

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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 David Sinclair, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Acting Clerk to Council Kindra Horne

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 or emailed to the members of the Union County Council, to the County Attorney, and to 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. Curtiss Hunter, 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, Rob Fraim at Emergency Services and Randall Hanvey. 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 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

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate for Amy Gibson for 5 years, for Shannon Deaton for 25 years, for Russell Vinson for 15 years, for Cleve Brannon for 15 years, and for Wayne Burgess for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Lauren Gratenstein updated Council on the Farmers Market and requested funds from the County to purchase eight more stalls at a cost of \$804 each as well as covering the cost of providing portable toilets.

Tony Davies and Jimmy Torrey with Republic Services presented a check in the amount of \$40,000 to Union County for the Litter Officer.

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Roger Gregory with the Election Commission addressed Council about the new voting machines. In the past they had borrowed several vehicles from the County to deliver the voting machines to the twenty three precincts. They requested permission to purchase two trailers at a cost of \$9,500 to \$10,000 in order to transport the machines but they would still have to use County vehicles that could pull the trailers.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appropriate not exceeding \$10,000 from the Contingency Fund for the purchase of the equipment for the Election Commission.

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

Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade informed Council the speakers went out at the stadium. It will cost approximately \$15,800 to replace the speakers and they need to be able to control the volume which took two amplifiers.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to purchase the new speakers for the Stadium from the Contingency Fund.

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

Public Works Director Rusty Snider stated they were looking at issues with the fuel management system. There is a State fleet management system where each vehicle would have its own fuel card and each employee would have a PIN number which offers two levels of security. The new system would be maintained by the vendor and they would be able to access reports through the internet. There was further discussion on how the system would work. Councilman Ben Ivey asked what it would cost. Chairman Frank Hart stated it had already been purchased out of the Operational Contingency Fund but he wanted Council to be informed about the new system.

Public Works Director Rusty Snider stated he has two positions in Public Works that he requested permission to replace.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve filling the vacant budgeted Public Works positions.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss the spec building payment. The Union County Facilities Corporation partnered with Midway Green Development to build a spec building on Midway Drive. He stated he had received an invoice for \$400,000 and suggested appropriating the money from the Multi-County Park Funds to cover the cost.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appropriate \$400,000 from the Multi-County Park Funds for the spec building payment.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to boards and commissions. Council received a copy of the current openings. There are vacancies on the Appeals Board, Stadium Commission, Building Code Board and Cross Keys Fire Board.

Scott Coffer with the Sheriff's Office requested the purchase of a 40mm Launcher that could fire Flash Bang Grenades and the CS Canisters and to purchase other riot control equipment for SRT (Special Response Team). John Sherfield with the Sheriff's Office requested the purchase of a Remington 700 .308 rifle to replace the one they have for their sniper unit with the SWAT Team. Sheriff David Taylor said some of the munitions are outdated and need to be replaced. He requested the purchase of Tasers for his deputies and the School Resource Officers to allow every uniformed deputy to have a Taser at a

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cost of \$29,104. Chairman Frank Hart recommended using the balance of \$58,000 in the Capital Lease Account to replace what was budgeted for the Courthouse roof replacement under Capital Expenditures which was about \$67,000 in the budget to free that up.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to transfer the Lease to Purchase funds to the Capital Expenditures account and to allocate not to exceed \$37,000 for the purchase of the Tasers and SRT equipment.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff David Taylor stated they had been funded for two School Resource Officers that will allow for one at Monarch Elementary and one at Buffalo Elementary. He will need to purchase two new body worn cameras at a cost of \$2,268.40. Chairman Frank Hart stated he thought that could be covered in the \$37,000 that had been approved.

Sheriff David Taylor introduced Michel Galliot who is a contractor who specializes in cadaver dogs and has worked with the Sheriff's Office. He owns a kennel on Proctor Road in Jonesville and is a dual purpose training facility for cadaver dogs, K9 drug dogs and bloodhounds. He has a search and rescue K9 unit. Sheriff David Taylor requested permission to contract with Michel Galliot at a cost of \$1,000 a month to use his facility and services for twenty hours a month. Michel Galliot gave Council an overview of his facility and services. Chairman Frank Hart stated that would be worth considering and possibly be put on the agenda for the Council meeting in November.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had met with the 911 staff, the Sheriff's Office, the Clerk of Court folks and Public Works and recommended sending out a RFP to have a firm come in to do a compensation study.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to create a RFP to send out and bring back to Council to approve with a firm they recommend.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Stone Creek Road serves a new housing development off the Riley Road. They had met with the developer three or four years ago and had said once they started building houses the County would consider whether or not to accept Stone Creek Road under the County road system. He said they propose getting a right-of-way easement for the entire roadway but the County would only take in about 750 feet of the road from where it intersects with the Riley Road. The County would asphalt that as an incentive for building out the houses through there provided that where Jerry Brannon inspected the road is improved to meet the criteria established in the County's ordinance.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion that if the owner brings Stone Creek Road into compliance with the County's ordinance specifications then the County would agree to take the road into the County Road System and resurface the road for 750 feet.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked how long the road is and Jerry Brannon responded that it is 2,455 feet. Councilman Ben Ivey expressed his concern that the road could be damaged after being resurfaced if they bring heavy equipment in to build more houses. Jerry Brannon said that was why it is important to get a good solid base so the trucks would not tear it up. He said you could not pave it like it is now.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart said he had asked Council to designate the Library as the official Complete County Committee for the 2020 Census. Rieta Drinkwine said it was important to establish that so they

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can start to get community leaders and important agencies together in advance of the Census to make sure they have a plan to get everybody counted. The official start of the Census is April of 2020.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Union Carnegie Library as the head of the Complete County Committee for the 2020 Census.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County Personnel Policy describes a grievance policy and a committee needs to be appointed. He asked Kindra Horne to come up with the names of nine people with seven of them serving as primary and two serving as alternates to serve on the Grievance Committee. She came up with the names of Natausha Dendy, Michelle Shugart, Lee Brannon, Gregg Weaver, Blaine Lancaster, Tim Wade, Jay Ford, Nick Gosnell and Katherine Pendergrass.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Natausha Dendy, Michelle Shugart, Lee Brannon, Gregg Weaver, Blaine Lancaster, Tim Wade, Jay Ford, Nick Gosnell and Katherine Pendergrass to serve on the County's Grievance Committee to hear any grievances filed by an employee.

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

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

Building Superintendent Ken West stated the roof is being put on the Courthouse and the rest of what they are doing is mostly maintenance. They put a door up for Rusty Snider and put some lights up for Ronnie Wade.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis said they are finishing up title searches and are getting ready to do the redemptions on the properties that sold last year. They are getting ready for the tax sale.

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated they are fixing to put up a fence at the airport. They discussed at the Airport Commission meeting holding a Fun Day at the airport after the first of the year. They have the Senior Dinner for the Recreation Department at the Fair on Wednesday, October 16th. They are going to try to get the speakers installed at the stadium for the football games. He said Council had set aside \$12,000 to redo the bathrooms at the airport. Chairman Frank Hart told him to have it put on the agenda to request those funds.

EMS Director Eric Harold gave an update on their call volume and response time. He said they had not gotten any news on the AFG Grant for the new ambulance. He attended the South Carolina Office of Rural Health Conference in Charleston. He was awarded a scholarship for the conference and made a lot of connections and resources. They signed off on the renovations for the EMS facility and he plans to get with Katherine Pendergrass to set up a ribbon cutting ceremony. He said they are fully staffed but they do have some people out on medical leave.

Rieta Drinkwine with Carnegie Library stated they were very busy with the Summer Reading program and they had 1,750 participants. They did the Teen Lock-in and had 250 teens. Carnegie Library received the Community Champion Award. She discussed partnerships and stated she serves on the Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee with the South Carolina Association of Counties.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution setting the total County Tax Levy for fiscal year 2019-2020 at 162.2 mils and setting the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor at 0.002058.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution setting the total County Tax Levy for fiscal year 2019-2020 at 162.2 mils and setting the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor at 0.002058.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution to create a commission pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, SC Code Ann. § 4-10-300, *Et Seq.*; to provide for the appointment, composition, duties and responsibilities of such commission and to provide for other matters relating thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution to create a commission pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, SC Code Ann. § 4-10-300, *Et Seq.*; to provide for the appointment, composition, duties and responsibilities of such commission and to provide for other matters relating thereto.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked about the appointments. Chairman Frank Hart stated they would need to do that at the next meeting. He thought the County would appoint three members to the Commission and three members would be appointed from the municipalities.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance amending and revising the terms and provisions of the Union County Code of Ordinances related to the appointment of trustees to the Union Hospital District, so as to reduce the number of such trustees to three (3), and resetting their terms of office and appointment dates; and other matters related thereto.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance amending and revising the terms and provisions of the Union County Code of Ordinances related to the appointment of such trustees to the Union Hospital District, so as to reduce the number of trustees to three (3), and resetting their terms of office and appointment dates; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a deed to Vernon Thompson and Claudette Thompson, for and during the term of their joint natural lives and upon the death of either of them, then to the survivor of them, His or Her heirs and assigns forever, conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina by Quit Claim Deed, in a certain parcel or real estate shown as approximately 1.01 acres within tax parcel 027-02-11-004.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a deed to Vernon Thompson and Claudette Thompson, for and during the term of their joint natural lives and upon the death of either of them, then to the survivor of them, His or Her heirs and assigns forever, conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina by Quit Claim Deed, in a certain parcel or real estate shown as approximately 1.01 acres within tax parcel 027-02-11-004.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the lease of certain real property owned by Union County to ReGenesis Health Care; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to implement the lease; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the lease of certain real property

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owned by Union County to ReGenesis Health Care; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to implement the lease; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. Neil McKeown raised about \$28,000 for his medical services building. He referred to the news release on the ReGenesis Health Care Clinic which will be located in the Health Department building. It is a \$1.3 million grant.

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 contractual matter, a personnel matter and a legal matter.

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

The County Council went into executive session to discuss a contractual matter, a personnel matter and a legal matter.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were ready to close the executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss advertising for the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise for commission members.

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

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

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Kindra Horne, Acting Clerk to Council