

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014 AT 5:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM AT COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little (arrived at 5:34 p.m.), Councilman Frank Hart, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, 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 Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station and to Graham Williams at the County News. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called the meeting to order. Councilman 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
Frank Hart, District 2 - Present
Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented a service award certificate and gift certificate for Carrie Smith for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Mr. William Reeves addressed Council about Whispering Pines Drive in Buffalo. He provided pictures of the road and stated Sailors Construction had done the work on it. They only did half the cul-de-sac and narrowed the street. He said he had contacted the Supervisor about it who told him he would check into it. Mr. Reeves felt the taxpayers had been ripped off and the work was never completed. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he had been County Supervisor for the past five years and he had not contacted him. The work had been done years ago using "C" Fund Project money. The project would have had to have been signed off on by someone before the County could have received reimbursement. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated it would be looked at.

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 18, 2014 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Mr. C. W. Garner who serves on the Fire Board for Kelly-Kelton Fire District informed Council the fire department had incurred costs for turn out gear in the amount of \$7,254.61. After ordering and receiving the gear the fire department had to have repairs done on one of their fire trucks. That depleted

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the money they needed to pay for the turn out gear. They held a fundraiser and received some donations enabling them to pay \$1,000.00 toward that debt but they still owe \$6,254.61. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if the fire department was functional. Mr. Jerry Yarborough stated if there was a fire they would have approximately fifteen firefighters with adequate turn out gear and adequate training with an engine that would respond. There was some discussion about the situation with Fire Board members and the financial situation for the fire department. There was discussion about requesting the maximum tax levy for the fire district. Mr. C. W. Garner stated they have approximately \$2,000 left in their bank account.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to pay Safe Industries \$6,254.61 for the turn out gear.

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Frank Hart stated he would go along with the Councilmembers taking the money from their special projects funds but not from other general fund money.

Council agreed to take the money from their special projects money at a cost of \$893.52 each which did not require a motion. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie withdrew her motion and Councilman Tommy Ford withdrew his second to the motion.

Mr. Steven Broadbent addressed Council about code enforcement. He stated he was talking about Union Auto Salvage being in violation since 2009 of the County Code pertaining to junkyards. It took four and a half years to get a fence put up which is not sufficient. He understood it had been suggested to Mr. Greer that he should plant some flowering type shrubs to block the view. He referred to the condition of Ashley Acres Drive which is used by the tow trucks for the salvage business and has deteriorated over the years. The road is in the County's Road Maintenance System. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the road had been patched. The case against Mr. Greer is currently in court and he did not know when it would be resolved. The County makes decisions based on priority of money based on resources versus needs. Mr. Broadbent felt it would be reasonable for the people who destroyed the road to fix the road.

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

Clerk of Court Freddie Gault stated there are members of the US Congress who have offered their assistance to fire districts who wish help with applying for federal grants. There are deadlines to be considered when making application.

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated he thought Councilmembers had received a copy of the minutes of the last Airport Commission meeting. They are asking that Council look at purchasing the remaining two pieces of property for the clear zoning at the airport. There was discussion about the houses to be purchased, moving expenses, and negotiations on another piece of property. It was estimated to cost an additional \$100,000.00 with 95% reimbursement from the FAA. Councilman Frank Hart expressed his concern that the County be reimbursed for expenses already incurred by the end of this fiscal year. Mr. Wade stated if Council approved the purchase of the additional property the reimbursement would probably come in sometime from June to August. Councilman Frank Hart wanted the reimbursement on what had already been paid to come in before the end of the County's fiscal year which would prohibit approval of purchasing the additional property at this time. Mr. Wade stated they would seek reimbursement on the cost of the properties already purchased and then work on the other property.

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Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced an Inducement Resolution for Project STC4.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Project STC4; and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, payment of a Fee in Lieu of Taxes related to the project.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any committee reports.

Councilman Frank Hart stated he, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Randall Hanvey, and Animal Control Officer Heather Sealy had met and had come up with some changes to the Animal Control Ordinance. Councilman Tommy Ford stated he wanted them to hold another meeting before making any changes.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to advertise the upcoming vacancies on the Airport Commission, Appeals Board and Fair Board.

Frank Hart: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the County now owns the mobile home purchased as part of the land acquisition at the airport. He said the County had held a public hearing on the real property located at Poplar Road in Jonesville. The County is not required to hold a public hearing to sell houses located on real property. He asked Council to authorize a public auction for the property located at Poplar Road and the houses and trailer purchased by the County.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to set up a public auction as soon as possible to sell the house and property located on Poplar Road in Jonesville and other houses and the mobile home owned by the County.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there were items that needed to be discussed in executive session pertaining to contractual and personnel matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated for the record that the bids for the construction of the Carlisle Fire Department building came in at \$288,700.00, \$308,077.00 and \$338,000.00. Chairman Tommy Sinclair entertained a motion about accepting the bid with stipulations from the Carlisle Fire Department's recommendation.

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Tommy Ford: Made a motion that on behalf of Carlisle Fire Department Union County accepts the bid from Sossamon Construction Company stipulating that Carlisle Fire Department would deposit in advance in the County Treasury the difference between the bond amount and the bid amount.

Frank Hart: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that Sossamon Construction Company was the low bidder at \$288,700.00.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated Wells Fargo had donated to the County some property with a house on it in Jonesville. The County has purchased some houses at the airport and the County has some other properties that are not revenue generating. The County wants to hold a public auction to sell those. The County has held the public hearing required on the property in Jonesville on Poplar Road.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to conduct an auction to sell some of the excess property the County has.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to use up to \$20,000 from PARD funds to help build a picnic shelter and recreation area with community input as to where it goes as part of the Ottaray Project.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the security of communications is becoming more of an issue and the County must comply with federal government regulations on security of the network. We have telephone systems that are part of that and Council needed to consider whether they wanted to pay the maintenance contracts on a long term basis or a yearly basis.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to pay the maintenance contracts on the telephone system on a yearly basis.

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

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to approve the Christmas bonuses for the County employees as they had done in the past.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council