

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

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

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 to the members of the Union County Council, mailed 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, Graham Williams at the County News, Charles Warner at the Union Times, Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC and Randall Hanvey. A notice of the meeting was 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:

Joan Little, 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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on November 13, 2018 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 card for Carolyn Arthur for 5 years, for Cameron Coone for 5 years, for Holly Robertson for 5 years and for Toni Allen for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there are upcoming vacancies on the boards and commissions that need to be advertised.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise the upcoming vacancies on the boards and commissions.

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

COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

Barbara Rippy addressed the Council about turning the old jail into a museum. She thanked County Council for leasing the County building to USC-Union for the new nursing program and said she had given them the drug store building. She stated she wanted the Sheriff back in the Courthouse and not in the old jail. She suggested the old jail be turned into a museum to display the historical items related to the jail. She said she did not want the elected officials to leave the Courthouse and move to an alternate location. Mrs. Rippy stated the Union County Museum and the Union County Carnegie Library are both one of the nicest in the State.

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson requested permission to hire someone to replace a clerk in Common Pleas in her office. She has an employee that wants to transfer back to Family Court which would open up the position in Common Pleas. Chairman Frank Hart asked if she was requesting to fill a vacant budgeted position and she responded she was.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to allow the Clerk of Court to fill a vacant budgeted position in Common Pleas.

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

Tony Davies as Landfill Manager with Republic Services that operates the landfill in Union County presented a check in the amount of \$25,000.00 to Union County as a contribution for the Cross Keys Fire District. He stated they wanted to build a good working relationship with the fire department since the landfill is located in that fire district.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there are indigent vulnerable elderly adults in Union County who have bed bugs but do not have the finances or family support to pay to have the home treated. There are no funds available at the State level so he received requests from of the care providers to see if the County would provide assistance. He asked Council to appropriate \$1,000 from the Contingency Fund that could be used for such purposes with a recommendation from DSS.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to appropriate \$1,000 from the Contingency Fund that could be used with a recommendation from DSS for the purpose of assisting indigent vulnerable adults in Union County.

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

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

Sheriff David Taylor thanked Councilwoman Joan Little for her support of the Sheriff's Office since she will be retiring from Council the end of the year. He thanked South Carolina House of Representative Mike Anthony for all that he has done for the Sheriff's Office over the years as he will be retiring from the House of Representatives at the end of the year. He said ours is a senior citizen community and in the past few years he has seen a lot more indigent people in Union County that have no one to look after them. He said he thought we would see even more in the years ahead so it is important we render aid to these people. He reported that they plan to go live with the Zuercher project in May and plan to go live with the new Motorola upgrades the first of July. They purchased four vehicles from government surplus and they are having in-car video cameras and blue lights installed. He stated they do not currently have any job openings and said he had hired the Animal Control Officer as a deputy for the Sheriff's Office.

COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

Jail and Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated they had been trying to raise some money for the medical and educational building. The City of Union pledged \$10,000 for that project.

Building Superintendent Kenny West stated they have the new roof on the jail and should be starting the one on the Detention Center.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated he had met with FAA officials last week to discuss future airport projects as they have \$600,000 approved in funding. They are looking at acquiring additional property. He discussed the appraisal and review appraisal and what would be involved in that. Councilman Ben Ivey asked about the County's match for the \$600,000 from FAA. Mr. Wade stated the County's match would be \$30,000 which is 5%. He had State Aeronautics come in on the runway renovations. They are going to do an overcoat on the runway and they are involved with the AWOS system which should be finished in February. They are having a new windsock put in at that same time. They will be having a meeting next week to discuss the plan for phase two of the Stadium renovations. He suggested Council look at some of the boards and commissions to see what they do need and what they don't need as some could be co-joined.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated they are working on renovations and grants. He will be applying for a grant for some training. The new ambulance is in production and will be here in March.

Rieta Drinkwine with the Library stated they are working on the transition with USC-Union to provide library services for the campus. She attended the South Carolina Association of Counties Legislative Conference and learned about the legislative agenda. She serves on the United Way advisory board for Union County. The Library hosts a non-profit center for Union County. They have had other agencies reach out to the Library recently trying to increase services in the county. She discussed the Safe Passages program and the need for volunteers. There are no shelters in Union County for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. They received federal funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the internet wiring in the library building. They are working on finalizing the paperwork for the USDA \$100,000 funding. They are helping with the Eat Smart Move More program. She said the audit for the library is underway.

Katherine Pendergrass with Community Development stated they had completed a certification process where they attended classes for thirteen weeks. The partnership group is growing and she is holding meetings with the HR Association. She along with Tourism, Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street Junction provided a home cooked meal to the students that entertained during the Halloween event.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated they had gotten through one of the Coon Hunt events with the fox hunt which was a great success but the weather was terrible. They plan to hold the event in Union again next year. The Southeastern Walker Days will be held in February. She said she looked forward to working on the lake project and working with Doug Gilliam as the new member of the South Carolina House of Representatives.

COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

Jami Trammell as Director of the Chamber of Commerce stated they held the Christmas Parade and thought it was a great success. They will be holding the ribbon cutting ceremony tomorrow for the Lockhart Flat Stack Trail. They are very proud of the year they have had at the Chamber of Commerce and are excited to start a new year. They have prospect meetings on the calendar and are excited about the future.

Kathy Jo Lancaster with the Development Board stated they are closing out the year and jobs are a little lower which is not unusual. They have had a lot of interest in their buildings.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated Elise Ashby won a State award for the Event of the Year. She has worked with the Farmers Market and Ag and Art Tour for Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading 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.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adopt the 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 Milliken & Company; and other matters related to the foregoing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance to amend the agreement for development for Joint County Industrial Park by and between Spartanburg County and Union County, South Carolina, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance to amend the agreement for development for Joint County Industrial Park by and between Spartanburg County and Union County, South Carolina, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart asked Council to amend the agenda to present a resolution to Mike Anthony.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to amend the agenda as requested.

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

Chairman Frank Hart read the resolution commending Mike Anthony for his service to Union County and recognizing his many accomplishments as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives and presented him with the resolution. Representative Mike Anthony expressed his appreciation for this honor and the importance of keeping our county representation on the State level.

Chairman Frank Hart thanked Councilwoman Joan Little for her service on the Union County Council for the past twelve years. He stated she was a woman of her word and presented her with a gift as a token of appreciation.

COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018

Chairman Frank Hart invited everyone to stay for a reception honoring Representative Mike Anthony and County Councilwoman Joan Little following the Council meeting.

Barbara Rippy asked everyone to recognize Andrena Powell-Baker's birthday.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution recognizing Representative Mike Anthony to a committee and to adopt the resolution as presented.

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

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

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

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council