

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice Chair Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Tommie Hill, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly
Absent: None

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, 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. Curtis Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly and emailed to 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 Allison Roberts 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. 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 - Present
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 November 14, 2017 and the special meeting of County Council held on September 21, 2017 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for John Fallaw for 10 years and for Sheila Hunnicutt for 20 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Kenny Proctor to discuss the tax levy for the fire districts. Mr. Proctor stated he lives in Monarch Fire District and their current tax levy is 25.1 mils and the fire department plans to put it on the ballot to try to raise the taxes again. He said he is a member of Buffalo Fire Department and Frank Hart had told them when they went from Buffalo Fire Department to Buffalo Fire District that the maximum tax levy by law was 15 mils. He wanted to know why the millage for one fire department is held at 15 mils when Monarch Fire District is getting 25.1 mils. What is good for one should be good for everybody across the board. If they are breaking the law then it

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needs to be gotten under control. Chairman Frank Hart said he did not remember the 15 mil deal and it varies a lot between the different fire departments whether it is a special purpose district or a special tax district and whether it was created by the State Legislature. The legal way for a fire department to increase their millage above and beyond what the State law caps is through a referendum. State law allows the fire districts if it is done by a referendum to exceed those caps if the voters in that district approve the change. Chairman Frank Hart stated that since Buffalo Fire District is a special tax district they could request from County Council to hold the referendum and if the voters approve it then they could exceed the State caps on their tax millage for operational money.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had been provided with the proposed County Council meeting dates for the upcoming year. The meetings would continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to adopt the Union County Council meeting dates and times for the year 2018.

Tommy Hill: Made a motion to adopt the Union County Council meeting dates and times for the year 2018 as presented.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Councilman Ben Ivey noted that the only meeting changed was the June meeting which would be scheduled on Tuesday, June 19th since the primary will be held on Tuesday, June 12th. There was some discussion about whether to change the time but Council agreed to leave it at 5:30 p.m. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss the agreement with the City for code enforcement and building inspections. The agreement has been finalized. Chairman Frank Hart stated one of the officers at the Detention Center has been working with David Kitchens pretty regularly on the clean ups for some time now. He said they would like to transfer that officer which is Greg Weaver over to the code enforcement department and advertise for the vacant correctional officer position at the Detention Center. The funding that the City is providing would cover the cost of that person's salary with a little bit remaining which they would use for overtime and summer clean up help. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to transfer Officer Greg Weaver to the Code Enforcement Department and Council authorize filling the position at the Detention Center that is being vacated so that it can be advertised. There was some discussion about the transfer of the employee, the certification process and how that vacancy would affect the Detention Center.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to transfer Officer Greg Weaver to the Code Enforcement Department and Council authorize filling the position at the Detention Center that is being vacated so that it can be advertised.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. There was discussion about when the County would hire a building inspector. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they have a vacant position at the Public Works Department since Zack Woods had resigned to take another position. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to allow the Public Works Department to fill that vacant position.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to allow the Public Works Department to fill a vacant position as requested.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. There was discussion about what the position entailed as a Heavy Equipment Operator. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated we are working on the audit with the new firm and they have committed to having the audit finished by the end of January of 2018.

Lara Ashy with USDA Rural Development stated the County had applied for grant funds to help with purchasing technology equipment for the Union Carnegie Library. The grant has been approved in the amount of \$49,700 if the County can meet the designated conditions. She went over the conditions that would have to be met by Union County in order to receive the funds. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to approve that the County act as the agent for the grant and authorize the Supervisor to execute all the documents related to the grant.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to approve that the County act as the agent for the grant and authorize the Supervisor to execute all the documents related to the grant.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County has been talking about a financing strategy with the School District for the renovations needed at the stadium. A committee was appointed consisting of Lynn Lawson with the School District, Coach Adams with the School District, Ronnie Wade with the Stadium, Jerry Brannon with the County, Dudley Adams with the Fair Board, and Tony Gregory with the Stadium Commission. They were asked to review all the proposals, select the firm with the best proposal and come back with a plan. The School Board approved the plan, unanimously voted to support the project and support the proposed financing strategy. There was discussion about the three phases and whether they could all be funded. Chairman Frank Hart stated they would not but there was a possibility some groups may donate some funds to the project. The \$1.3 million was the maximum committed by the County and the School District. Councilman Ben Ivey said the School Board voted to accept this for the next ten years which gives the County the grounds they were looking for to move forward. Chairman Frank Hart asked Council to approve the project, appropriate the \$1.3 million for the project, and to authorize the Supervisor to enter into a new lease agreement which mirrors the financing terms he presented to the School District.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the project, appropriate the \$1.3 million for the project, and to authorize the Supervisor to enter into a new lease agreement which mirrors the financing terms he presented to the School District.

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

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

Sheriff David Taylor said they had made the transition to the new medical provider at the jail and it went smoothly. The five vehicles approved by Council at the last meeting have been picked up. Two of the vehicles are on the road and the others needed blue lights added because they were not properly lit. Hopefully they will have them out by the end of the year.

Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated they had helped the Library with moving books. They poured a new driveway for EMS, worked with the parades, worked on getting leaves up in Lockhart and setting up the new Christmas tree in front of the Courthouse.

Code Enforcement Officer David Kitchens stated that since they now provide code enforcement for all of Union County including the City they are staying busy.

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Stadium and Airport Manager Ronnie Wade thanked Council for the progress on the Stadium project. He said the Airport Commission had met and are working with Robbie Moody with Catawba Regional Council of Governments to set up zoning and controls around the airport. He said he had complaints about the cost of the taxes on the airplanes. There are about 14 airplanes housed at the airport but the owners do not reside in Union County. The owners can determine where they pay their taxes based on where they live. Union's rate is ten and one half percent but most of the other surrounding counties are at four percent. The current hangar rent is \$150 a month but they were talking about going to \$200 a month. He is considering sending out a letter to owners stating Union County may raise their hangar rent if the taxes are not paid in Union County. This would allow Southside Fire Department to get some funding back. Mr. Wade stated they had gotten the federal grant for the AWOS System for the airport and it would cost the County \$24,000. They will have to have an internet connection and a telephone service connection for the system. Chairman Frank Hart suggested holding off on sending out any letters pertaining to increases in hangar rent until Council approves it. Mr. Wade said the Airport Commission would only send out the letters pertaining to zoning.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated the County had repaired their driveway with concrete and it looks really good. They are working on the septic system to get it repaired. He met with USDA about some grant information. Lee Brannon was voted EMT of the Year and Charlie Gill was voted Paramedic of the Year.

Ronnie Wade thanked Kenny West and his crew for installing cameras covering the Recreation Department building and parking lot.

Carnegie Library Director Rieta Drinkwine thanked Neil McKeown and his crew for helping them move to their temporary location during the library renovations. They still need the internet hooked up.

Tourism Director Curtis Hunter thanked Neil McKeown and his crew for helping with setting up the Christmas tree in front of the Courthouse. There was a good turnout for the Coon Hunt event. The Council will be holding a joint meeting with the City Council on Monday, December 18, 2017 at the Main Street Junction for a presentation from the R.I.S.E organization. After that meeting, the Tourism Commission will hold their annual drop-in.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution that the Supervisor be allowed to negotiate with and enter into a Contract with Broad River Electric Cooperative in regard to UTC (Utility Tax Credits) Grant Funds that will be provided to the County from Broad River Electric Cooperative.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution that the Supervisor be allowed to negotiate with and enter into a Contract with Broad River Electric Cooperative in regard to UTC Grant Funds that will be provided to the County from Broad River Electric Cooperative.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution authorizing the County Supervisor to determine the terms of and execute a lease agreement to support the Union County Carnegie Library use of Historic Tax Credits to assist in funding the library renovation project and determine the terms of and execute any

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associated documents related to the use of Historic Tax Credits to provide funding for the Union County Carnegie Library renovation project.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution authorizing the County Supervisor to determine the terms of and execute a lease agreement to support the Union County Carnegie Library use of Historic Tax Credits to assist in funding the library renovation project and determine the terms of and execute any associated documents related to the use of Historic Tax Credits to provide funding for the Union County Carnegie Library renovation project.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance amending the Union County Code of Ordinances and Procurement Procedures, in certain limited regards and particulars only, establishing the procurement regulations and procedures of Union County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance amending the Union County Code of Ordinances and Procurement Procedures, in certain limited regards and particulars only, establishing the procurement regulations and procedures of Union County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart encouraged Council to read through the documents to make any comments or provide any input prior to third reading. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He said County Council was the first body to provide any funding for the Coon Hunt event which was started three or four years ago. It has really grown to a great event with a lot of people in attendance. He said he appreciated the attendance at the Downtown Open House and the Christmas tree lighting. We are close to finalizing the agreement on the spec building with the private entity. They hope to see new construction on the spec building starting next year.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business. Councilman Ralph Tucker had provided some pamphlets on the Healthy Youth program which Chairman Frank Hart handed out to Council. Councilman Ben Ivey encouraged anyone who could to get involved in the Crime Watch program. Sheriff David Taylor said they just did a drug roundup and arrested 28 people on 69 separate charges. They have 30 more charges pending on 13 more individuals. They seized eighty four and a half grams of meth Saturday and \$2, 294 off two drug dealers.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual matter.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to close executive session and said no votes were taken during executive session.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session.

David Sinclair: 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.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council