

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, 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, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station and to Graham Williams at the County News. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. Councilman 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

District 2 – Vacant Seat

Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate to Councilman Tommy Ford for 10 years and to Councilman Randall Hanvey for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

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 9, 2014 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated that next on the agenda was Aubrey Norris to discuss renaming Peakeville Road but he was not present at the meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to boards and commissions. There are vacancies on the Airport Commission, Appeals Board and Fair Board. He called for any nominations for the Airport Commission.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to recommend and appoint Daniel Burnett to serve on the Airport Commission.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he would be carrying over his appointment to the next meeting since he had not had an opportunity to speak to the applicants.

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Chairman Frank Hart called for any nominations for the Appeals Board. Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ben Ivey and Chairman Frank Hart stated they would make their recommendations at the next monthly meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart recommended William Jolly be appointed to serve on the Fair Board.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint William Jolly.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to recommend and appoint Dudley Adams to serve on the Fair Board.

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

Information Technology Manager Diane Freeman informed Council that Union County's network needs IT upgrades to the equipment in order to be in compliance with the IT technical audits. The audit is to ensure that the County's network meets all South Carolina Law Enforcement (SLED) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) regulations. The audit is due by January 30, 2015. The first phase which they are implementing now puts each entity on a private virtual local area network (VLAN). Boone Networking Services, LLC is providing services to complete this phase at a cost of \$1,400. The second phase of the upgrade would be updating the routers to run a VPN (Virtual Private Network) encryption over our Metro-E and T1 lines that connect our buildings at an approximate cost of \$38,200. The third phase requires the County to have advanced authentication when logging on to any computer containing CJIS (Criminal Justice Information System) data or any data at rest. The fourth phase of the upgrade would be to work on wireless hot spots for law enforcement. The money for phase one and two would be charged against the IT Upgrade account in the budget since this project is not funded. This could result in this account being overspent to handle these upgrade requirements. The phone system would also be affected by network changes.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced Theresa Thomas with U. S. Senator Lindsey Graham's office. She stated they had been working with some of the County's volunteer fire departments to try to get grant funds.

Kevin Shropshire and Dolton Williams gave a presentation on improvements that could be made to the Timken Sports Complex to help generate additional revenue. They proposed increasing the amount of tournaments they host, increasing quality of concessions, marketing and business development, merchandizing, and hosting other activities. They recommended appropriating \$30,000 from the Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Fund to support concessions upgrades and appropriating \$15,000 from the Hospitality and Accommodations Tax Fund to be used for business development and marketing for tournament play.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to fund the requested \$45,000.00 for the recommended upgrades at the Sports Complex.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated that next on the agenda was to elect Council officers for the next two years for vice-chair and chaplain.

Councilwoman Joan Little nominated Councilman Tommy Ford to serve as vice chair of County Council. There were no other nominations and Council agreed unanimously to appoint Councilman Tommy Ford to serve as vice chair of County Council for the next two years.

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Councilman Randall Hanvey recommended Councilman Ben Ivey to serve as Chaplain of County Council for the next two years.

Tommy Ford seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart provided Council with a proposal to hold the regular monthly meetings of the Union County Council on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. and holding one of the monthly meetings in each of the three outlying municipalities. He had tentative dates to hold the monthly County Council meetings in the Town of Lockhart, the Town of Carlisle Town and the Town of Jonesville. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie recommended leaving the time at 5:30 p.m. since she works until 5:00 p.m. and it would allow more of the public to attend. Councilwoman Joan Little stated she had observed those attending the meetings and it has not resulted in more people attending. Clerk of Court Freddie Gault stated the earlier meeting time could interfere with scheduling court and the Council's use of the Grand Jury Room for their meetings.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to leave the time of the regular monthly Council meetings at 5:30 p.m. and add the three offsite locations at the municipalities.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Catawba Regional Council of Governments. There are two open slots for an At-Large representative and a minority representative. He provided Council with a letter from Leroy Worthy requesting appointment to the COG board.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the positions on the board for Catawba Regional COG.

Councilman Randall Hanvey stated since this is not a board created by Council then why would they need to advertise. Chairman Frank Hart stated he recommended Mr. Worthy because he is working with the COG on the transportation plan. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated he just wanted people to understand this was not a County board and would require them to travel to the meetings. Councilman Tommy Ford felt the positions should be advertised to give everybody interested in serving on the board the opportunity to apply.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for any elected officials or department heads who wished to address Council.

Clerk of Court Freddie Gault stated he had received an email that family court had been postponed until 11:00 a.m. tomorrow in case there was any bad weather in the morning. He asked the news media to help get the word out.

Chief Perry Haney and Linda Mitchell addressed Council about upgrading the 911 communications by installing new equipment to help them move further into the next generation 911 system. Linda Mitchell stated they are upgrading from an analog system to an IP network at a cost of \$229,573.00. AT&T has agreed to divide that up into two payments to make it more affordable. They can request an 80% reimbursement from the State 911 Fund leaving the County owing \$62,453.00. There would be a period of time between the time the payments are made and the reimbursements are received which could cause the balance in the 911 fund to drop below an amount needed to cover their monthly expenses. They requested the County buffer that account in the event that a deficiency should occur.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to buffer the 911 account if needed.

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

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Recreation Director Becky Cobb stated they had started their youth basketball program and invited everyone to come watch the games.

Chairman Frank Hart recognized Development Board Director Andrena Powell-Baker who informed Council that Vapor Apparel had announced they would be opening their business in Union County in the old D&D Specialties facility. It will be just under \$1.4 million in capital investments and will be bringing 114 new jobs over five years.

Chairman Frank Hart recognized Tourism Director Curtis Hunter who stated they are working on the AG+Art Tour. They are working on a presentation to Council on the Coon Hunters event. They are putting together two other committees on music and motor sports. Councilman Ben Ivey asked how the expo went and Mrs. Hunter stated there were some weather issues but felt it went well. She also talked about a Coon Hunters event she attended in Orangeburg.

Chairman Frank Hart recognized Ben Loftis with the Carnegie Library who stated they had extended the hours at the library.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Standard Textile Carolina, Inc.; and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes related to the project.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance as stated.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart said he would be asking Council to hold a special meeting to discuss the planning process. He stated they were working on a Legislative Delegation meeting to discuss issues that are important to Union. He plans to hold regularly scheduled department head meetings. The Council committee assignments need to be made and he asked each Councilmember to select the committees they would most like to serve on.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had been provided with a letter from the Director of Council on Aging requesting some assistance with one of their transportation vans.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were vacancies on the Carlisle Fire Board and the Kelly-Kelton Fire Board which had been advertised but we received no applicants. Ann Stevens has submitted her resignation from the Carlisle Fire Board since she is now serving on the Carlisle Town Council.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to re-advertise the vacancies on the Carlisle Fire Board and the Kelly-Kelton Fire Board.

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

Chairman Frank Hart asked the Council representatives from those areas to encourage people to apply.

County Council took a break at 6:45 p.m. and reconvened at 6:54 p.m.

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Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had come out of executive session and no votes were taken.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to reimburse the Development Board for the money they spent to get the Trakas property recertified out of ED funds.

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

The media asked for a dollar amount and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated they had spent \$64,440 and the Department of Commerce would reimburse us \$46,580 leaving \$17,860 to come from the County from the Economic Development Fund. This was for recertification of the Trakas Industrial Site.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council