

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilwoman Joan Little

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 Frank Hart called the meeting to order.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Joan Little, District 1 – Absent (sick)

District 2 – Vacant Seat

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 January 13, 2015 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate to Tim Roark for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to boards and commissions. Chairman Frank Hart recommended Danny Sanders be appointed to the Airport Commission.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Danny Sanders to serve on the Airport Commission as the Chair's recommendation.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had been contacted by Councilwoman Joan Little who wanted to recommend Rev. George Sims be re-appointed to the Appeals Board.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Rev. George Sims to serve on the Appeals Board as recommended by Councilwoman Joan Little.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart recommended the appointment of Matthew Jeter, Jr. to serve on the Appeals Board.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Matthew Jeter, Jr. to serve on the Appeals Board as recommended by Chairman Frank Hart.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were five vacancies on the Board of Fire Control for the Carlisle Fire District and there were five applicants who were Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter, Kimberly Booker, Keith Spencer, and Willie J. Gist. He suggested Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter, Kimberly Booker, and Keith Spencer be appointed to serve full four-year terms with Willie J. Gist being appointed to fill the unexpired term due to the resignation of Ann Stevens.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter, Kimberly Booker, and Keith Spencer to serve full terms on the Board of Fire Control for the Carlisle Fire District and to appoint Willie J. Gist to serve in the unexpired term.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked that it be noted that this should all be put on the next general election ballot. Chairman Frank Hart said they had talked to Keith Vanderford about doing that and getting it worked out ahead of time going forward. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were four (4) vacancies on the Board of Fire Control for the Kelly-Kelton Fire District which had been advertised but there were no applicants.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were two appointments to be considered for the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Board. One position was for a minority representative and Leroy Worthy had submitted an application and the second position was for an at-large representative and Margaret Holloway had submitted an application.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Leroy Worthy and Margaret Holloway to serve on the Catawba Regional Council of Governments Board.

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

Kara Drane with Catawba Regional Council of Governments appeared before Council to discuss the Union County Transit Feasibility Study. She explained that when they talk about transit it would be about demand response and not a fixed route system. It would be where someone would call up and say they need a ride to the doctor's office, grocery store, or to a job which would be scheduled where they would pick up that person, drop them off and then take them home. The presentation included background and project timeframe, who benefits from public transit, the project scope and the benefits of having a public transit system. The project was awarded in July of 2014. Federal and State funds cover \$39,375.00 with the County providing \$4,375.00 in matching funds. The benefits of having a public transit system is that it positively impacts the region's economy, increases personal independence, improves mobility, improves the overall quality of life for all citizens, enhances economic competitiveness, and creates more convenient and efficient places for people to live. She presented a contract for Catawba Regional Council of Governments to provide technical assistance to Union County in the implementation of the Transit Feasibility Study at a cost of \$3,750.00.

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Kenneth Black with Union County Fire Rescue stated they have three thirty year leases on the property from Union County where their building is located. They requested permission from Council to construct a separate 40'x 60' building on the property to house their equipment since the property is owned by the County.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to proceed to work with Union County Fire Rescue on their building expansion project to have a 40'x 60' building constructed on the property being leased from Union County working through all legal and compliance regulations.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. Councilman Ben Ivey stated they could not do anything until Council knew where it was coming from and how it is going to be paid for so the County would not be liable for anything they do not understand. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Ronnie Wade as Manager of the Union County Airport appeared before Council to give them an update on the airport improvements. Some of the owners of the property they bought and some of the homes they bought were paid at least 100% value of their property, paid a moving fee and paid set-up fees for the homes they were moving to. The property looks nice since the trees have been removed. He provided Council with a handout showing expenses and revenues going back to 2010 on the airport projects. An FAA planner and engineer, a State engineer, and a representative from WK Dickson met with him and Supervisor Frank Hart yesterday so that the Supervisor could hear that the County would be reimbursed what had been spent. They are talking about in excess of \$300,000 that the County would get reimbursed before June 30<sup>th</sup>. The amount of money would be determined by the amount paid for the property, the moving fees, engineering fees, and attorney's fees. The County would get 90% reimbursed from federal funds, 5% reimbursed from the State and the County has to provide 5% in matching funds which are already in the budget for this year. Council was provided with a five-year draft plan and a time frame for a 4,500 foot runway extension. He requested permission to purchase the Willis house which he has an agreement on and to negotiate for another piece of property that he does not have an agreement on. Chairman Frank Hart stated Anna Lynch with FAA told them the money had already been programmed into their system for reimbursement. The funds from the FAA are not eligible to be used for anything other than an airport expansion. Out of a \$550,000 project, the County has only contributed about \$26,000. The County approved an additional \$20,000 to go with that in order to close out some of those deals for a total of about \$46,000. Ronnie Wade stated a representative from WK Dickson will be at the next Council meeting to go over the draft plan for the airport. There has to be a noise assessment done and Council needs to review the zoning ordinance pertaining to the airport to see if it needs to be revised.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to proceed to close out the Willis property.

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

Amy Austin with The Miracle League of Union appeared before Council to update Council on their progress. They are planning a fundraiser for an all-inclusive playground at the end of the Miracle League field at the Timken Sports Complex. They already have \$21,200 in donations. She went over the particulars of the equipment they plan to have at the playground and stated they are preliminary designs. There was some discussion about the location, security and access of the playground area.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to support that project as described.

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

Mr. Donald Lyles stated he had presented a letter in March of 2011 requesting Hodges Road, Worthy Road and Candice Circle in the Goldville and Maybinton areas be paved. Council had voted to request

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“C” funds to have those roads paved. They also want a recycling center and recreation for their area. Chairman Frank Hart stated at the December, 2013 Council meeting Council voted to put Hodges Road, Worthy Road and Candice Circle on the “C” Fund list.

Keith Vanderford with the Election Commission requested permission to purchase five laptops to supplement the thirty they already have in order to have them on hand and prepared in the event that they had issues on Election Day. The estimated cost for the five laptops was \$3,843.15. He also requested that Darlene Pettit and one board member be allowed to attend the annual SCARE convention in March at Myrtle Beach at an estimated cost of less than \$2,000.00. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Election Commission turned in \$4,500.00 which is what they charged the municipalities to conduct their elections. He suggested using those funds to go toward these expenditures.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to approve the request.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated if they are going to need to replace the computers as they go down then he might want to include that in his budget request. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Brown Fant went over the process and requirements for doing the audit for Union County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. He stated there was a loss of \$903,147 which reduced the fund balance to \$2,626,000. The County had anticipated repayment from Wallace Thomson Hospital in the amount of \$600,000 which did not occur. The revenue from taxes came in at \$281,000 less than anticipated. The \$949,000 shortfall which included the County providing additional assistance to Wallace Thomson Hospital in the amount of \$717,000 all contributed to the loss in the general fund balance. He went over the assets and liabilities, the bond indebtedness, and the history of the fund balance from 2008 through 2014. Chairman Frank Hart stated they need revenue and expenditure reports during the fiscal year to keep everything on track. Mr. Brown Fant stated that it is tough to track the revenue because of revenues that come in only during the tax season and revenues from the State that come in quarterly or annually.

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

Sheriff David Taylor stated they were about half way through the Viper project at 911. They have set up a temporary dispatch and the carpet and walls have been replaced with new sound barrier. The equipment has come in for the desks and they should start putting them in this week. They hope to complete the project by the end of this month or the next Council meeting.

Neil McKeown as Director of the Detention Center stated they drew up a new schedule for cleaning up the trash around the recycle centers. They average about 20,000 pounds of roadside trash.

Recreation Director Becky Cobb stated the Father/Daughter Dance was a great success with 53 couples participating. They are getting ready to finish up their youth basketball and start with youth baseball registration. Their next event will be their Easter egg hunt at the Timken Sports Complex.

Timken Sports Complex Director Kevin Shropshire stated they went to a meeting for Dixie Youth baseball and were awarded next year’s State Championship Tournament.

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Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Standard Textile Carolina, Inc.; 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 adopt the ordinance pertaining to Standard Textile Carolina, Inc. as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, County Offices and Departments to allow Supervisor Frank Hart to fill three vacancies that were presented to them with the approval of staying within those overall budgeted funds for the departments.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had a meeting with fire chiefs and they each brought a board member from each of the respective districts to talk about the possibility of better cooperation. They talked about setting up a committee to look at what some other counties are doing and come back with a recommendation. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie and Councilman Tommy Ford stated most of the fire departments are intrigued by the idea of having a County-wide fire system but still have some reservations about it as well.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had a meeting with the McNair Law Firm about the County's building codes ordinance as it relates to the International Maintenance Code. They want a clear understanding of how our code enforcement officer can work within the confines of State law.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had met with Sheriff David Taylor to discuss the ventilation issues at the jail. They also have some issues at the Detention Center related to HVAC. There will probably be funds needed to be invested to bring the jail up to a level better than where we are now since they do not plan to build a new jail any time soon.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had asked for a comparison of where we are with revenue this time this year as opposed to this time last year to see where we are. Through December we are about \$900,000 ahead of revenue collections for the same time period last year. We will be looking at the revenues again for January to have a better feel for where we stand. If there is a revenue shortfall they will have to go in and cut spending through the remainder of the fiscal year to maintain the fund balance.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve the contract with Catawba Regional Council of Governments to administer the Transit Feasibility Study.

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

Councilman Ben Ivey asked about getting an auctioneer to hold the public auction for the sale of the property on Poplar Road in Jonesville and the houses purchased at the airport. Chairman Frank Hart stated they had given the owners of the houses at the airport ninety days to vacate the property once it had been closed on. He suggested doing an absolute auction to have the homes removed from the property at the airport. Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated it may be July before they could hold the auction because of the ninety days allowance, advertising and meeting all the FAA requirements.

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Chairman Frank Hart said FAA stipulates that if the homes are not sold and removed then the County has to demolish them and haul them off.

Paul Newhouse as CEO for Wallace Thomson Hospital stated they had a hearing on Chapter 9 a few weeks ago to update the judge on where they were and they would have a follow up on April 15<sup>th</sup>. They hope to present a plan of what they are doing moving forward and start moving out of bankruptcy. It would probably take about two months after that. They are still working on an affiliation and hope to be able to make an announcement. The Healthcare Foundation is holding their annual Shag Night on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

County Council took a break at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a contractual matter.  
Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to close executive session.  
Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to give Chairman Frank Hart the authority to negotiate the acquiring of the property for the Ottaray Park Project located on Perrin Avenue and Sims Drive and spend up to the appraised value after approval through our building inspector to make sure the land is fit for what they want to use it for.  
Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting  
Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council