

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly
Absent: 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 mailed to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, WBCU Radio Station, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Ms. Ann Canada, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Anna Brown with the County News, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Frank Hart, Mr. Ray Treadway, Mr. Howard Gibson, and Mr. Robert Small. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called the meeting to order. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings 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
Dora Martin-Jennings, District 2 - Present
Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 - Absent

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to approve the previous minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 11, 2011, the special Council meeting held on October 13, 2011 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that next on the agenda was presentation of service awards but none of the recipients were there. He recognized Diane Freeman for 25 years of dedicated service, Barbara Baber for 25 years of dedicated service, and Ronnie Wade for 40 years of dedicated service to Union County. The recipients are provided a service award certificate and gift card in appreciation for their years of service.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced Mr. Will Boyles as the new Tourism Director.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Council needed to consider three vacancies on the Board for the Bonham Fire Department. There were three applicants who were Crystal Austin, Ronnie Yount and Rodney Gallman. Two were requesting reappointment and one is a new appointment.

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Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Crystal Austin, Ronnie Yount, and Rodney Gallman to serve on the Board for the Bonham Fire District.

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

Gloria Kellerhals with Catawba Regional Local Food Coalition whose membership includes organic and sustainable farmers from Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, York and Union Counties addressed Council about adopting a resolution for support. They hope to create new job opportunities for interested farmers and individuals in the area. Partners in this effort include York Technical College, US Department of Agriculture, SC Department of Agriculture, and Clemson University. Her presentation included an explanation of sustainable agriculture, why it is needed, core strategies, new local food marketing channels, education, Agribusiness development, planning, partnerships, leadership development, and support. There was discussion about food shed assessment, Clemson Extension's involvement, promotion through the media, any cost to the farmer to participate and organic qualifications. Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented a resolution to encourage the support of organic farming and sustainable agriculture and other small business pursuits; and other matters related thereto

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution to encourage support of organic farming and sustainable agriculture and other small business pursuits as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any elected officials or department heads that wished to address Council.

Sheriff David Taylor informed Council there would be a National test for the Emergency Alert System on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. This would involve television, radio, and all other emergency agencies.

Sheriff David Taylor said he had requested the purchase of in-car video cameras for four of his vehicles at a cost of \$20,797.20 and asked if Council had any further questions.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to approve the purchase of the in-car video cameras at a cost of \$20,797.20.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff David Taylor stated Council had adopted an ordinance approving the Home Detention Program for Union County. He had received proposals from four companies and provided Council with a breakdown. He recommended accepting the proposal from 3M Electronic Monitoring which is a company out of Florida with twenty years of experience and the cheapest rates.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the proposal from 3M Electronic Monitoring.

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

Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey gave an update of the parcel conversions. They have converted 9,000 out of 22,000 parcels.

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Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they were interested in pursuing the Brownfield money for the Buffalo Mill property but he had not gotten the signature he wanted for Phase I of that project.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he wanted to give an update on UCARE and suggested Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings might want to do that. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings explained that UCARE is sponsored by donations made by county employees to help needy children. They will be doing a fund raiser for the 12 Days of Christmas where drawings for \$100.00 will be held each of the twelve days before Christmas. There will also be a fund raiser during the Christmas Open House.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that Troy Champion had helped with the removal of mortar from the cornerstone of the Courthouse. He reminded Council of the Cornerstone Centennial Celebration on Monday, November 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there was a lady from the Maybinton area that told him her insurance had gone up to \$1,200 a year. He told Council the people in areas that are not within a fire district need to be put in a fire district. He said he had drawn some lines for the Santuc and Carlisle Fire Districts that would cover areas that are not currently covered. A gentleman from the Maybinton area stated the closest fire department from their house is three miles away and more fire houses are needed. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated that no matter what Council does they do not control the insurance rates. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the place to start would be to get everyone included in a fire district and then upgrade the fire districts so they can get better ISO ratings. Councilman Ben Ivey wanted the people who have not previously been in a fire district to understand that when they are included in a district they must pay the taxes for that fire district.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he had talked to the McNair Law Firm about an ordinance covering all the boards and commissions appointed by County Council to allow Council to interface if there is cause to get involved. They are trying to get that worked out.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for executive session to discuss potential contractual matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated County Council had come out of executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other business but there was none.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

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The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council