

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly  
Absent: None

Council Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. County Council Chaplin Ben Ivey 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  
Ralph Tucker, 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 dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on December 8, 2015 and to adopt the minutes as written.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card to Councilman Ben C. Ivey, III for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Heather Witt and Missy Wilkes discussed United Way and the services they offer. United Way provides a 211 telephone number for information on what local services are available and provide a volunteer income tax assistance program. They will be celebrating their third year as a partnership center which they share with other agencies such as Union Cancer Services, Miracle League, Alzheimer's Association, Red Cross, Safe Home Rape Crisis Center, and the Children's Advocacy Center. They will be looking at a plan to help some families move out of poverty. Twelve cents of each dollar donated goes toward overhead and administrative costs and the remainder goes toward programs in Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated that next on the agenda was Robert Alexander to discuss the ISO rating in the Whitmire area of the county but he was not present.

Terry Worthy and Ben Gilliam addressed Council about the need for a fire department substation in the Goldville area of the county. Mr. Worthy stated they understood the Bonham Fire Department was looking at building a new facility and wondered if they could get the materials from the existing building to use for their substation. Chairman Frank Hart stated he thought that was part of the long range plan for the Bonham Fire

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Department but there is no schedule for them to vacate their building. He understood the Carlisle Fire Department had secured some property in that area. He recommended they work through the Carlisle Fire Board as they would be the ones to take the lead on the plans and financing. He felt sure County Council would support the substation but it needs to be a local driven effort since the Carlisle Fire Department would have to finance, operate and staff it. Councilman Ralph Tucker stated they need protection in that area of the county.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals and there were two applicants who were Paul Sanders and Mark Garner. The remaining positions would need to be readvertised.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise for the remaining positions on the Building Code Board of Appeals.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Mark Garner to the Building Code Board of Appeals.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Paul Sanders to serve on the Building Code Board of Appeals.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Planning Commission and there were two applicants which were Evans Crocker and Carlisle Oxner.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise the remaining positions on the Planning Commission.

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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to appoint Evans Crocker to serve on the Planning Commission.

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

Chairman Frank Hart recommended the appointment of J. Carlisle Oxner, III to serve on the Planning Commission.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint J. Carlisle Oxner, III to serve on the Planning Commission.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The motion carried with five (5) Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion and one (1) councilmember (Ben Ivey) opposing.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider a letter of credit for the purchase of a fire truck and plan for the Buffalo Fire District but he suggested it be tabled since they need some additional documentation from the fire department.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss a one cent sales tax for property tax relief. He asked Council if they wanted to move forward on this by setting up a meeting with the Department of Revenue to go over it with Council so they would know how it would work.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to proceed.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart stated he had provided Council with the proposed dates and locations for the Council meetings for 2016. He said Mayor Mary Ferguson-Glen had requested the meeting in Carlisle be held in August rather than July and asked that change be made.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to approve the dates and locations for the Union County Council meetings with the requested change.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a resolution authorizing the County Council of Union County to publish a notice of public hearing regarding whether it may be in the interest of Lockhart Fire District for Union County Council to authorize the Board of Fire Control to issue General Obligation Bonds of the District in the principal amount of not exceeding \$231,000.00 and authorizing the form of such notice of public hearing. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if there was anything else they owed for. Chairman Frank Hart stated it was their only debt and would consume their full eight percent debt limit of the assessed value within their district. Councilman Ben Ivey stated as long as they have given public notice and the residents are willing to accept it then Council needs to move forward.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution to publish a public hearing notice pertaining to Lockhart Fire District as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they would table the resolution concerning a public hearing on the creation of Buffalo Fire District since they have not received needed documentation from the Buffalo Fire Department.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution and delivery by Union County, South Carolina of a Fee In Lieu of Taxes Agreement with Haemonetics Corporation with respect to a project in the county whereby the project would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and whereby Haemonetics Corporation would be provided certain credits against fee payments; the placement of the project in a joint county industrial and business park; and related matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance pertaining to Haemonetics Corporation as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they would table the ordinance pertaining to the Buffalo Fire District since they were waiting for additional information.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Andrena Powell-Baker had resigned as Development Board Director for another career opportunity. He said he would hate to see her go and that she had done a great job for Union County. Mrs. Andrena Powell-Baker thanked County Council for their support during her time with the Development Board and felt sure they would continue to provide their support. She stated GESCRAP was a metal working company and recycling company that followed Gestamp and Gonvauto to South Carolina.

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They will be working with them to recycle their metal. She stated it was a six million dollar project with twenty one jobs. Chairman Frank Hart presented for first reading an ordinance authorizing the first amendment of that certain fee agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Gonvauto South Carolina, LLC effective as of July 25, 2012 and relating to, without limitation, the addition of Gesrecycling USA, LLC as a sponsor affiliate under the fee agreement for certain matters; and other matters related thereto.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to adopt the ordinance pertaining to Gesrecycling USA, LLC as stated.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for first reading an ordinance in title only amending Division 3. Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Article XI. Boards, Commissions, and Similar entities of Chapter 2. Administration of the Union County Code of Ordinances, in certain limited regards and particulars, only; and other matters related thereto.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance pertaining to the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse as stated.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for first reading in title only an ordinance authorizing the Board of Fire Control of the Lockhart Fire District to issue General Obligation Bonds in the principal amount of not exceeding \$231,000.00 of Lockhart Fire District; and other matters related thereto.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading on the ordinance pertaining to the Board of Fire Control of the Lockhart Fire District to issue General Obligation Bonds as stated.

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

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

Sheriff David Taylor commented that Nathan Burdine has done a great job as Animal Control Officer. Their call volume dropped to half on animal control complaints since he took over.

Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey stated that since reassessment went into effect this year they have had 22,137 parcels with 261 informal appeals which was less than 2%. They had five go to the Board of Appeals with two settled and three pending. The number of informal appeals reflected a 17% decrease from what they had in 2011.

Building Superintendent Kenny West stated the new roof is on the library. They are in the process of taking bids on five other buildings. Four of the buildings are covered under insurance and the other is the EMS building which has a bad leak that needs to be taken care of. Chairman Frank Hart stated the roof on the building at the Fair had also been repaired.

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Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they are in catch up mode working on boats and motors and people who have not paid those taxes. They are looking at 544's which is personal property that people have not paid.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated part of the Wade house was moved this past week and the other two houses should be moved in the next couple of weeks.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Director Kevin Shropshire stated they were getting ready for ball which starts February 10th.

Building Official Brad Jolly stated they hope to have two houses on Mill Street in Buffalo and one house on Pine Street in Buffalo demolished by next month. They hope to be done with a house on Mechanic Street in Monarch. He and the County Attorney filed a tax lien on an Ottaray property. Catawba Regional COG is working on closing out the Ottaray Project. The community sign has been put up in Ottaray.

EMS Director Ronnie Roberson updated Council on changes in the shift and staffing pattern for EMS. They are currently operating three ambulances 24/7 and two more on a twelve hour basis. They are converting the two twelve hour trucks into a twenty four hour truck so they will have them all on twenty four hours. They have lost a lot of the transfer business since Spartanburg has an ambulance here. The change should help them pick up some of the out of town transfers and not diminish their ability to cover emergency calls in Union County. They are in the process of hiring a paramedic.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated that she and the Coon Hunters Organization would like to make a report to both Councils in the month of March. On January 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. they are having a meeting at the Annex Building for all interested parties that have a stake in the Southeastern Walker Day events. There is interest in holding an endurance race in Union. There was also interest in a horseback riding event.

Joe Nichols as Chairman of the Union County Development Board stated they had nominated their committee to start advertising for the Development Board Director position. Maceo Nance with the Department of Commerce will be assisting them with the search and provide guidance. There has been three hundred million in investments and over one thousand jobs created since Andrena Powell-Baker took over in 2009.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced Dr. Catalano who is the Acting Dean at USC-Union and stated he was excited about the university and what they are going to do in the county. He said he is a pleasure to work with and he has a cooperative spirit. Dr. Catalano stated the campus is going to grow and they are going to be involved in the community. They are going to do everything they can to make sure that campus is here another fifty years.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced Katherine Pendergrass as the part-time Workforce Development Coordinator working for Union County supporting our existing industry to make sure we have a trained available pool of applicants. She stated they hold a Workforce Summit every three months to come up with a strategic system for individual services to

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pull agencies back together in one spot. They are tackling hard barriers such as substance abuse, people that have a blemish on their record and transportation issues. Union County is trying to become a Work Ready Community to provide trained and certified candidates to fill jobs.

Sheriff David Taylor reiterated the community is very drug dependent and there needs to be a change in the mindset of our youth. The Sheriff's Office made more drug arrests this year than they have in the last nine years. People say they can't find a job but he went to Dollar General in October and they told him they had 57 job openings.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Animal Control Officer was working with the Humane Society and others who want to help raise money for the animal shelter.

Chairman Frank Hart said the Stadium Commission had requested two members from County Council to work with them to recommend capital improvements for the stadium. Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Tommy Ford and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie agreed to meet with the Stadium Commission.

Chairman Frank Hart stated it was budget time and he wanted to go ahead to get packets out so they could get started earlier this year. He wants to look at holding a one day Council retreat at a local location. Part of that process would be to develop a strategic five year plan for the county.

Chairman Frank Hart said some of the initiatives for 2016 would be working on the paving plan by working with the CTC to acquire funding for the road improvement plan for the county.

Chairman Frank Hart stated that Dr. Catalano was working with him as well as Henry Giles with Spartanburg Community College to establish a tuition assistance program. If a student finishes Union County High School with a 3.0 or higher they can attend USC-Union or the Spartanburg Community College campus in Union tuition free. This would be paid for with Economic Development funds.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they are putting together a Substance Abuse Task Force which would include the Sheriff from the law enforcement side and Alcohol and Drug Abuse from the prevention and treatment side. The solicitor has agreed to help and the school district would have to be a part of this as well as the faith groups and service providers. They are trying to put together a comprehensive plan to get our arms around substance abuse. He said he looks at it as lost human potential. If folks cannot pass a drug test then they cannot go to work.

Chairman Frank Hart stated quality of life was going to be a push for this year. We need a theatre and a national chain restaurant to help the community grow.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were excited about the mechatronics program and he wants it up and running this fall. They talked to the school district about getting students

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from the eleventh and twelfth grades. They are working with Republic on a commitment for equipment and they will be meeting with the delegation. That is a program that supports industry. The students can get a one year certificate and get jobs making twenty dollars an hour with high demand.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had talked with Dr. Catalano about establishing a RN program in Union County. USC-Union would be a good partner to do that with. They would be looking at what it would take to navigate that process. His goal is that before the end of his term in office they could enroll some people from the high school to get their RN degree and go to work.

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

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter related to county facilities and a personnel related matter.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss a contractual matter related to county facilities and a personnel related matter.

Chairman Frank Hart announced they had coming out of executive session and no votes were taken.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session and return to regular session.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Frank Hart, Chair  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council