

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice Chair Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman David Sinclair, 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 to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, the Union County Development Board, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtis Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, to Graham Williams at the County News, to Charles Warner at the Union Times, to Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Allison Roberts with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Shell Suber at MHISC and to 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:

Joan Little, 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

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 12, 2017 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Deborah O’Daniel for 5 years, for Pete Diamaduros for 15 years, for Sarah Hopkins for 20 years and for Rick Mallett for 20 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart recognized Freddie Gault with Ralph Norman’s congressional office for a special presentation. Freddie Gault and Sheriff David Taylor on behalf of United States Congressman Ralph Norman recognized Russell F. Roark, Jr. for his 55 years in law enforcement with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition. Freddie Gault presented him with a challenge coin from Congressman Ralph Norman. City Police Chief Sam White presented a United States flag to Russell Roark that Congressman Ralph Norman had requested fly at the United States Capitol on December 5, 2017 in his honor. Russell Roark expressed his gratitude. He said when he was with the City he had a

COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018

good staff and he could not have done it without them. Mr. Roark stated law enforcement was all he ever wanted to do.

Toni Ware addressed Council about the need for transportation in Union County. She stated she had started her own business called Palmetto Princess Transportation & Outreach Service. She told Council she had helped people that had come to SC Works seeking employment with transportation and wanted to work with other agencies in the county to provide transportation services.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County had been sharing an employee and the funding for that employee with ResCare for Workforce Development. He said the County has cancelled the MOU with ResCare and that employee is now on the County payroll. He requested Council approve additional funding from the Economic Development Fund account not exceeding \$5,000 to fund that position for the rest of the fiscal year.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to provide additional funding in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 from the Economic Development Fund account to fund the Workforce Development position for the rest of the fiscal year.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss a letter from Bonham Fire Department concerning the new firehouse. Council had previously approved a \$300,000 loan to Bonham Fire Department to assist with the construction of the firehouse which would be paid back to the County over a seven year period. Bonham Fire Department has proposed a design change substituting concrete instead of asphalt for the entrance and exit of the new firehouse at an additional cost of \$39,933.02 which they proposed would be added to the loan amount from the County. The additional \$39,933.02 would be reimbursed in the first two years of the loan repayment.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to increase the loan to Bonham Fire District by \$39,933.02 which would be reimbursed to the County in the first two years of the loan repayment.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Councilman Ben Ivey questioned the two year repayment and Chairman Frank Hart stated that was what Bonham Fire Department had agreed to do. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

Building Superintendent Kenny West stated he had been working on heating problems.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they were doing catchup work and would be working on the properties that did not sell at the tax sale in November.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated they did some joint training with the Sheriff's Office last month for K9 first aid and CPR. Their DHEC license is up for renewal in June so they have begun to prepare for that.

Library Director Rieta Drinkwine stated they had a flood incident at their temporary location at the old Graham Cash building due to the recent severe weather and were working to make services available as soon as possible. She thanked the County for their help and they are still working on the library renovation project.

COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated she needed help with the local restaurants providing enough staff and food during the events being held in Union. She said she had gotten complaints during the Coon Hunters event in December because of the long lines and the restaurants running out of food. Many of the owners and managers of the local restaurants or fast food establishments do not reside in Union County and it is difficult to get in touch with them. The Walker Days event is coming up the last weekend in February. She stated the Governor's Conference on Tourism and Travel is coming up.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the purchase of certain real property located in Union County, the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by and between Union County and the current owners of said property regarding the purchase, sale and conveyance of such real property; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated purchase, sale and conveyance; the appropriation of funds necessary to accomplish such purchase; and other matters related thereto. Chairman Frank Hart explained that this is for the purchase of the Cudd property and the purchase price is \$401,500. The County had a \$500 option on the property which was paid and would be applied to the purchase price. The County was approved for a \$300,000 grant from the South Carolina Department of Commerce which would reimburse the County after the purchase and sale is complete. This property will help with the extension of Commerce Park.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the purchase of certain real property located in Union County, the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by and between Union County and the current owners of said property regarding the purchase, sale and conveyance of such real property; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated purchase, sale and conveyance; the appropriation of funds necessary to accomplish such purchase; and other matters related thereto.

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

Under the Supervisor's Report, Chairman Frank Hart informed Council the Jordan family wants to donate approximately six acres to the County located around the stadium that the County has used for bus parking. He stated the County paid for the survey of the property.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had received a copy of the audit for the Union Carnegie Library and called for a motion to approve the audit.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the audit for Union Carnegie Library.

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

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

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss two contractual related matters and a personnel related matter after a brief recess.

Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to close executive session and said no votes were taken during executive session.

COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2018

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business.

The Clerk to Council requested the approval of the minutes of the special County Council meeting held on October 5, 2017.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Union County Council held on October 5, 2017.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had received information on the South Carolina Association of Counties Conference and the Governor's Conference on Tourism and asked any councilmembers who could to attend.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council