

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019 AT 5:30P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilman Tommie Hill and Councilman Ralph Tucker

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 emailed to the members of the Union County Council, mailed to the County Attorney, and mailed or emailed to the Union County Development Board, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtiss Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, Charles Warner at the Union Times, Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC, Michael Lee with MHISC, Rob Fraim at Emergency Services and Randall Hanvey. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. Council Chaplin David Sinclair gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Tracie Campbell, District 1 – Present

Ralph Tucker, District 2 -Absent

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4- Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 -Absent

Kacie Petrie, District 6– Present

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on March 12, 2019, the special meeting of County Council held on March 4, 2019, and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate for Esther Starnes for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Lisa Campbell to discuss a noise ordinance but she was not present.

Code Enforcement Officer David Kitchens stated they had requested a golf cart during the budget process and said \$6,000 had been set aside for that in Capital Expenditures. He requested these funds be used toward the purchase of a used transport van for animal control. Councilman Ben Ivey stated some standards needed to be set on the use, maintenance and insurance on the proposed vehicle. There were

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standards needed to be set on the use, maintenance and insurance on the vehicle. There was some discussion about making sure only county employees would drive the vehicle for insurance purposes.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve \$6,000.00 from the Capital Expenditures account to be used toward the purchase of a used transport van for Animal Control as long as a county employee is driving it.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion.

There was some discussion as to what kind of transport van could be purchased for \$6,000.00 and if the department had additional funds to add to that. Chairman Frank Hart stated he had not looked for additional funds but suggested Council go ahead with approval of the \$6,000.00 and if they cannot find a reliable vehicle then they would carry that amount over to the new budget. The motion carried with three (3) Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion and one (1) Councilmember (Ben Ivey) opposing.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Tiffany Jackson with Public Works was on the agenda to discuss what can be disposed of at the convenience centers and whether or not the County wants to require stickers similar to what is done in other counties. He referred the matter to the Committee on Public Works, Roads and Bridges and County Property to come back to Council with a recommendation.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the person he appointed to the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse resigned so he recommended the appointment of Patricia Nichols.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Patricia Nichols to serve an unexpired term on the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart asked if there were any other recommendations from Council for vacancies on any of the boards and commissions but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss frequency upgrades for the fire station sirens. He said they had completed the migration for fire services. The County paid for the reprogramming of the mobile and hand-held radios for the fire departments to move over to the new frequency. Some of the fire departments asked to have their station's siren reprogrammed as well. A number of the fire departments do not want them. The cost for the fire departments that have requested the reprogramming is \$15,000. Chairman Frank Hart referred the request to the Committee on Planning and Development to discuss whether or not they really need the sirens.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had completed for the most part Phase I of the renovations at the stadium. They want to make further improvements in Phase II to the ticket booths, new fencing, fixing the roof on the baseball concessions stand as well as an ADA access ramp from the higher level to the lower level and some parking lot work. He requested Council approve taking \$115,000 from Fund 269 which is the fund that holds the first payment from the School District in the amount of \$130,000. This is where the School District paid the County back for bond funds so we could go ahead and release that work.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to take \$115,000.00 from Fund 269 for Phase II of the stadium renovations.

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

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Economic Development Director Kathy Jo Lancaster requested permission to move forward with a proposal for an updated topographic survey of the Trakas Industrial site. She said she sent a grant proposal to the Department of Commerce requesting assistance through the Due Diligence Fund to offset the cost for the study. She introduced Josh Fowler who is a civil engineer with Satera which is an environmental and engineering consulting firm that has helped them on the Trakas site. They are looking at doing an updated topographic survey on 112 acres which is the developable portion of the park located at the front. The park is owned by Union County and is a total of 164 acres. It is two South Carolina certified sites. Josh Fowler explained the need for the new survey and the information it would provide. Kathy Jo Lancaster stated they were awarded the Due Diligence Grant for a total project of \$37,500 with the grant reimbursing \$28,000. It would cost the County a little over \$9,000 which would be paid out of the Trakas account. She recommended they move forward with the study and take the funds out of the Trakas account. Then she would submit receipts to the Department of Commerce to be reimbursed.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to move forward with the study as recommended and take the funds out of the Trakas account with the grant funds being reimbursed by the Department of Commerce.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated that next on the agenda was to discuss property at the Jonesville recycling center adjacent to 306 Worthy Street. The owner of the property at 306 Worthy Street contacted him about purchasing a portion of the property to the right of a wet weather stream that borders her property. The County would have to advertise and take bids.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise and take bids on the parcel.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there are a number of budgeted vacant positions at the Union County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Office. He requested permission to fill the positions of executive director, the finance administrative person, and a clinical counselor.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to allow the County Supervisor to fill the positions of executive director, the finance administrative person and a clinical counselor for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Office.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there was a vacant budgeted position in the Public Works Department for a person in the Road Department.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to fill the vacant budgeted position in the Road Department as requested.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider an invoice pertaining to the holding pond at the Detention Center. He said they had been in discussion with the industry in that area about them acquiring that property for expansion. To do that the County would need to drain the pond and DHEC requires we have an engineering assessment and plan to do so. The quote was \$7,500 from EnviroSouth to get through the permitting process which he proposed be paid from Economic Development Fund 327.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from EnviroSouth in the amount of \$7,500 to be paid from Economic Development Fund 327.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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Chairman Frank Hart called for any comments from the elected officials and department heads.

Finance Director Ann Boggs said she had provided Council with a financial report and we are tracking fairly well on expenses. She is working on the calculations for the Local Option Sales Tax money for the budget meeting.

Sheriff David Taylor stated the roof on the 911 building has been completed and they have not seen any leaks.

Neil McKeown who is over the Detention Center and the Jail stated everything is pretty good right now and they are down only one employee.

Code Enforcement Officer David Kitchens said everything was going great.

Airport and Stadium Manger Ronnie Wade stated he was waiting for the weather station to be delivered. They are doing the plan on the holding pond. They are helping this weekend with the library event where they will help serve food. He said on Friday they would be doing a practice graduation at the stadium.

Recreation Facilities Director Kevin Shropshire stated they have four fields done as part of the renovation project and baseball has started.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated Phase I through Phase III of the EMS renovation project are essentially completed. He said he still has not received any news on his grant application for \$265,000 for a new ambulance. They purchased new equipment with the money from the Grant-In-Aid. They had a site visit from the regional foundation last Friday for a new CPR device. They participated in Career Day at the High School recently. Their new ambulance is in town and is being stocked and is scheduled for radio installation next week. It will still need to be inspected by DHEC. EMS Week is May 19th through May 25th. They are participating in Kids Fest on Saturday.

Rieta Drinkwine with the Carnegie Library handed out her monthly report. Kids Fest will be held on Saturday which is a First Steps event. It is National Library Week, Week of the Young Child, and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The library hosted nine outreach programs in addition to the twenty nine programs they did at the library last month. They partnered with ten different agencies. They are still a National Metal finalist and they should find out by the end of the month if they are a recipient. They had applied for numerous grants and four of them have been funded for such things as books for children and funding for another national exhibit. They are getting ready for the summer reading program.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated the race track opened last weekend. Big Race will be held on May 16th. They have done a lot of repairs at the track and Tony Brown is back as the proprietor. They are planning a weekend family event at the track during the weekend of the Fourth.

Development Board Director Kathy Jo Lancaster stated activity is still good and they are getting a lot of looks at our buildings. They are working on infrastructure projects and they are taking bids on the Cudd property.

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Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County Industrial and Business Park (Milliken) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirements of payments of Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the Park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County Industrial and Business Park (Milliken) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirements of payments of Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and to make appropriations for such Union County budgets for County ordinary purposes and for other County purposes for which the County may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Union County for such County ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Union County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Union County and Union County budgetary matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and to make appropriations for such Union County budgets for County ordinary purposes and for other County purposes for which the County may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Union County for such County ordinary purposes, including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Union County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Union County and Union County budgetary matters.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an amendment to Ordinance No. 331 adopting the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 to allow for budget changes.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the amendment to a committee and to accept first reading of the amendment to Ordinance No. 331 adopting the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 to allow for budget changes.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the first Union County Council Budget Workshop would be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Council agreed to hold the makeup day on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 beginning at 4:00p.m.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had a copy of committee referrals. He referred to the Planning and Development Committee a matter from fire services related to an ordinance to charge a fee for fire service response to vehicular accidents as well as house fires. He asked that the chairs of the committees get some meetings scheduled.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports but there were none.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss an economic development matter, a legal/contractual matter and a personnel matter.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The County Council went into executive session to discuss an economic development matter, a legal/contractual matter and a personnel matter.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were ready to close the executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

The County Council closed executive session and returned to regular session.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business but there was none.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council