

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

Absent: Councilman Tommie Hill

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, 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. 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 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 – Present

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Absent

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on December 11, 2018, the special meeting of County Council held on December 19, 2018 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County Council had been holding their meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to leave it the same.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to select a vice-chairman for the next two years and opened the floor for nominations. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie nominated Councilman Ben Ivey. There were no further nominations.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Councilman Ben Ivey to serve as vice-chairman for another two years.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to select a chaplain for the next two years. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie nominated Councilman David Sinclair. There were no further nominations.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Councilman David Sinclair to serve as chaplain for the next two years.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Councilmembers had received a form to select which of the standing committees they would like to serve on. He asked that the forms be turned in so that those appointments can be made in February.

Dawn Shreiber asked the Council to get more involved in offering internships. She stated she was a senior at USC-Union and she would be required to do an internship in order to receive her Bachelor's degree in History. She explained how the internship program works and that the students have to find their own internships. It could be a paid or unpaid internship and the student is required to do 140 hours per semester except for the summer semester. Chairman Frank Hart stated the County had used an intern a few years ago in the Recreation Department so the County is open to the idea if we could match a student to a county need. She stated Michael Sumner with USC-Union would be a good contact for anyone willing to offer an internship. There was further discussion about the internship program and Chairman Frank Hart stated the County would try to help.

Chairman Frank Hart informed Council that Debbie Foster who handles accounts payable in the Supervisor's Office had accepted a position with the Family Court Judge. There is also a position in Public Works that will be opening up. He requested permission to fill both budgeted positions.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to allow the County Supervisor to fill the position in the Supervisor's Office and the position in Public Works as requested.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had provided the Councilmembers with a copy of a draft agreement of a license with Lockhart Power Company related to the walking trail in Lockhart which was built using PRT funding with the County providing the matching funds. The agreement gives the County permission to use the property for that purpose. He is still working with Lockhart Power Company on the agreement on the insurance coverage. He stated he needs approval from Council to finalize the agreement with Lockhart Power including the terms of the agreement and permission to execute it on behalf of the County.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to allow the County Supervisor to finalize the agreement with Lockhart Power including the terms of the agreement and to execute it on behalf of the County.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked why it is a license agreement. Chairman Frank Hart explained that Lockhart Power Company is governed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and they do not like the lease type language or easement. This allows us to get the use of the property that we need but not put us into a long term review with the federal government on the use. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if it was the County's responsibility to maintain the property and Chairman Frank Hart stated that the County would be responsible for maintaining it. Because the County would be operating the property as a public park then the County would be responsible for what happens on the premises. He stated it has a locking gate to the property and it would be open to the public from sunrise to sunset. There are

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cameras on the gate but not on the trail. The agreement is for 25 years which is required by the State. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

Sheriff David Taylor gave a summary with the statistics on the crime rates in Union County for the year 2018. He stated the crime rate for 2018 was down tremendously compared to 2017. He said they did serve more civil papers. The number of arrest warrants was down because the call volume was down. The number of burglaries dropped. Larcenies were down. Mental transports were down. There was an increase in the number of burglary alarm calls. They had good results from the Crimestoppers program. SRT had fewer responses in 2018. They issued scrap metal permits which is an unfunded State mandate. He went over the statistics for the K9 unit. Narcotics arrests were down. He went over the statistics for the Sheriff's Office, EMS and Animal Control calls. Emergency Management received a \$57,346 grant from LEMPG and \$30,000 from Duke Power which they used to complete the backup 911 Center at Public Safety in the basement at the City Hall. They handled 4 cases of West Nile Virus. He discussed the Upstate Gang Task Force made up of local law enforcement and the FBI. He discussed the ankle monitoring program. He stated the bloodhound was 9 years old and has reached retirement age. They have a company out of Florida that is donating a trained bloodhound as a replacement.

Jail and Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated they have only one staff vacancy at the Detention Center. He introduced the full-time training officer they hired. They implemented a special response team to take the burden off the Sheriff's Officer every time they have an unruly inmate. They purchased the equipment needed to do this from canteen money. They updated a lot of the policies and procedures for both facilities. Everything is going pretty good.

Tax Assessor Jake Black stated they are working on the County-wide reassessment which has to be implemented in 2020. They are working through all the appeals coming in from the public since tax bills were mailed out.

Building Superintendent Kenneth West stated they had been doing general maintenance such as lights, plumbing and heating and air. They are removing the wallpaper at DSS. The roof is on the jail and they are getting ready to put the roof on the Clemson Extension office. They will be taking bids for the roof on 911 and anticipate it will come in around \$65,000.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they had completed the Tax Sale and are working on redemptions.

Victim Advocate Michelle Shugart stated domestic violence is higher than they would like. Child sexual assaults are higher than they want but the adult sexual assaults are low. They work with the Solicitor's Office and Safe Homes on the domestic violence cases.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated they are fully staffed and are probably one of six to a dozen in the State that are fully staffed. The South Carolina EMS Association is doing a workforce study to see if they have a shortage of paramedics in the State or if they are in the right places. They are working with the National Association of EMTs to find out if they are burnt out, not being paid enough, or are working

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too many hours to see why there seems to be a shortage or if they are just not in the right place. The renovations are moving forward and they hope to have them completed by the second week in February. Their ambulance is in production with a delivery date in March. He and his supervisors will be attending the South Carolina EMS Association Legislative breakfast at the State House on January 30th to discuss four bills that have been presented.

Holly Wise who is the Director at the Animal Shelter stated they are dealing with a higher call volume, higher volume of animals coming in and not enough help. There are more complaints about the litter problems since Allyson Wentz left. The animal control officer has ten to fifteen calls a day and works ten or more hours of overtime every week. The County receives grant money for Allyson's position and she asked that the position be filled. She said the animal shelter building needs to be replaced. Three contractors have said the old building is not repairable because there is very little in the building that is up to code. They do a lot of rescues. They have had a zero percent euthanasia rate the past two years which she wants to continue. A new building would make it more inviting to have people come in to adopt the animals. Chairman Frank Hart stated Bobby Davis had transferred from the Detention Center to take the position of animal control officer. Jay Ford was hired to help with code enforcement. Jail and Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated they were using inmates to pick up trash when the weather would allow. The extent of the litter problem was discussed and the need for a better strategy to control it.

Rieta Drinkwine with the Carnegie Library stated they held seven outreach programs with a total of 219 participants. The library partnered with seven different organizations. They held eight programs at the library with a total of seventy nine participants. Patrons gained skills in coding, engineering and fine motor skills. STEAM programs included nature in science, coding in technology, creative problem solving in Engineering and arts and crafts. The door count for the month of December at the library was 4,036. Upcoming events include Mental Health First Aid Training on January 11th, MLK Day of Service on January 21st and Lunch & Learn with SAFE Passage on January 28th. Because of the federal government shut down, they are waiting for the USDA funds. Their tax credit application is pending with the National Park Service. They are looking at partnering with the Small Business Center to provide services at the library. They will be meeting with the State legislators about State funding for the library. They are working with the Eat Smart Move More program. She stated their audit was complete.

Katherine Pendergrass with Community Development stated she attended the Swearing-In Ceremony for the elected officials and congratulated any new officials. She said they continue to work with the schools trying to come up with a plan to improve things going on in the schools as well as work on a plan to continue creating a pipeline. They have a program scheduled beginning the end of January for some of the students with SCC doing the workforce training like the one they had done this past summer with the money approved by Council. They are trying to get another group started as well. They continue to work with transportation and they should receive another update on Friday. They are working on putting together a comprehensive plan and she shared some survey results. With the comprehensive plan they are waiting on capital projects that the school system is working on. They received information about the county's facilities so Kara Drane with Catawba Regional COG is trying to incorporate all that information. They have a partners meeting next Tuesday. On Wednesday they have their monthly HR meeting. She and Dolton Williams with the Development Board are working on getting something together on workforce development. They are also working on housing. There will

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be a job fair at the high school on March 29th for students and then for adults. There will be a major announcement next month. They continue to be out working in the community.

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated they had worked through some grants with hopes that some funds will start showing up. She had provided Council with the financials for the month of December. Revenues generally pick up in December and January because of real estate taxes. The goal is to get the audit completed by the end of the month and have the auditing firm make their presentation to Council.

Dolton Williams with Economic Development stated they still see a lot of interest in the spec building and the former ESAB plant. They have some long term initiatives they started work on in the fourth quarter of last year they want to see progress with the housing and workforce. They have four new members that have joined the Development Board who will be attending the South Carolina Economic Development Institute which starts next month.

Chairman Frank Hart presented second reading of an ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of an amendment to a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement dated as of January 8, 2013 by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and Lockhart Power Company, acting for itself, its affiliates and assigns (The "Company") to add property to the project; and (2) other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of an amendment to a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement dated as of January 8, 2013 by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and Lockhart Power Company, acting for itself, its affiliates and assigns (The "Company") to add property to the project; and (2) other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He said he assembled a list of what they had accomplished as a group over the past four years. We surfaced 150 county roads. We got \$8 million in state funding through the COG to redo Highway 49, Highway 176 and a portion of Highway 72. We built a new Bonham fire station. We purchased and remodeled the EMS headquarters that is near completion. The County partnered with the School District on the stadium remodel. We upgraded the Timken Sports Complex and reorganized the Recreation Department by upgrading the equipment and increasing the enrollment. We partnered with Dixie Youth on the baseball side which has been working well. We constructed a new walking trail in Lockhart. We recruited Label Shopper because people wanted more shopping options. We worked with the Development Board to generate \$280 million in investments and 300 new jobs. They completed one building and sold it and completed another spec building and are in the process of trying to sell it. In education they created the community scholarship program where any kid that graduates school in Union can go to school for free at USC-Union or SCC. They opened the SCC Union Campus with a mechatronics program and USC-Union nursing school as well as student housing and sports leagues. We recruited a new primary health care for the county which is Healing Springs. We partnered with Spartanburg Regional to keep our hospital open. We improved operational control for the County and recruited Ann Boggs as the new Finance Director. We implemented our procurement process and have balanced our County budget with a growing fund balance. Property taxes were reduced the last two years due to implementation of the Local Option Sales Tax. We have a lot to be proud of and want to work just as hard for the next four years. He handed out an updated project list of every project that is underway. These are projects to improve

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different aspects of the county. He asked Council for any comments on the projects and any they want added.

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

Chairman Frank Hart requested an amendment to the agenda to discuss a personnel matter in executive session.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to amend the agenda to add a personnel matter to be discussed in executive session.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual related matter and a personnel matter.

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

The County Council went into executive session to discuss a contractual related 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.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to close executive session.

Ben Ivey: 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.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council