

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly  
Absent: None

Council Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. County Council Chaplin 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  
Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present  
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present  
Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present  
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on November 10, 2015, the minutes of the special meeting held on November 19, 2015 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented service award certificates and gift cards to Michael L. Lancaster for 5 years of dedicated service, for Jennifer Nave for 5 years of dedicated service, for Olin Brock for 10 years of dedicated service, for DeeAnn Parks for 10 years of dedicated service, for Iris Whisnant for 15 years of dedicated service, and to Linda G. Jolly for 40 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Casey Wright as Victim Advocate for Safe Homes addressed Council about the services they provide. The Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition offers services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Safe Homes provides 24-Hour Crisis Intervention, medical and legal advocacy, emergency shelter, therapy and follow-up to victims, their family and friends.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was James Lancaster to discuss the tax fee on non-profit organizations in the county but he was not present.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider vacancies on the Fair Board.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies on the Fair Board.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider the bids for roof replacement for the Library. County Building Superintendent Kenny West presented two bids. The first bid was from H & S Roofing and Gutter Company in the amount of \$26,586.00 and the second bid was from Guy Roofing in the amount of \$27,800.00.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to award the bid to H & S Roofing and Gutter Company as the low bid.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if Guy Roofing would not be considered local since the other company is located in Charlotte, North Carolina. Councilman Ben Ivey stated they are a national company. Chairman Frank Hart stated there was no bid preference currently in the procurement policy for construction projects. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he recently went to the South Hills Complex where they are doing some logging at the rear of the complex. The road is buckled from the logging trucks and it would cost \$20,000 to \$30,000 to repair the road. He also looked at Rices Chapel where a logging operation put up a gate across the County road to do logging so the road is actually gone. The gate has been removed but you cannot tell there was ever a road there. Because the County does not have an ordinance that regulates the use of County roads then there is no civil remedy for the County which means the County would have to pay for those repairs. He proposed consulting an attorney to draft an ordinance so that the County would issue an encroachment permit to companies using County roads so they would post a bond that would cover any damages to the roads. The ordinance would also state that any trucks over four axles would not be allowed on certain roads. Council agreed to pursue the ordinance for Council to review.

Chairman Frank Hart stated that the County currently requires the fire departments which were created by the County to hold an advisory election as part of the November election process. This causes them to be treated as elected officials so they have to file Campaign Disclosure forms and Statement of Economic Interest reports with the State Ethics Commission which include penalties if not filed on time. He stated that since it is difficult to get people to serve on the Boards for the fire districts that the County not put that additional requirement on. He suggested drafting an ordinance for the fire departments created by the County to advertise the positions and Council make the appointments. It was suggested to start working on an ordinance and discuss it with the fire departments that would be affected.

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade appeared before Council to discuss the airport layout plan. Mr. Wade stated the remaining homes that were sold at public auction should be moved soon. They have had some delays due to weather. The layout plan is a 20-25 year plan which would address everything from noise assessment to an extension on the other end of the runway. The extensions would be done in increments of probably 500 feet or 750 feet or 1000 feet. The plan would also include a terminal building which should include meeting space. These projects would be dependent upon funding. There are plans for some of the property that was acquired. The layout plan has been sent to the State and Federal agencies to be reviewed

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Mr. Aubrey Norris requested adding John Norris Sr. Place underneath the Peaksville Road sign on Highway 215 in recognition of his great grandfather's achievements. He stated he was not proposing to replace the sign but rather to add another sign under the existing one.

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

Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated things are going good and they are working on some upgrades.

Building Superintendent Kenny West stated he was working on getting the capping back on the roof at DSS.

Lorene Bevis stated she was glad the tax sale was over and they are trying to finish up the reports.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade thanked the Council for the County Christmas party.

Parks and Recreation Facilities Director Kevin Shropshire stated they were trying to get caught up on cutting the grass and getting prices for improvements for the sports complex.

Parks and Recreation Program Director Dolton Williams stated they had updated the football equipment. They are in the middle of revitalizing the Recreation Department. The plan for 2016 would be to do the inside walls of the gym after they have resolved a moisture issue. He stated they were booking for the Sports Complex for next year. Football enrollment was 243 which was an increase from last year's 183 and basketball enrollment was 184 which was an increase from last year's 143. Chairman Frank Hart said people were under the misconception that the Recreation Department had closed. He asked the news media to promote that the Recreation Department is open and offering sports programs.

Building Official Brad Jolly stated it had been pretty active for building which is not normal for this time of year. Gestamp is about to wrap up their project.

EMS Director Ronnie Roberson stated they had been busy.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter reported on the Coon Hunters event the first weekend in December. They had a good attendance but she said she was disappointed about local participation. They would have the impact study in January. She talked about Southeastern Walker Day to be held in February.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were postponing third and final reading of the Ordinance pertaining to Haemonetics Company as there were some corrections to be made in the documents.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Union County on behalf of Carnegie Library was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$304,346 to address Americans with Disabilities (ADA) issues.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were working on getting the boat ramp in Lockhart. DNR is trying to finalize the location of the ramp and hope to have that in place for next year.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they held a Workforce Summit meeting last week at the SC Works office. They want to look at reestablishing the Vocational Rehab work training center in Union County since they have a lot of resources related to workforce training. They are working on a plan to optimize the center on what services they offer and identifying and resolving issues with individuals in order to gain meaningful employment.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he has a meeting this week with Spartanburg Community College to discuss the mechatronics program. The goal is to have that program in place in Union for the fall.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he and Lockhart Mayor Ailene Ashe went to Columbia to meet with DOT regarding the Lockhart bridge project. That is about a \$22 million project. The Town of Lockhart has to relocate their utilities off of the bridge which is going to be demolished at a cost of about \$300,000. They were talking with DOT to identify funding since the Town of Lockhart has limited revenues. DOT said the bridge is safe but it has not become economically feasible to maintain it.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had started code enforcement in the Town of Lockhart and the Town of Carlisle. County Code Enforcement Officer David Kitchens has been working with the mayors to get that underway. They are working on the cleanup plan for the County to demolish those properties which have gone through the condemnation process. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked where the funding for demolition of the houses in Lockhart and Carlisle was going to come from. Chairman Frank Hart stated it would come out of the County's budget. Chairman Frank Hart stated the goal is to use County inmate labor to cut the cost per house to be able to do more. Council will have to look at that for the next budget cycle. There are a lot of vacant unoccupied ready to be condemned properties in Union County. Councilman Ben Ivey stated it averages out to a cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000 now depending on the landfill costs. If some of them have to be abated then that would run the costs up substantially.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Kara Drane with Catawba Regional Council of Governments is working on our procurement code update as well as grant writing. She met with the Fire Chiefs Association last week and agreed to provide assistance to them for the grants for FEMA aid to firefighters.

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

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Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated Building Official Brad Jolly had been overseeing the Ottaray Project and she thanked him for that. There is a sign up now for the community. They will need to hold an Ottaray meeting to discuss the picnic shelter and community area. She stated she had been told that the new animal control officer has been doing a good job.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they would take a five minute recess and then reconvene for an executive session.

The Union County Council took a recess then reconvened.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter related to County facilities and two personnel related matters.

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

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

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to close executive session and return to regular session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Chairman Frank Hart announced they had come out of executive session and no votes were taken.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council