

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Tommie Hill, 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 or emailed to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, Charles Warner at the Union Times, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC, Michael Lee with MHISC and Randall Hanvey, as well as to elected officials and heads of various county departments and offices. A notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda were also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. Council Chaplain 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 – Present
David Sinclair, District 3 - Present
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on December 10, 2019 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey presented a service award certificate and gift certificate for William D. All, III for 5 years and to Frank Hart for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Taccoa Switzer gave Council an update on the Piedmont Physic Garden and their plans to develop a garden on Church Street to create an attraction that exhibits and promotes the medicinal, the environmental, the economic and the cultural importance of plants. They want to provide an attractive approach to the community and a garden for tourism by creating a Topiary Corridor and English Garden.

Public Works Director Rusty Snider requested permission to fill two vacancies at Public Works. He has two employees on the road crew that will be leaving. One employee has resigned and one will be retiring in February.

COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2020

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the Public Works Director to fill the two budgeted vacant positions at Public Works.

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

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson requested permission to fill a vacancy in the Clerk of Court's Office for a Common Pleas Court Clerk.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to grant the Clerk of Court permission to fill the budgeted vacant position in her office.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Detention Facilities Director Neil McKeown requested the release of \$21,000.00 which had been allocated in the Capital Expenditures account for the purchase of a mini-van for the Detention Center.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to approve the use of the \$21,000.00 allocated in the Capital Expenditures account for a mini-van for the Detention Center.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Connie Springs had resigned as a member of the Library Board.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise the vacancy on the Library Board.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to boards and commissions. We received an application from Rick Smith to serve on the Stadium Commission.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to appoint Rick Smith to serve on the Stadium Commission to fill an unexpired term.

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

Marlon Hunter as CEO for ReGenesis Health Care stated they would be holding a grand opening on January 15th. The approval of federal funds for a new access point for a new clinic made it possible for them to locate in Union County. Being able to lease space in the Health Department Building was one of the major reasons why they are here.

County Council reviewed and approved the proposed dates and locations for the year 2020 for the Union County Council meetings.

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

Tax Assessor Jake Black stated they were getting ready for tomorrow since it is the last day for appeals on the 2019 tax notices.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated the Tax Sale went well in December but they are going to move it back to November this year.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ron Wade said they were helping with the ReGenesis Grand Opening. He said the rain had been an issue working on some of their projects. Ken West has been working on the lounge area at the airport and they are waiting for windows to come in.

Community Development Director Katherine Pendergrass said they had a great meeting last week with the ministers, elected officials and educators with thirty-five to thirty-seven people in attendance. She

COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2020

said she is working on the census by heading up a committee of community leaders. ReGenesis is having their grand opening ceremony tomorrow but several years back Union County did not have any urgent care or clinic facilities. We now have Healing Springs, Primary Care of Union, Urgent Care, and ReGenesis Healthcare. Today was the start of the Operation Workforce Training program and they have nine students participating. She is continuing to work on transportation and the comprehensive plan.

Finance Director Ann Boggs said she had provided Council with the financial report for December and hopes they can wrap up the annual audit.

Economic Development Director Kathy Jo Lancaster stated the year 2019 was a productive year with a period of growth as a result of the funds coming in from the FILOT Agreements. Most of our companies, if not all, have either met or exceeded their investment commitments. The jobs are still there and they are still hiring. They are getting a lot of interest in the spec building and the Midway Plant.

Andrena Powell-Baker with the Lockhart Power Company stated that as a private utilities company they are required to pay a license tax or they can elect to donate the amount of the license tax to a local government. The funds have to be used for infrastructure related to economic development. This year the Lockhart Power Company is providing \$200,000 in Utility Tax Credits to Union County for a new entrance into the Midway Green Industrial Park. Since 2001 they have provided \$1.6 million in total Utility Tax Credits.

Chairman Frank Hart reported that we are working on a compensation study and hope to have a proposal by January 31st to have some information available before working on the new budget. He said they are tentatively looking at holding a Capital Project Sales Tax meeting on Thursday as the City needs to select the sixth member of the commission and they need to talk about planning. Some of the members of County Council were able to meet with the faith community to discuss the quality of life and bringing in some additional groups. He said they were still working on the housing initiative and Lockhart Power is partnering with them on that. Chairman Frank Hart said he had asked Katherine Pendergrass to assemble a team to work on transportation to figure out the next steps on implementation. They hope to have a draft of the comprehensive plan by the end of the month. He said Tim Roseborough volunteered to take over the project for the county government offices and has committed that the project would be completed by the fourth quarter of 2020. He said he understood the fuel card system has been completed. Chairman Frank Hart said he would get with Councilwoman Kacie Petrie to get a proposal together on the sirens for the fire stations for the next Council meeting.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter, two legal matters and an economic development matter.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated no votes were taken during executive session.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2020

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

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council