

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018 AT 5:31 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Tommie Hill, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilman David Sinclair and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie

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 delivered to the members of the Union County Council, provided to the County Attorney, and 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, to Graham Williams at the County News, to Charles Warner at the Union Times, to Jason Spencer 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. 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

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Present

David Sinclair, District 3 - Absent

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Absent

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on September 11, 2018 and to adopt the minutes as presented.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there was a vacancy at the Sports Complex which is a budgeted position. We had an employee who turned in his resignation because he had taken another position. He entertained a motion to allow the Sports Complex Director to fill that vacant position.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the Sports Complex Director to fill the vacant position.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss the rate of pay for State trustees. Jail and Detention Director Neil McKeown stated we currently have 12 State inmates that are

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assigned to Union County. He recommended an increase in inmate pay from the current pay of \$10.00 a week to \$20.00 a week for general labor and \$30.00 a week for full-time cooks.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to increase the pay for State trustees to \$20.00 a week for general labor and \$30.00 a week for full-time cooks as recommended.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had discussed the purchase of a roll-off truck during the budget sessions. He presented a quote for a Mack truck at a cost of \$168,755 and requested it be purchased from the Least to Purchase proceeds.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the purchase of a Mack roll-off truck at a cost of \$168,755 from the proceeds of the Lease to Purchase Agreement.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. Councilman Tommie Hill asked if they would be selling a truck and Chairman Frank Hart stated they would probably get rid of the oldest one. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had a copy of a quote for a new ambulance for EMS at a cost of \$197,878.28. EMS Director Eric Harold went over the mileage on the ambulances they now have. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if there would be any equipment that would need to be added that would affect the cost and Eric Harold stated there was not.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the purchase of a new ambulance for EMS at a cost of \$197,878.28 from the proceeds of the Lease to Purchase Agreement.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the purchase of vehicles for the Sheriff's Office was discussed during the meeting of the Committee on County Administration and Finance. Councilman Ben Ivey stated the Committee on County Administration and Finance had met and discussed the request to purchase four used vehicles which were a 2009 Ford Crown Vic, a 2011 Chevrolet Tahoe, a 2009 Ford Explorer, and a 2010 Ford Explorer at a cost of \$42,100 plus costs to equip the vehicles.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to purchase the four used vehicles for the Sheriff's Office at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 using money from the Multi-County Park fund to be reimbursed at such time as the budget ordinance is amended to include this expenditure.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Deborah L. Morris for 10 years, for Debbie M. Foster for 10 years and to Lucinda C. Baldwin for 20 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the position of Public Works Director was included in the budget this fiscal year and requested permission to advertise to fill that position.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to grant permission to advertise and fill the position for the Public Works Director.

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

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

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Finance Director Ann Boggs stated we had closed out the books on a preliminary basis and we anticipate adding \$800,000 to the fund balance. Part of that was due to the Local Option Sales Tax which helped to absorb some the shortfalls from the State for DSS and the Local Government Fund. These are not audited amounts and accrual adjustments could add to that amount.

Sheriff David Taylor stated they would be receiving a reimbursement from the US Department of Justice in the amount of \$5,000 for overtime due to drug cases they worked on. He stated Council needs to look at the pay for law enforcement officers. They have a vacancy for a deputy position but they have received no qualified applicants. They had two people to apply but both had a criminal record. They are losing officers to outside agencies paying more money. He stated they have four deputies waiting to attend the Justice Academy. He said the City's starting pay for an uncertified law enforcement officer is more than what we offer our officers at top pay. He stated they need to come up with a solution to the problem and went over possible incentives. Sheriff Taylor said he had never hired a deputy from out of the county but he may have to look at doing that. Chairman Frank Hart said he would suggest hiring from out of the county if need be in order to find qualified officers. Sheriff David Taylor said the Justice Academy had gotten strict on the physical fitness part which is making it harder for officers to pass the Academy.

Jail and Detention Director Neil McKeown said they were doing interviews and he had County inmates working at the fairgrounds to get ready for the fair.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade said they would be holding a Grand Opening at 6:30 p.m. at the Stadium Friday night with a ribbon cutting ceremony. He went over the financial situation where he has purchased items for the stadium due to the renovations which have caused him to be short on funds in his operating budget. He said at the airport the AWOS system had been approved. The County would have to provide \$24,000 in matching funds which are included in the budget. He discussed the holding pond, a new windsock, and tandem system at the airport. As part of the AWOS system the County would need to add a phone system and network system.

EMS Director Eric Harold thanked Council for approving the purchase of a new ambulance. He said the renovations of the EMS facility were moving along and they are talking about moving some items from Phase III over to Phase II. They anticipate completion of the renovations by Christmas.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass thanked Council for funding the summer training program for the youth. The youth who attended the training are still working and have good jobs. They are offering another program through the high school that would be free of charge for sixty-five hours of training. They are looking at doing another training program at the high school after that. Council had approved donation boxes being placed on County owned property for Goodwill. They have set out donation boxes at four locations and are happy with the results. She said they recently held a recruitment event. They held a ribbon cutting for Healing Springs. She invited Council to participate in the Downtown Halloween event by giving out candy on Main Street. She discussed a situation where a lady had an issue with transportation and how they resolved that.

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Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter said they are waiting to get started with the upcoming holiday events.

Kathy Jo Lancaster with the Union County Development Board stated there are some new industries looking at Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution to set the tax levy for fiscal year 2018-2019. The total levy for County operations would be 154.7 mils and the Local Option Sales Tax credit factor would be 0.001586.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution to set the tax levy for fiscal year 2018-2019.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Volvo Car US Operations Inc.; and other matters relating to the foregoing.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading an ordinance authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Volvo Car US Operations Inc.; and other matters relating to the foregoing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC with respect to certain economic development property in the County; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC with respect to certain economic development property in the County; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance in title only authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Milliken & Company; and other matters related to the foregoing.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance in title only authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Milliken & Company; and other matters related to the foregoing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he would forego his Supervisor's Report.

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Chairman Frank Hart invited Council to the Open House at the Stadium Friday night from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 6:50 p.m.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports.

Councilman Ben Ivey as Chairman of the Committee on County Administration and Finance stated the Committee had met and recommended approval of the salary increases for the County correctional officers as requested by Jail and Detention Director Neil McKeown.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to approve the salary increases for the County correctional officers.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The money will come from the Multi-County Park fund to be reimbursed at such time as the budget ordinance is amended to include this expenditure. The vote was unanimous.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a contractual related matter.

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

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to come out of executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the County Supervisor to negotiate and execute a contract with ESAB Group Incorporated pertaining to ESAB vacating the County building and the cost of acquisition of the infrastructure to be left behind by ESAB Group.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart stated that would be a cap of \$100,000 for the equipment. The vote was unanimous.

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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council