

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 via Zoom, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via Zoom, Councilman David Sinclair via Zoom, 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 and Daniel Prince 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 via Zoom
Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Absent
David Sinclair, District 3 – Present via Zoom
Ben Ivey, District 4 – Present via Zoom
Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on November 10, 2020, the special meeting of County Council held on November 23, 2020 and to adopt the minutes as written.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate for Michael P. Thomas for 5 years and for Deanne L. Parks for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider advertising the vacancies on the boards and commissions as there are a number of positions that expire as of December 31, 2020.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to advertise current and upcoming vacancies on the boards and commissions as requested.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

Public Works Director Rusty Snider stated he would like to make some staff changes at Public Works for his road crew. He said he has a vacant full-time position for a foreman and two vacant part-time positions. He suggested taking the two part-time vacant positions and replacing them with one full-time Equipment Operator II position. By doing this he hoped to be able to run two road crews using more inmate labor. HR Director Kindra Horne stated there were funds in the current budget to cover the changes but there would need to be funds added in the new budget year to cover insurance costs. Chairman Frank Hart asked Mr. Snider if there were not sufficient funds to cover the insurance in the current budget would he be able to cover any shortage for insurance out of his regular budget and Rusty Snider said he could.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve the request to replace two budgeted part-time positions at Public Works with one full-time Equipment Operator II position.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he received a letter from the Board with Buffalo Fire District requesting a 5 mil increase in their tax levy to allow them to purchase a used service unit and a used engine that would replace a current engine that they will be trading in for the engine that they will be acquiring. Fire Chief Brian Gardin said they were looking to purchase two vehicles at a cost of \$155,000.00. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked the amount of their current tax millage and Chief Gardin replied that it is 15 mils. Chairman Frank Hart proposed this purchase for two vehicles for the Buffalo Fire District be included in the Lease to Purchase the County plans to do for other County equipment after holding a public hearing at the Buffalo Fire Department concerning the increase in tax millage. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie said she would want the tax millage to be dropped after the vehicles are paid off.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to do the paperwork to include the purchase of the two vehicles at a cost of \$155,000.00 for Buffalo Fire District in the Lease to Purchase the County plans to do for other County equipment after holding a public hearing at the Buffalo Fire Department concerning the increase in tax millage to cover the cost.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

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

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated they would be holding a training session provided through the FAA via Zoom for the fire departments as a result of the plane crash that occurred at the airport. He suggested they do not need both the Stadium Commission and Fair Board and stated they needed to be combined and they need to be working together. He stated they need someone on site to handle problems and issues during events and activities.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020

EMS Director Eric Harold gave an update on their call volume statistics. They have one vacancy for an EMT they are trying to fill. They have had thirteen COVID tests done since March with ten of them testing positive. He said they received a grant for \$110,000 for the purchase of 800 megahertz radios for his department.

Interim Director Taylor Atkinson with the Carnegie Library gave an update stating they had closed the library to the public in March and had been operating remotely. The library reopened to the public on May 18th. Her update included information on e-books, audio books, and movies, satellite locations, providing free printing, copying and faxing, assisted with unemployment appointments, free boxes of produce, tutor.com, the Community Garden, Story Walk on Main Street, Union R.E.A.D.S., grants, and various awards and honors they have received. They are working with the Town of Jonesville to provide a virtual learning center.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter gave a report on behalf of Steven Stone concerning the Palmetto Jamboree which was held this past weekend. She gave the number of various dogs that were part of the event and nine states were represented. She stated they are doing renovations on their office building. They are working to get the Sims property on the National Register and are working on the Santuc Renaissance Project. They are working towards the Walker Days event.

Community Development Director Katherine Pendergrass stated she had several instances where businesses or industries were looking for employees which she assisted with. DHEC provided free COVID testing at the Stadium parking lot on Monday and twenty-five people showed up. There will be a Partnership Opportunity Fair in Jonesville. She will be working with the Vision Council who will be working on a strategic investment plan with United Way. The Broadband Community Champions will be working to find a provider for broadband. She said with COVID cases going up we should all wear our masks and practice proper distancing.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance creating the position of Union County Fire Service Coordinator in the County of Union, South Carolina, defining the qualifications for holding the position, and establishing the job description for the position; establishing the relationship(s) between the Union County Fire Service Coordinator and certain named fire departments in Union County; and other matters related thereto.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance creating the position of Union County Fire Service Coordinator in the County of Union, South Carolina, defining the qualifications for holding the position, and establishing the job description for the position; establishing the relationship(s) between the Union County Fire Service Coordinator and certain named fire departments in Union County; and other matters related thereto.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the motion carried with four (4) Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion and one (1) Councilmember (Councilwoman Tracie Campbell) opposing.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading a Union County, South Carolina ordinance implementing the Bailey Bill (Section 4-9-195, South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended) in Union County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2020

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to adopt the Union County, South Carolina ordinance implementing the Bailey Bill (Section 4-9-195, South Carolina Code, 1976, as amended) in Union County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report and said Councilwoman Kacie Petrie would be leaving after having served twelve years on County Council and she would be missed. He said she had contributed much and served Union County well during her years on Council.

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

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

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

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.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and 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. Chairman Frank Hart called for a vote by individual Councilmembers and the vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council