

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice Chair Kacie Petrie, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Ben Ivey Councilman Randall Hanvey, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Acting Clerk to Council Kindra Horne

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. 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 Acting Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Joan Little, District 1 - Present
Dora Martin-Jennings, District 2 - Present
Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 - Present

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to approve the previous minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on December 13, 2011 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that next on the agenda was presentation of service awards. He recognized Joan Little for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County. The recipients are provided a service award certificate and gift card in appreciation for their years of service.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider a vacancy on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission for an unexpired term. The applicants were James Russell Rice, Modest Keenan, Jr., Lynn G. Eaves, Charles Barber, and Ron Williams. Chairman Tommy Sinclair entertained motions for appointments.

Councilwoman Joan Little nominated Lynn Eaves and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie seconded the nomination.

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Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings nominated James Rice and Councilman Randall Hanvey seconded the motion.

There were no further nominations.

Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, Councilman Tommy Ford, and Councilman Ben Ivey voted in favor of appointing Lynn Eaves.

Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings and Councilman Randall Hanvey voted in favor of appointing James Rice.

Mr. Lynn Eaves was appointed by majority vote to serve on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Cross Keys Board of Fire Control. There were four vacancies and four applicants. They went through the election process in terms of advertising. The four applicants were Stephen Stone, Elly Smith, Ruben Gilliam, and Jimmy Estes.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Stephen Stone, Elly Smith, Ruben Gilliam, and Jimmy Estes to serve on the Board of Fire Control for the Cross Keys Fire District and to approve Daria Burns as a replacement for a vacancy on the current Board.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there are vacancies on the Fair Board, Stadium Commission and Hospital Board.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies.

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

Councilwoman Joan Little asked if they normally advertise for the vacancies on the Fair Board or each council member appoints one. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that last year they advertised which gives the members of Council an opportunity to see who in their district is interested in serving.

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

Sheriff David Taylor gave a power point presentation on his end of the year report for the year 2011. They received 19,323 calls that came into dispatch that they responded to in one direction or another. They served 1,723 arrest warrants, served 3,415 civil papers and transported 86 people to mental institutions across the State of South Carolina. That did not include the number that were transported to Wallace Thomson Hospital and released. The number of cases requiring investigation was 1,079 cases assigned with 938 cases being closed. The number of arrests from those investigations was 1,033 representing a clearance rate of cases assigned of 86.93%. They seized three vehicles during burglaries. The total number of arrests by the Sheriff's Office was 1,253. The total cases received by the Sheriff's Office were 3,140 cases including road deputies and the investigative division. The Drug Unit arrested 334 people. They seized \$31,189 in currency that was forfeited into the drug seizure account. They seized five vehicles and twenty firearms. They had six federal drug indictments. The total number of cases worked by the litter control or code enforcement officer was 243 cases investigated and he wrote 106 county ordinance tickets, twenty uniform State tickets for a total of 126 written citations. That does not include the warrants. He signed 80 arrest warrants that involved scrap metal thefts, air conditioner

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thefts, and vehicle thefts. He wrote \$18,585 in litter fines. Sheriff Taylor gave a progress report on the Buffalo Mill project. He gave a report on metal permits. They established the blood hound unit and he gave an update on that. He gave a report on the gang activity; on the jail and 911; on the grants received by his departments; on the Crime Stoppers program; on the Special Response Team (SRT); on the records management systems; and on the Power Shift. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if scrap metal theft is up or down and Sheriff Taylor responded that it is down. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if construction theft and Sheriff Taylor responded there was a problem at Carlsan School where Scott Coffey put out some cameras and were able to make arrests. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked why someone would want a 48 hour permit as opposed to a one year permit for scrap metal. Sheriff David Taylor responded that the State law allows for two types of permits. A 48 hour permit would allow an individual who might need to haul scrap metal once or twice a year. A permit for one year would be for someone that does this for a living.

Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey reported that they have approximately 14,000 parcels converted which is over half. They have a total of about 22,000 parcels. They are in the process of setting up their training and getting ready to take delivery of the final product. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that due to this and some other things the County would need to look at expansion of IT at an approximate cost of \$20,000.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Ottoray project has been turned over to Jason Vance with Catawba Regional Council of Governments. It seems that if you are approved to receive the \$25,000.00 grant for the study then you are in good shape to get the rest of the funding. Then the County jointly with the City would be putting in for a transportation planning grant in the amount of \$30,000 with a 10% match which the County and City would share. The study would determine if there is a need for some type of public transportation for Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other business.

Councilman Tommy Ford said he had a call from Phillip Arnold who talked to Council about turning around the stadium to play baseball on. They would like to know something and Councilman Ford said he wanted to call for a vote on the matter. They got the ball fields in Buffalo back and were told it would not be strictly for use by Dixie Youth since it was county property. He felt the same was true for use of the stadium. Councilman Tommy Ford called for a vote of County Council on whether they were going to turn around the stadium for use for baseball. Councilwoman Joan Little said if they turn the stadium around it would cost the County \$35,000 to turn it around where if they play at Buffalo then it would not cost the County anything. Councilman Tommy Ford said he had not been shown an itemized statement where it costs \$35,000 to turn the stadium around.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to turn the stadium around for baseball.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Randall Hanvey said he understood that when they had the bleachers fixed that if they were moved again it would do away with any warranty the engineer had signed off on. Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated the engineer signed a warranty as the bleachers sit. If we remove the bleachers again then they want a cart made for each one of

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the bleachers at an estimated cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000. Every time they are moved they would need the engineer to stamp that it is safe. If they had those bleachers to fall then the County would have to accept that liability. Councilman Randall Hanvey said he was under the impression that they would be willing to use the stadium as is just to use the practice of the grass end field and not to turn the stadium over. If that is the case where nothing had to be done and all they needed was permission to use the end field to practice on then he has not problem with that. If we take a risk on losing our warranty on those bleachers and it costs an additional \$20,000 or more to have carts to move those things then he is not in favor of doing that. Councilman Tommy Ford said if the County spent \$20,000 last year to repair the bleachers and then can't move them then they did not do too good a job. He thought the bleachers came with wheels on them and a tongue to use to jack them up and attach to a tractor to move them. Last year they moved them with a forklift. If you spent \$20,000 on them they should be in good enough shape to move. If you have to get an engineer to come back to check the bleachers he thought the school and/or the American Legion would cover the cost. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated that if the schools can use it like it is then why would the County need to incur any cost at all? Mr. Ronnie Wade stated that he understood the schools were not interested in using our facilities.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for the vote on the motion. Councilman Tommy Ford and Councilman Ben Ivey voted in favor of turning the stadium for baseball. Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings, Councilman Randall Hanvey and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie opposed the motion. Councilman Randall Hanvey suggested they be allowed to use the end field. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said there is a separate contract discussion with the School District.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council