

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AT 5:31 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilman Tommie Hill

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, mailed to the County Attorney, and mailed or emailed to the Union County Development Board, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtiss Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, Charles Warner at the Union Times, Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC, Michael Lee with MHISC and Randall Hanvey. A notice of the meeting was 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

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Present

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Absent

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on January 8, 2019, the special meeting of County Council held on January 24, 2019, the special meeting of County Council held on January 31, 2019 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented service award certificates and gift certificates to David Taylor for 10 years of dedicated service, to Kacie Petrie for 10 years of dedicated service and for Keith Vanderford for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Jack Logan with Put Down the Guns Now Young People stated he was concerned with gun violence. He requested Council provide the Sheriff with the necessary funds for proper training to recognize mental illness to protect the citizens of Union County and retain his personnel.

Darren Wright with Goodwill Industries stated they would be opening a new facility in Union in the old Belk building on the bypass. They help people become independent through education leading to

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employment which all starts with donations. They are planning the grand opening in either April or May. Chairman Frank Hart thanked him for his commitment to coming back to Union County.

Coie Switzer came before Council to discuss the matching grant for the Piedmont Physic Garden they received from Ten at the Top through the Hughes Investment Community Vibrancy competition. The \$3,000 grant is seed money for an environmental art festival to be held in 2020 to exhibit and promote the importance of plants. They must raise \$3,000 in March and asked the County Council to provide \$1,500.

Tommy Ford stated as president of Dixie Youth Baseball he was asking Council to continue their support by allowing them to continue to use the Timken Sports Complex.

Christy Garner with Dixie Girls League asked Council to continue to support their girls by allowing them to use the Timken Sports Complex.

Terricka Glenn with Little League stated they had formed their league because some of the parents thought some players were being treated unfairly. They asked County Council to allow them to use the Timken Sports Complex the same as other leagues in the county.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had asked for a play schedule for the Timken Sports Complex but was waiting for a recommendation from the staff. Once the Council has received the recommendation they will make their decision. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie requested rosters to see how many children are participating. Once the staff at Timken Sports Complex determines what they can accommodate, Council will meet with the various leagues.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was the appointments to the boards and commissions. On the Airport Commission Daniel C. Burnett, Robert Steve Bogan and Jeffery A. Reynolds applied for reappointment. Chairman Frank Hart recommended the reappointment of Jeffery A. Reynolds.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Jeffery A. Reynolds to serve on the Airport Commission.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to reappoint Robert Steve Bogan to serve on the Airport Commission.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Daniel C. Burnett to serve on the Airport Commission.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were no applicants for the Appeals Board.

Chairman Frank Hart recommended the reappointment of William Jolly to serve on the Fair Board. The applicants were William Jolly, Ailene D. Ashe, Dudley Adams and Phillip Allen Hagen.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint William Jolly to serve on the Fair Board.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to appoint Ailene D. Ashe to serve on the Fair Board.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Dudley Adams to serve on the Fair Board.

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

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Councilman Ben Ivey said he had been contacted by Butch Carter who stated he was interested in serving another term on the Appeals Board.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Butch Carter to serve on the Appeals Board.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The applicants for the Library Board were Connie B. Springs, Antonio Johnson, Lauren Ward, and Jonathan A. Waller.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Connie B. Springs to serve on the Library Board

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to appoint Antonio Johnson to serve on the Library Board.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The applicants for the Stadium Commission were James P. McNeil, Jr. and Jay Ford.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Jay Ford to serve on the Stadium Commission.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The applicants for the Tourism Commission were Elizabeth Oliver, Taccoa "Coie" Switzer, and Nathan Johnson. Chairman Frank Hart recommended the reappointment of Elizabeth Oliver to serve on the Tourism Commission.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Elizabeth Oliver to serve on the Tourism Commission.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to appoint Taccoa "Coie" Switzer to serve on the Tourism Commission.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Nathan Johnson to serve on the Tourism Commission.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The applicants for the Planning Commission were F. Everett Leigh, Etta Rae Johnson, and Marie Knox. Chairman Frank Hart recommended the reappointment of F. Everett Leigh to serve on the Planning Commission.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint F. Everett Leigh to serve on the Planning Commission.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to appoint Marie Knox to serve on the Planning Commission.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Etta Rae Johnson to serve on the Planning Commission.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

There was one applicant for the Building Code Board of Appeals who was John David (JD) Wilcox, Jr.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to reappoint John David (JD) Wilcox, Jr. to serve on the Building Code Board of Appeals.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next was to consider appointments to the Board of Fire Control for the fire districts. The applicants for the Bonham Fire District were Jami Trammell, Chris Scott, and Kathy Gregory. This will be a second term for Jami Trammell and Kathy Gregory. Because Chris Scott has

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already served two terms and this would be his third term, Council agreed to advertise the position and if there were no applicants then he would be considered at the next monthly Council meeting.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to reappoint Jami Trammell and Kathy Gregory to serve a second term on the Fire Board for Bonham Fire District.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The applicants for the Board of Fire Control for Buffalo Fire District were Bobby Pollander, James "Walker" Smith, Ernest Crocker, Carolyn Yarborough (Kirby) and Maxie Lawson.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to reappoint Bobby Pollander, James "Walker" Smith, Ernest Crocker, and Carolyn Yarborough (Kirby).

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

The applicants for the Board of Fire Control for Carlisle Fire District were Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter, Kimberly D. Booker and Keith O. Spencer.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to reappoint Mike J. Spencer, Jr., Patricia Jeter, Kimberly D. Booker and Keith O. Spencer.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The applicants for the Board of Fire Control for Cross Keys Fire District were Michael R. Smith and Vera Sabrina Martin Torres (Heuring).

David Sinclair: Made a motion to reappoint Michael R. Smith and Vera Sabrina Martin Torres (Heuring) and advertise the remaining two positions.

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

The applicants for the Board of Fire Control for Kelly-Kelton Fire District were Ray Finch, Harold Dean Browning and Jared N. Smith, Sr.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to reappoint Ray Finch and appoint Harold Dean Browning and Jared N. Smith, Sr.

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

The applicants for the Board of Fire Control for Philippi Fire District were Chuck Montgomery and Dean Robinson.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to appoint Chuck Montgomery and Dean Robinson and advertise the remaining position.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Union County Health Care Foundation will be holding its annual Shag Night on March 2nd and they were asking Council for a sponsorship. This year their fundraising efforts are focused on the new nursing program at USC-Union School of Nursing.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to be a Silver Sponsor for \$500 with the funds to come from the Contingency Fund.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County applied to Parks, Recreation and Tourism for a \$100,000 grant to complete the next phase of the Lockhart Walking Trail Project. Phase II for the trail around the mill was funded and completed and the County was reimbursed for that. Phase I would take the trail from

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the downtown area up to the location of the new boat ramp replacing the pedestrian walking bridge. The grant for the \$100,000 for Phase I has been approved but the bids came in higher than expected at approximately \$130,000. The County would need to appropriate the additional \$30,000 and Chairman Frank Hart recommended that be done through the Fund 327 Economic Development Infrastructure account.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to appropriate \$30,000 from Fund 327 Economic Development Infrastructure account in order to do Phase I of the Lockhart Walking Trail Project.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Building Superintendent Kenny West stated the County advertised for bids for a new roof for the 911 building. We received two bids from Guy Roofing and from Roof Options Inc. There was a revision to page two of the bid from Guy Roofing for a 20 year warranty which is what the County asked for. The low bid was from Guy Roofing at a cost of \$45,070 and the second bid was from Roof Options at a cost of \$45,955 with gutters. Chairman Frank Hart stated they recommend taking this from the Capital Fund in the budget.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the low bid from Guy Roofing at a cost of \$45,070 to be paid from the Capital Expenditures account.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if we were getting close to finishing fixing the roof problems and Chairman Frank Hart stated we are looking at the roof on the Recreation Department. Sheriff David Taylor asked if they were replacing the roof on the 911 building with a flat roof. Chairman Frank Hart stated that was the most cost effective way to do it and they are giving the County a twenty year warranty. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart said the renovations at the stadium were coming along well. They received the initial costs for what they wanted to complete at the stadium which are the ticket booths, the fencing and replacing the roof on the concessions building at a cost of approximately \$260,000 which is about \$65,000 above the funds allocated for the project. They have \$66,914.95 remaining from phase one and uncommitted remaining bond funds of \$98,400. Chairman Frank Hart asked that the \$98,400 be added to the renovation project for the stadium. They will meet with the contractor to come up with revised costs as to what is needed to finish out phase two. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if the bond funds could be used anywhere else. Chairman Frank Hart said those funds could be used on the items presented in the bond documents which were for facility improvements for various facilities.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allocate the remaining \$98,400 of unobligated bond funds for phase two of the stadium renovations.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the renovations at EMS were coming along well. The balance of the bond funds allocated to the project is \$16,346.64 after we meet our obligations to the contractor. We have a \$75,000 grant from Timken for the generator. The plan is to do an additional \$50,000 in upgrades for some items not in the initial scope of work. They want to do some sheet metal work on the building, some painting of the brick, and parking lot improvements. They should come in on budget with that project.

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

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Jeff Arflin gave a report on the litter collected. With the exception of one position, they are fully staffed. Sheriff David Taylor stated he had complaints of litter on Highway 49 near the landfill. He thought that when negotiations were going on for the landfill, the company that runs the landfill agreed they would help police the trash on that road. Councilman Ben Ivey stated there is a litter problem on the old Union Highway in Lockhart and Mr. Arflin stated it was on the list.

Tax Assessor Jake Black stated Sundress Glenn would be retiring effective March 1st and he would be coming to Council to request to hire a replacement.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis said they were still working on the deeds and finally got them all filed and they had one property sold.

Kevin Shropshire with Timken Sports Complex stated they are getting ready for ball season but the weather has been an issue.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated they are in phase three of the renovations at EMS. Phase four will include the parking lot improvements and building improvements. They did a mid-point inspection on the ambulance last week with the final inspection at Myrtle Beach in March. The grant-in-aid was approved and we should receive those funds in the next few weeks.

Rieta Drinkwine with the Carnegie Library stated there were seven deputies who participated in the mental health training. Their person doing the training will be getting certified to handle youth so they can do training with people who work with children. She said she thought they had three board seats to be considered for appointment. Chairman Frank Hart said he withheld his recommendation because he had not had the opportunity to talk with the applicants and that appointment should be considered at the March meeting. Rieta Drinkwine stated they are doing free tax clinics through United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Upcoming events include Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss which is a program for daycares in partnership with USC Union, Upcountry Literacy Festival in partnership with USC Union, and KidsFest in partnership with Union County First Steps.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated they have an event starting this Thursday at Highway 9 and Old Pump Station Road which will run through Sunday. Big Buck and the Southeastern Treeing Walker Days Coon Hunt are being held the same weekend of February 23rd. The Drag Strip is coming up with a race that she will be providing them more information on.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance amending Division II. – Tourism Commission of Article XI. – Boards, Commissions and similar entities of Chapter 2 – Administration of the Union County Code of Ordinances, in certain limited regards and particulars, only; and other matters pertaining thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance amending Division II. – Tourism Commission of Article XI. – Boards, Commissions and similar entities of Chapter 2 – Administration of the Union County Code of Ordinances, in certain limited regards and particulars, only; and other matters pertaining thereto.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

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Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance amending Division 3. – Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Article XI. – Boards, Commissions and similar entities of Chapter 2 – Administration of the Union County Code of Ordinances, in certain limited regards and particulars, only; and other matters pertaining thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance amending Division 3. – Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse of Article XI. – Boards, Commissions and similar entities of Chapter 2 – Administration of the Union County Code of Ordinances, in certain limited regards and particulars, only; and other matters pertaining thereto.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He reviewed some of the activities they had been working on as a county such as economic development, partnering with the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Union. Some of the accomplishments included \$280 million in new investments with 300 new jobs, the community scholarship program, the nursing program and SCC. He outlined the challenges going forward including the declining population and the current local workforce is at full employment. Employers are having a problem with applicants for employment not being able to pass the drug test. There is no localized housing development and there is no retail ready housing. We are encountering difficulty in recruiting quality of life assets for the community such as restaurants, hotels and a movie theatre. There is a problem with the perception of the local school districts in the quality of education and the opportunities are not what they should be which was why he met with the School Board last night. When talking to new industries about locating in Union County the first two issues are there is nowhere to buy a new modern home in a protected area like a subdivision and the schools are not rated well. He told the School Board the County is looking at public/private partnership to generate a new housing initiative in Union County and we need to work on improving school district ratings by implementing strategies to improve key metrics by which performance is judged. He said he benchmarked Union County against Abbeville County which is a little smaller and their medium income is lower, their per capita income is lower, and their poverty levels are a little higher. He provided comparison data from the internet site State Report Card. He recommended to the School Board that we form a cross functional team consisting of three to four school board members, school administration, county representative, community representative, business representative, and faith community representatives. The function of this committee would be to develop and propose strategies to the School Board which would address deficiencies in state report card results thereby improving school performance and perception of the local school system. The School Board would make the final decisions regarding implementation of any proposed strategies. He said the school district performance has to be improved in Union County. We have to expect more and have to deliver more if we expect our county to grow. He stated he and Katherine Pendergrass had a great meeting with DHEC and Regenisis for some funding for federal qualified health centers. If the grant is approved, hopefully we could utilize the Health Department building for those services to provide access to primary care for health, dental and vision particularly for people who do not have insurance coverage.

Katherine Pendergrass stated they were working with the Salvation Army and the Council on the homeless situation in Union County.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss an economic development matter.

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

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The County Council went into executive session to discuss an economic development matter.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were ready to close the executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to close executive session.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

The County Council closed executive session and returned to regular session.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council