

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, 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, WBCU Radio Station, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Ms. Ann Canada, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Anna Brown with the County News, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Ray Treadway, and Mr. Robert Small. 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

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 8, 2013, the special meeting of County Council held on January 28, 2013 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented a service award and gift certificate for Thomas L. Crocker for 5 years, for Chrystal M. Richardson for 5 years, for Robert E. Sutton for 5 years and for George F. Weaver for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there is still a vacancy on the Library Board. Councilman Ben Ivey stated the former member had been from his district and he would find someone to be appointed by the next meeting.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there are two vacancies on the Airport Commission.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise for the vacancies on the Airport Commission.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Mr. Donald Lyles stated Beth Lemaster with the National Forest Service was present. Beth Lemaster stated Mr. Lyles had asked the Forest Service about a donation of property for them to build a fire department. She said they do not have the authority to donate property. They could explore doing a land exchange but that could take years. Mr. Donald Lyles stated there were several pieces of property that may be available for purchase. Councilman Frank Hart made a proposal on the Carlisle Fire District which provided information on ISO ratings and how it relates to insurance premiums; providing a primary fire station and a substation; and automatic aid agreements. Carlisle Fire District would apply for a rural development loan of \$250,000 from the USDA with a three and a quarter percent APR for a twenty year term and would apply for a \$50,000 grant for a total of \$300,000. The tax millage for the fire district would have to double to cover the loan repayment and operational costs but the taxpayers in that district could realize a savings in insurance costs. Frank Hart asked for a motion to proceed with initiating the bond process as requested by the Carlisle Fire Control Board and concurrently apply for the USDA funds. The tentative timeline would be to hold first reading of the ordinance to issue the GO Bond on February 20<sup>th</sup> and advertise for the public hearing on February 21<sup>st</sup>. He recommended doing that in Carlisle. On March 4<sup>th</sup> Council could hold second reading of the ordinance. Then Council could hold the public hearing with third and final reading of the ordinance after that so they could potentially have funds available in May.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to proceed.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated all this hinges on results from the public hearing to see what the Town wants. She stated she was in support of it.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there were three people who had applied for the Hospital Board and one is a minister and he was trying to adjust the meeting schedule to accommodate him as best he could.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Council had been provided a copy of a letter from Pastor Neil Keisler. Pastor Keisler with Trinity Baptist Church stated they minister to the lowest income areas in the county and provide food, household items, blankets, dishes, etc. to meet their needs. They need storage space for those items. Ideally, they would like 6,000 square foot of space for storage so that it could all be centrally located.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion if the County has the facility available to move forward to see if we could help them out.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion.

Pastor Neil Keisler asked that if they are allowed to use a facility and it is needed by the County at a later date then the County give them a thirty day notice to vacate.

The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff David Taylor requested purchase of a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system from Zuercher Technologies. They had looked at four proposals but recommended this company. The system would cost \$123,880. He stated it would not cost the County anything but requested the County front the money with reimbursements from the State 911 Fund and the County 911 Telephone Fund. This system includes a server for CAD dispatch and data conversion. Sheriff Taylor stated their server now is tied in to the Courthouse server. There was discussion about installation time and time it would take to receive the reimbursements.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

There was discussion about future upgrades. Sheriff David Taylor said this is an integrating system so they could add the records management system, the jail management system, the mapping system and the civil process and tie it all into one. Sheriff Taylor said this system would take them to the point where they are not dispatching calls but rather it is done by computer and not by radios.

Frank Hart: Made a motion to receive the proposal as presented.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion.

Linda Mitchell stated there would be a yearly maintenance fee that would cover any of their upgrades which is already in the budget for the 911 telephone funds. She stated this product is Next Generation 911 compatible.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Sheriff David Taylor stated he needed Council's approval for his Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreements he has with other agencies such as the City of Union, Spartanburg County, Laurens County, and Newberry County. He had Memorandum of Understanding agreements with the Laurens County Sheriff's Office, the Newberry County Sheriff's Office and the US Forest Service for Sumter National Forest.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve the agreements with Laurens, Newberry and the Sumter National Forest as stated.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that Torance Inman on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce has a presentation that needed to be done in executive session since it involves economic development that may require contractual and other actions.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to go into executive session for contractual matters.

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

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair announced that Council had come out of executive session and that no votes were taken.

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he thought they should start the interviews with the applicants for the Hospital Board.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated it was on the agenda concerning public access to tax parcel information. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he had removed that from the agenda to bring up at a later date.

Councilman Tommy Ford asked if all the applicants for the Hospital Board were present and Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated only two were present.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to wait until all three applicants could be present before doing the interviews.

Councilman Randall Hanvey said he did not know they were interviewing the applicants at this meeting and asked when that was brought up. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

vacancies had been advertised, they had received applicants and we always interview. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated they do not normally conduct the interviews the night of the regular Council meeting. Councilman Frank Hart said he would not be in favor of making any decision until all three applicants could be interviewed. The motion died for lack of a second. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he would reschedule the interviews.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of certain deeds pertaining to the purchase and sell of land for the benefit of Bonham Fire Department such land being located on S. C. Highway 18 and Oakgrove Road.

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

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair gave an update on United Way. Four entities came and went to the Health Department and they are working out mechanics related to insurance and that sort of thing to make a presence there.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair informed Council since the announcement that the Unemployment Offices around the State would be closing there had been requests from counties to keep them open for some part of the day. That looks promising.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there was a request from the Healthcare Foundation to support their annual Shag Night by buying a table at a cost of \$500.00.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to do so.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> with Governor Haley as the guest speaker. It would cost \$300.00 to purchase a table for that banquet.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to purchase a table for the Chamber Banquet at a cost of \$300.00.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the County had received the annual audit and referenced page 12 of the audit which reflects an increase in the fund balance for last year in the amount of \$41,452. He felt that was remarkable due to having to replace roofs and the purchase of the Chrysler Building even with the loss in State funds.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked with the closing of the Unemployment Office in Union would that leave a presence in the From Building. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Workforce Investment Board would still occupy the building to provide job training, job classification and skill testing.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair said he had a request from the Town of Jonesville for \$6,000 to help support the senior citizens activities in Jonesville. Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if this was on a reoccurring basis. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated the Mayor of Jonesville had made a presentation several years ago but it was never included in the budget but was dealt

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

with out of contingency type funds. Councilman Randall Hanvey suggested it be addressed during the budget process.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for committee reports.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on Personnel, County Offices and County Property to release the freeze on the interviews of the Code Enforcement Officer and let the County Supervisor proceed with those interviews.

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Councilman Randall Hanvey said it was also suggested by the Committee that members of that committee be allowed to sit in on the interviews and Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he had no objections to doing that. There was further discussion about the duties and responsibilities of the Codes Enforcement Officer, about work hours and the salary range.

Joan Little: Made a motion to readvertise the Codes Enforcement Officer position with a salary range the same as a jailer.

Frank Hart: Seconded the motion.

There was further discussion about certification requirements, responsibilities, and training.

The motion did not carry as the vote on the motion was one (1) Council Member (Councilwoman Joan Little) voting in favor of the motion and five (5) Council Members voting against.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other business.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to let the procurement officer proceed with the disposition of the tree and the property on Springs Street in Buffalo using the past discussions and the bid history as a guide.

Frank Hart: Seconded the motion.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that if they allow it to be changed according to the previous motion then they would be violating their own ordinance. This would allow him to go by the procurement ordinance to resolve this. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if this would be cutting the tree and selling the property and Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that was correct.

The motion carried with five (5) Council Members voting in favor or the motion and one (1) Council Member (Councilwoman Kacie Petrie) opposing. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she opposed it because she wanted the codes and procedures to remain intact.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked where they stand on the hours for the employees at the recycle centers. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there were some that wanted to work the 12 hours and some that wanted to work 6 hours. They changed it January 1<sup>st</sup> and wanted to give it until the end of February.

Councilman Frank Hart stated there is an issue with water standing in the parking lot at the rear of the Health Department. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said they have a plan to fix the problem but it is an expensive one. He told Councilman Hart they could talk about it further.

Councilman Frank Hart stated he is getting requests about paving of roads. He asked if it was possible with the system Jerry Brannon has in place of the county roads to establish a process by which there is criteria to prioritize the need for road improvements and paving.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Councilman Ben Ivey as Chair of the Road Committee stated that is similar to what they are doing now and they had recently discussed patching, using tar and gravel or asphaltting roads. They will make a recommendation to Council at a later date as to where they want to go with that process and it would include the use of "C" Funds.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council