tommy Ford asked if she had made a formal complaint and she responded that she had. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that the problem is not just in Buffalo and exists in many other areas of the county as well. The Council had implemented a building ordinance that is being amended and may need to be amended further. He said he and Councilman Tommy Ford had met with the magistrate about Buffalo Mill and trying to get it cleaned up. Sheriff David Taylor stated the Code Enforcement Officer writes a letter to the property owner to try to get the lot cleaned up but if they don't then all he can do is issue a citation. That does not mean they will clean up the lot and if they don't then they issue another citation. They are trying to work through this process to get the lot cleaned up by whatever means possible. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated this is just a slow process. Mr. Beahrs said it looked like they would have an ordinance to cover this and Council stated they already have an ordinance. Councilman Tommy Ford said under the ordinance that if the property owner does not clean up the property then he can be fined every fourteen days. Mr. Beahrs said it looked like the County should be able to go in and clean it up and put it on their tax bill. Sheriff Taylor stated that was something they would have to address and it would not happen overnight. Councilman Tommy Ford stated the ordinance only went into effect on July 1st of 2009. They simply have to follow the law and follow procedures.

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

Sheriff David Taylor informed Council he had been approved for a grant in the amount of \$56,800 to purchase a new fingerprint system for the jail. The machine will cost \$46,000 with a \$4,000 maintenance contract. He requested Council allow him to purchase the system in advance and then be reimbursed from the grant funds since they need it as soon as possible.

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Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to front the funds from a special fund account until the County is reimbursed from grant funds.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the approval for changing the voting place at Jonesville came through from the Department of Justice last week. They will now vote at the old Jonesville High School. They had to buy some computers to improve the voter situation. It was required that the voters be notified so they will have to send out four thousand notices to tell them the voting place has been moved.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he thought the new wall at the stadium looked nice. They are trying to establish a fall league at Timken Sports Complex to try to generate as much money from that facility as we can. There were six teams there last night and they hope to have eight teams there tonight.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they are working on amending the building codes ordinance to require a performance bond. If someone is tearing down a structure then they are required to have a performance bond so that if they don't tear it down the County can collect on that bond and clean it up themselves. County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros stated they had asked the McNair Law Firm to assist with this in order to hold second reading of the amendment. County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros read the amendment to County Ordinance Number 248 requiring a performance bond.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to accept second reading of the amendment to County Ordinance Number 248 as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced and read a resolution whereby Union County Council agrees to provide a match of up to \$2,000 to develop a textile mill redevelopment guide for local governments. Union County would partner with Chester County, Lancaster County, York County and Catawba Regional Council of Governments with each entity providing \$2,000 for the project.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution 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 of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to approve first reading of an amendment to the Union County Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 2010-2011. This amendment would not change the total of the budget but would allow funds to be moved around within the budget and allow funds to hire a part time employee.

Joey English: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked who the part time employee would be and Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings stated that it is providing a position in case they needed one. The vote was unanimous.

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Councilman Tommy Ford stated the Committee on Planning and Development had met and discussed the noise ordinance. It was decided to table that ordinance for now.

Joey English: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Bridges and County Property to authorize an additional driver at public works at an Operator Level I position and the funds would not come out of building inspector money.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if this would be advertised in house first and Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated it would. Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if this was coming from money already in the public works budget and Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that it was.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there was a move to reorganize the Clemson Extension Services throughout the state. They have written a letter to Clemson stating that as they understand restructuring there will be fourteen service center sites in the state and Union County requests formally that we be one of those sites. There are about fifteen letters of support.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other business.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked about the priority list for Catawba Regional Council of Governments. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings stated that number one on the list is to seek funds for a planning grant to study water needs throughout Union County. Number two on the list is for upgrade of water and sewer systems that are not receiving adequate service particularly in the Monarch Mill Village. Number four on the list is to continue efforts to extend water and sewer lines and other infrastructure to sites for potential businesses. Number twelve on the list is to provide water and sewer services to areas not presently served including the Bailey Road area. She felt when the list is prioritized that since all those are asking for water and sewer they should be consolidated. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated that number two on the list is to upgrade water and sewer for the Monarch Mill Village. That grant has already been applied for and phase I has been approved. She asked that it be placed as number one on the list. She wanted to see the Ottoray revitalization moved from number three to number two on the list. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie noted that number twelve on the list was the only one that was brought out by a citizen as a result of the public hearing that was held. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings stated she still felt those could be combined since they all refer to water and sewer. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he would rework the list to reflect what had been discussed. He stated that geographically Ottoray is located close enough to commerce and Main Street to qualify. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated it was the only mill village the county could apply for that would qualify because of geographical distance.

Joey English: Made a motion to adjourn.

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council