

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice Chair Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Tommie Hill, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie (arrived at 5:38 p.m.), 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 County Development Board, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtis Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, to Graham Williams at the County News, to Charles Warner at the Union Times, to Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Allison Roberts with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Shell Suber at MHISC and to 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:

Joan Little, District 1 – Present

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Present

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)

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 9, 2018 and to adopt the minutes as written.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Stephen Morris for 5 years, for Nathan Dogan for 5 years and for Thomas Crocker for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Elise Ashby gave an update on the AG+Art Tour and Farmers Market. She stated the farmers wanted to participate in the AG+Art Tour this year. Last year they had 1400 people from 33 different zip codes attend the tour. This year they will have at least six sites excluding the Farmers Market and the tentative dates are June 23-24 with a Kick-Off Dinner on June 21st.

COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

This year they are partnering with Kershaw County and Fairfield County. They have a new board for the Farmers Market and they have changed their name to the Union County Farm and Craft Market. She explained how they would incorporate the SNAP and Healthy Bucks programs. On March 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a WIC and Senior Voucher certification program put on by the State.

(Councilwoman Kacie Petrie arrived for the meeting at 5:38 p.m.)

Bobby Hicks expressed his concerns about some issues with the hospital system in Union County. He explained how he had some difficulty reaching anyone at the hospital when trying to get a new prescription. He said there was no one at the main entrance to direct the public to receive services. He contacted the South Carolina Department of Transportation about a hole on Highway 176 with no results. Mr. Hicks said County Council was elected by the people of Union County to look after them. He suggested they do more to work with the hospital and Highway Department to resolve issues on behalf of the citizens. Council responded that they do this on a daily basis and would try to check on the issues he mentioned. Chairman Frank Hart stated they work as advocates with these entities and with the County Delegation on behalf of the citizens of Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had been provided with a proposed second amendment to the lease agreement with ESAB. The lease has expired and this would be the second amendment to extend that lease.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the County Supervisor to execute the second amendment to the lease agreement with ESAB as presented

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

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson requested permission to replace the Common Pleas Clerk who is retiring on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Frank Hart asked if she was requesting permission to fill that position after it is vacated and Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson stated that was correct.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the replacement of the Common Pleas Clerk in the Clerk of Courts Office when it becomes vacant as requested.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if the current employee would be able to train the new person. Ms. Lawson stated she did not have funds in her budget to continue to pay the current employee to stay on to train the new person. She was hoping to get someone with experience. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there is a vacant position for a Parks and Recreation Program Director. The Timken Sports Complex Director would like to promote someone internally to fill that position. They are asking permission to fill the position that is vacated after promoting someone internally.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to approve the replacement to fill the position vacated after promoting someone internally to the Parks and Recreation Program Director's position.

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

COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had a copy of a letter of resignation from Kindra Horne as a Board member for the Kelly-Kelton Fire District. He suggested advertising to refill that position. Tommie Hill: Made a motion to advertise to fill the vacant position on the Board for the Kelly-Kelton Fire District.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Ms. Ann Boggs was starting on her third week with the County as the new Finance Director. Ms. Boggs stated she was enjoying her work with the County and has identified some areas where we need to put in some controls and procedures.

Animal Control Officer Nate Burdine stated that so far this year Code Enforcement, Litter Control and Animal Control had picked up 1669 bags of trash and went to 570 calls for different cases dealing with litter and animal control. He went over the statistics for the animal shelter for 2016 and 2017. He stated he appreciated the extra money and personnel provided by funding from the City.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis said they had completed reconciling their title searches and are working on mobile homes getting ready for the taxes to rollover in March.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated he had attended the annual Airports Conference. They did a financial survey of all the airports in the State which he will be sharing with Council. He stated he wanted to reduce the aircraft tax down to the 4% to be in line with other airports in our area to encourage the owners to pay their tax in Union County. He talked to Jerry Brannon and the coaches about the new dressing room facility at the stadium about including showers. They need recommendations on what the facility should look like to present to the County Council and the School Board. Councilman Ben Ivey asked what procedure they would need to follow to change the aircraft tax to the 4%. Mr. Wade stated he would need to get together with Frank Hart to prepare an ordinance for Council action. He said he wanted to work with the Development Board to send out a letter to find out if 5,000 feet of runway at the airport would be helpful.

Chairman Frank Hart said Jerry Brannon was meeting with the City Council to present the plan that had previously been presented to the School Board on the Stadium project to see if the City of Union would provide any funding for that project.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated they have been working on a grant for \$400,000 for two ambulances. The next project is working on nominating Union County EMS for the South Carolina EMS Large System of the Year. He said he would be seeking letters of recommendation and endorsements.

Library Director Rieta Drinkwine stated they are mostly able to provide services now. They are set up at USC-Union Library and Carlisle, Jonesville and Lockhart are all places where people

COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

can go to use computers and borrow materials. Construction on the Library renovation started last Monday.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass stated they are working on primary healthcare and have held meetings and had phone conferences pertaining to that. They had met with people from Senator Graham's office. It takes a lot of money and patience to make it happen. She invited all members of Council to attend any of their meetings. The Health Task Force met to discuss the Eat Smart Move More program. There is a four year grant for a study concerning walkability and the feasibility of planning a pedestrian and bicycle route. They are working on the Transit Feasibility Study. There are several people in Union that want to start a business and need help and they need someone in Union for the Small Business Development. The HR meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> at noon to discuss apprenticeships. They will be having a Partners meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> as they are working on a directory of agencies in Union County and the services they provide. They are meeting with high school personnel to focus on those students who don't have any plans for furthering their education to let them know about the scholarship program and other things available to them. Councilman Ben Ivey asked that the dates of the meetings be listed on the community calendar on one website so there is a central place to find all that information.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated in reference to problems with potholes and other issues with the State roads around the County she goes to [scdot.com](http://scdot.com) and puts in any problems she notices. She stated Council had appointed Tracy Rash to serve on the Tourism Commission but they only attended one meeting since being appointed. They are working on the Coon Hunt event and the Big Buck event.

Chamber Director Jami Trammel stated the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet would be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. They are rolling out a retail marketing package that will go out to retailers they desire which highlights the positives about Union County. She is working on a community calendar that would be targeted to the Chamber members.

Chairman Frank Hart stated in the interest of time he would forego his Supervisor's Report.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss two legal matters and discuss an economic development matter.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss two legal matters and discuss an economic development matter after a brief recess.

Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to close executive session and said no votes were taken during executive session.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to close executive session.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 13, 2018

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business but there was none.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council