

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Frank Hart, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Acting Clerk to Council Kindra Horne  
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 Tommy Sinclair 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  
Frank Hart, 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 September 9, 2014, the special meeting of County Council held on September 29, 2014, the special meeting and joint meeting with the City Council held on October 2, 2014 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Mr. Ted Trantham representing the Ottaray group asked the status on the grant for the Ottaray project. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the grant was awarded for \$500,000 with a guaranteed phase II if the requirements of phase I were met. It was held up waiting for approval from the Corp of Engineers but was approved about two and a half weeks ago which allows them to start the process. There were several bureaucratic hurdles to meet which were also completed last week. The question to be answered is whether the County would get the second grant and he said he was pretty comfortable that we would. Bids would be opened on November 14<sup>th</sup> for the initial base infrastructure pertaining to sewer, water, etc.

Mr. Torrance Inman with the Vietnam Memorial Committee stated they were working with American Legion Post 22 and other Union veteran organizations to establish a Vietnam KIA Memorial on the hill of Veterans Park. The monument would honor each service member from Union County killed in action

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in Vietnam. They have raised nearly \$15,000 of the \$20,000 needed to complete the project. He said they were asking the County Council to sponsor one of the stone memorials at a cost of \$895.00.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to buy one of the stone monuments at a cost of \$895.00.

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

Jean Tennas discussed the AG + Art Council tour which is a free tour where you can highlight farms and other things going on in the county. You would find places in the community where you could bring tourists. She asked if there were any volunteers for a committee or Council would offer their support. Curtis Hunter with the Tourism Commission stated they would identify the farmers for things such as a horse ranch who would like to be on the tour. It would be a self-guided tour and artists could display their artwork at the various sites on the tour. They were not asking for monetary support but rather making the Council informed.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there was a vacancy on the Upstate Workforce Investment Board. Ms. Kim Gist had served a term on the Board and was interested in serving another term. Councilman Frank Hart asked if Council typically advertises those positions and Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the County has two slots on the Board and they make the recommendation after they advertise the positions.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Kim Gist to serve on the Upstate Workforce Investment Board.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Upstate Workforce Investment Board occupies space in the old From Building and there are some structural issues. They no longer need as much space as they originally had and they want to reduce the lease amount. He stated he needed to be authorized to renegotiate the lease. There was discussion about lowering the ceiling and why it needed to be done.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the County Supervisor to renegotiate the lease as requested.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated next on the agenda was to consider two vacancies on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission which had been advertised. There were two applicants who were Gwen Lindler and Joan Penland who would be recommended by Councilman Frank Hart and Chairman Tommy Sinclair.

Frank Hart: Made a motion to appoint Joan Penland.

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

Tommy Sinclair: Made a motion to appoint Gwen Lindler.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated it had been discussed making the Courthouse a legal and law enforcement center and separating administrative functions by locating them somewhere else. He appointed a committee consisting of Councilman Frank Hart, Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie to look at that pretty quickly. There were comments about the lack of space in the Solicitor's Office and the jail population being more manageable.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if there was a committee report from the group appointed to look at the Animal Control Ordinance and Councilman Frank Hart stated they had not met yet.

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County Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey stated the tax notices are ready to be mailed out.

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated they are proceeding with the purchase of the houses near the airport and hoped they would get some of that resolved this week if they can get the paperwork done.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced an ordinance to amend and revise Ordinance Number 248, the Union County Building Codes Ordinance, (as previously amended), in certain limited regards and particulars only, so as to add ordaining language, revise Section IV of Article 1 by deleting certain language, revise Section VI of Article I by adopting International and National Codes, revise Section X of Article I by changing the appeals procedures, amend Article II by revising the entire Article; and other matters related thereto. Building Inspector Brad Jolly had talked to the County Attorney about how the County handled condemnations and they concluded they needed to consult with the McNair Law Firm. Some questions came up from McNair Law Firm about our documents and condemnation process which resulted in the proposed changes that Mr. Jolly tried to explain to Council. The process of condemnation was changed. Councilman Frank Hart felt there were other areas of the ordinance that need to be addressed prior to adoption.

Frank Hart: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance to amend and revise Ordinance Number 248, the Union County Building Codes Ordinance as presented.

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

There was some discussion as to whether further amendments and revisions need to be made to the ordinance.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any new business.

Councilman Tommy Ford stated he had a request from the Buffalo Community Center to have some painting done since the building belongs to the County. He said he had talked to Neil McKeown and the paint had already been purchased. They might be able to get to it after the fair is over with the approval of the County Supervisor.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked if anything had been advertised for the sale of the County property in Jonesville. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the notice for the public hearing had been advertised and once that had been done they could go through the bidding process.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that Republic is in the process of trying to expand the landfill and that process has begun.

Councilman Randall Hanvey referred to a request from the South Carolina Association of Counties asking all the counties to do a resolution asking the General Assembly to put the Local Government Funds back where it should be. He suggested this was something Council should support. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Union County loses about a half a million dollars a year. The funds are intended to support State activities in the county. They began to cut the LGF and they can suspend those funds. The resolution would ask that those funds be restored.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution proposed by the Association of Counties to restore the Local Government Funds.

Frank Hart: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council