

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.  
MEETING ROOM AT 103 W. MAIN STREET, UNION, SC 29379  
STREAM TO FRANK HART UNION COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
FACEBOOK PAGE

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

Absent: Councilman Ralph Tucker

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, the County Attorney, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC, and Michael Lee with MHISC as well as to elected officials and heads of various county departments and offices. 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 – Absent

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 13, 2020, the special meeting of County Council held on October 29, 2020 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate to Linda G. Jolly for 45 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Tim Winslow and Josh Rhodes with the South Carolina Association of Counties attended the meeting to present the award for Honorable Mention for Union County's entry in the J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award. Tim Winslow congratulated Union County on their entry pertaining to workforce development and higher education which was very innovative. He thought the

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County should be commended for establishing the scholarship program and the Union Campus of the Spartanburg Community College.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a proclamation to Martin Hunter with ReGenesis proclaiming August 9-15, 2020 as National Healthcenter Week. Martin Hunter stated ReGenesis is a federally qualified healthcare center that also provides behavioral health services and they hope to expand transportation services.

Kathy Jo Lancaster with the Union County Development Board stated she had provided Council with cost estimates for repairs to the Midway Plant which was formally ESAB due to water damage to the building. The total estimate for the needed repairs was \$28,600 and the Development Board recommended these emergency repairs be made with funds from the Fund 327 for Economic Development Infrastructure and Community Development.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the emergency repairs to the Midway Plant building at a cost of \$28,600.00 to be paid from Fund 327.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider matching funds for bullet proof vests. Council had been informed by Sheriff Sam White that the current vests being used by the Sheriff's Office were outdated. Finance Director Ann Boggs was able to secure a grant for new bullet proof vests in the amount of \$14,300 with a requirement of a 50% match. Chairman Frank Hart recommended County Council approve the 50% matching funds for the grant from the Non-Departmental Contingency Fund.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the \$14,300.00 in matching funds for the grant to purchase new bullet proof vests for the Sheriff's Office from the Non-Departmental Contingency Fund.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to the boards and commissions. He suggested unless Council has any recommendations for appointments then they hold off until January of 2021 when there will be additional vacancies due to term expirations. There were no recommendations and Council was in agreement.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had approved \$124,578.15 for the roof replacement on the old South State Bank building. When Kingsmore Construction was doing the roof replacement, they discovered some rotted plywood and other window damage resulting in an additional cost of \$10,368.12 which he recommended Council approve from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure account.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the payment of \$10,368.12 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure account for the additional repairs.

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

Christina Crosby as Executive Director for Alcohol and Drug Abuse went over some of their accomplishments and accreditation program. She said they were waiting for the official report but they had been classified as exceptional with them having new staff that are skilled and compassionate. In addition to their normal programs, they also offer anger management and

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parenting classes. Mary Lynn Tollison stated they had been awarded an \$85,000.00 South Carolina Children's Trust Grant. Brad Goodale stated he was partnering with the agency and said what a great job they were doing as well as the ReGenesis Healthcare. He provided a few examples of the impact both had made on the community.

Chairman Frank Hart stated last year the County spent \$3,600 on the Christmas party for the County employees. He said if you take that amount and divide it by the 264 employees it calculates to be \$13.64. He recommended providing \$15 for each of the employees and allowing each department to hold their own party or dinner. He asked for any feedback from County Council who were in agreement.

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs said she had provided Council with a financial statement. The quarterly and monthly figures are on track and the real estate taxes would be reflected more in the next quarter. She said she was able to secure funding due to COVID-19 through the South Carolina CARES Act.

Sheriff Sam White thanked Council for providing the matching funds for the bullet proof vests for the Sheriff's Office. He said he had allowed the newly elected sheriff to take an administrative position in the Sheriff's Office to allow for a smooth transition.

Detention Center Director Niel McKeown stated they house both males and females at the Detention Center and have to provide both male and female officers. He said he was working on getting them in place.

Eric Harold as Director for EMS gave his volume report and review of grant applications. He said they had previously received a grant to purchase one Lucas Device. As a result of grant funding due to COVID-19 they had purchased two more of the devices. One of the grants he applied for was for \$4,000 a year for 800 radios.

Community Development Director Katherine Pendergrass said she was involved with the Union READ program to improve literacy. She talked about the need for a small business incubator program. She had been asked to work with the county broadband working group and the Vision Council. She holds monthly HR meetings and Partners meetings. She continues to work with providing COVID testing and stated there is a man that plans to offer taxi service in Union. She said Union County was number 20 out of 46 counties in the State with a 59.6% response rate for collecting the Census data.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated the Events and Recreation Committee will be hosting a drive-in movie on November 21<sup>st</sup> with two featured movies. She said they have a team of people working on Eco Tourism. They are working on the Renaissance Park and trying to get camp sites at John D. Long Lake. There was also some discussion about the Wildwood Ranch in Jonesville and what tourism opportunities it could provide.

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Kathy Jo Lancaster with the Union County Development Board stated projects and prospects were good. Industries are rebounding and the unemployment rates have dropped from 18.5% to 7.5%. She said they had gotten a grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the South Carolina Department of Commerce for the connector road at Midway Green.

Linda Mitchell as Director of 911 reported that they were fully staffed.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County Industrial and Business Park (TBA Properties) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirement of payments of Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the Park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County Industrial and Business Park (TBA Properties) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirement of payments of Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the Park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing the execution of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and TBA Properties LLC to provide for infrastructure credits with respect to a redevelopment project located at 441 N. Duncan By-Pass, and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing the execution of an Infrastructure Credit Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and TBA Properties LLC to provide for infrastructure credits with respect to a redevelopment project located at 441 N. Duncan By-Pass, and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing and directing that all law enforcement personnel of the County of Union, South Carolina, officially retiring under the Police Officer Retirement System of the State of South Carolina, and qualifying in all regards to own and possess firearms in the State of South Carolina, be given and presented with their official service handgun on their last day of County service; and other matters related thereto

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing and directing that all law enforcement personnel of the County of Union, South Carolina, officially retiring under the Police Officer Retirement System of the State of South Carolina, and qualifying in all regards to

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report and said they were working with the School District to get several properties donated to the County. He said a developer was interested in using the old Sims School property for apartments. He is moving forward on fire service for the County, implementing the raises for county employees as a result of the salary study, working on moving forward with the boat ramp in Lockhart and working on a waste water treatment solution for the Town of Carlisle since Carlisle Finishing is closing.

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

David Sinclair: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss two personnel matters.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss two personnel matters.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council was ready to close executive session and no votes had been taken during executive session

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

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

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council