

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016 AT 5:33 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly
Absent: None

Council Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. County Council Chaplin 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
Ralph Tucker, 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 12, 2016 and the special meeting of County Council held on January 21, 2016 and to adopt the minutes as written.
Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Coroner William E. Holcombe for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Fair Board.
Joan Little: Made a motion to appoint Amy Belue to serve on the Fair Board.
Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous
Tommy Ford: Made a motion to appoint Roger Bailey to serve on the Fair Board.
Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if he had served two terms and Councilman Tommy Ford stated this would be his last term since he would come off the Board the end of this year. The vote was unanimous.
Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Amanda Black to serve on the Fair Board.
Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals and there were no applicants. The positions would need to be readvertised.
Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise for the remaining positions on the Building Code Board of Appeals.
Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Planning Commission and there were no applicants. The positions would need to be readvertised.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the remaining positions on the Planning Commission.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were vacancies on the Union County Development Board that needed to be advertised.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies on the Development Board.

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

Sheriff David Taylor stated they were having problems with scams and suggested establishing a peddler's license for Union County. Irish Travelers and others are coming into the county and citizens, especially elderly people, need to be protected from such scams. Door to door salesmen and panhandlers should be required to have a business license. He suggested he be allowed to work with the Law Enforcement Committee, the County Attorney, and McNair Law Firm to come up with a proposal. Chairman Frank Hart referred the matter to the County Council Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary and Recreation.

Sheriff David Taylor stated they needed to upgrade the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Union and Town of Jonesville for housing prisoners at the jail. He said he had been working with the County Attorney and McNair Law Firm to get that done and had a proposed agreement. Those entities are bringing inmates to the jail with severe health issues but do not want to be responsible for them. The new agreement would allow the County to turn them away. He suggested the proposed agreement be presented to the City of Union and Town of Jonesville for them to consider. He said they may need to address the jail fee since it had not been changed since 1998. He stated as part of their plan to keep down the inmate population, they are seeking to have some inmates placed on house arrest rather than in the jail. Chairman Frank Hart referred the matter to the Council Committee on County Administration and Finance.

Mr. Mike Lancaster with the Fire Chiefs Association addressed the shortfall in the number of 911 dispatchers and the need for additional staff to cover times when they have a high volume of calls. It is a matter of public safety and the safety of the EMTs, firefighters and law enforcement. The E-911 Communications lost a dispatcher during the budget process last year. Fire Chief Scott Austin asked Council to consider the safety and liability issues. Sheriff David Taylor said they have a problem getting qualified part-time dispatchers and they only have two now. It is hard to find part-time employees since people are looking for full-time positions. He stated they were short by three people in the Sheriff's Office due to employees being out with health issues. He stated they were three people short at the jail due to employees being out with health issues. He lost two jailers and two deputies in last year's budget process. Due to changes with Animal Control and EMS they are dealing with extra calls.

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Greta Bailey with the Union County Healthcare Foundation provided Council with a sponsor letter and flyer pertaining to Shag Night which will be held on Saturday, March 5th. She expressed their appreciation for and need of County Council's support. She stated the donations they receive go back to fund healthcare needs for the community. The Healthcare Foundation had funded such projects as the helipad, EKG machine for the stress lab, and mammography equipment. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if they provide equipment to the hospital does it belong to Spartanburg Regional and she responded that it does but they track the use.

Grazier Rhea with Catawba Regional Council of Governments handed out maps showing proposed trail projects in Lockhart. They are looking at applying for a South Carolina Parks and Recreation grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 and the County would have to commit to providing matching funds in the amount of \$25,000.00. The match could come from in-kind services. This would be a two phase project which would connect the rivers and trails from the boat landing which would benefit tourism and economic development. The County would maintain the trails. She stated Pacolet Milliken would provide an easement for most of the property for at least twenty five years. Pacolet Milliken is very supportive of this project. They would need to get the application in by March 2nd and the grant awards would be announced in May. The Council would be considering two resolutions to provide the matching funds for this two phase project.

Chairman Frank Hart presented information on the Tuition Assistance Program. It is the intent to engage students to upgrade skills in Union County as we have a shortage of skilled labor. This would include implementation of the mechatronics program. This would need to be finalized by appropriating the funds. There was discussion about the proposed funding of \$65,000 per year for a two year program which would depend on participation. He recommended Council vote to appropriate \$65,000.00 from Economic Development Fund 301 and authorize the Supervisor to finalize the details of the program with input from educational partners who are the Union County School District, USC-Union and Spartanburg Community College. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if once it is finalized would he be bringing it back to Council for approval. Chairman Frank Hart stated the information he had provided covers the program. Councilman Ben Ivey stated he wanted it brought back to Council to vote on once everything is finalized. Chairman Frank Hart said they could hold a special meeting to do that but what he had provided captures the program. The goal to get it finalized is early in March. Councilman Randall Hanvey said he understood a student must use all lottery money before they could tap into these funds. Chairman Frank Hart stated this would be the last dollar out program. The lottery tuition assistance or the Life Scholarship or the Palmetto money has to be paid out first and then the Tuition Assistance Program is available. Councilman Ralph Tucker stated they should get to the bottom of what he is trying to finalize before they actually approve it. That way they won't have anything hidden from Council.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to finalize the details then report back to Council to vote on it.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. Three (3) Councilmembers (Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilwoman Randall Hanvey) voted in favor of the motion and three (3) Councilmembers (Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Tommy Ford, and

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Councilwoman Kacie Petrie) opposed the motion. Chairman Frank Hart broke the tie-vote to oppose the motion.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adopt the program as written and authorize the funds.

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion. Three (3) Councilmembers (Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Tommy Ford, and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie) voted in favor of the motion and three (3) Councilmembers (Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilwoman Randall Hanvey) opposed the motion. Chairman Frank Hart broke the tie-vote in favor of the motion.

Mr. Steve Broadbent stated he lives at 159 Ashley Acres Drive and for the past 6 years he has had to deal with looking at junked cars, abandoned vehicles and garbage. He stated things are progressing and improving with code enforcement of the junkyard regulations which gives him hope for the future of Union.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any comments for elected officials or department heads.

Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated that last week two of his employees worked twenty four hour shifts.

Building Superintendent Kenny West submitted bids for the roofs that he had advertised. They would be covered with money from the insurance company except for the EMS building located in Jonesville but there should be enough insurance money to cover that. Chairman Frank Hart referred the bids to the Council Committee on County Administration and Finance.

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated there had been some question from the FAA on the Airport layout plan which they are addressing with the engineering firm to resolve. There was a question about the loss of county population.

Victim Advocate Coordinator Michelle Shugart asked about the Victim Advocate Agreement with the Town of Jonesville. The purpose of the Agreement is to continue providing services to the Jonesville Police Department. Chairman Frank Hart stated there was a resolution to be considered later in the meeting.

EMS Director Ronnie Roberson provided Council with a copy of the EMS policy on transport destinations of patients and went over the criteria used to determine where an EMS patient would be transferred based on their medical condition. Chairman Frank Hart stated they wanted to be sure an ambulance was available in Union County and not tied up transporting patients to other counties.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass stated they called approximately fifty unemployed people and had twenty of them to agree to come to a five session class to help them build a portfolio to make them more attractive to employers. Only six of those people showed up. The main complaint from those six people was they were not going to work someplace making nine dollars an hour. There is work to be done on how to put together a resume and properly fill out an application. She said she has a lot of people

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coming out of prison and it is difficult to help them get a job. Companies are calling her but she does not have that database yet.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated the next big event they have is the Southeastern Tree Walker Days and went over what they are doing to get ready for that. They are looking into a summer concert series and talking to the people to try to get Spartan Races.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a resolution allowing the County Supervisor to enter into an agreement for Union County to provide Victim Assistance Services to the Town of Jonesville.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution pertaining to an agreement to provide Victim Assistance Services to the Town of Jonesville as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a resolution authorizing and directing the County Supervisor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Rescare Workforce Services on behalf of Union County and determine the terms thereof. Chairman Frank Hart explained that the County had hired Katherine Pendergrass as our Workforce Development Coordinator. Rescare has proposed to contract with Union County to provide the services Ms. Pendergrass was doing for them. The County committed \$25,000.00 from Economic Development funds and Rescare would provide an additional \$26,000.00 to apply to her salary. This would make her a full-time employee with her providing some services to Rescare. She was previously the center manager for Rescare and under this arrangement she would still serve as a manager for the center and this would allow her to do some stuff that previously she was prohibited from doing based on the funding provided by WIB. This would eliminate the need for them to hire someone else on a part-time basis to do what she is capable of doing.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution pertaining to a Memorandum of Understanding with Arbor E&T, LLC d/b/a Rescare Workforce Services as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a resolution whereby the County Council agrees to provide the required match of a minimum of twenty percent of the total project cost, through cash and in-kind support, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the Flat Stack Trail Phase I.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution agreeing to provide the required match of twenty percent of the total project cost for the Flat Stack Trail Phase I as stated.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked where the funds would come from. Chairman Frank Hart responded that it would come from in-kind services in addition to the value of the easement granted by Pacolet Milliken for the use of the trail. The vote was unanimous.

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Chairman Frank Hart presented a resolution whereby the County Council agrees to provide the required match of a minimum of twenty percent of the total project cost, through cash and in-kind support, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the Flat Stack Trail Phase II.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution agreeing to provide the required match of twenty percent of the total project cost for the Flat Stack Trail Phase II as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the first amendment of that certain fee agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Gonvauto South Carolina, LLC effective as of July 25, 2012 and relating to, without limitation, the addition of GESRecycling USA, LLC as a sponsor affiliate under the fee agreement for certain matters; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to GESRecycling USA, LLC as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the Board of Fire Control of the Lockhart Fire District to issue General Obligation Bonds in the principal amount of not exceeding \$231,000.00 of Lockhart Fire District; and other matters related thereto.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to accept second reading on the ordinance pertaining to the Board of Fire Control of the Lockhart Fire District to issue General Obligation Bonds as stated.

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

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 related thereto.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance pertaining to the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse as stated.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. Councilman Ralph Tucker felt they should give them time to think about what they are trying to do before finalizing anything since Mr. Hart did not meet with the board until February 1st. Chairman Frank Hart stated he had met with the Executive Director on January 13th.

Two (2) Councilmembers (Councilman Tommy Ford and Councilwoman Joan Little) voted in favor of the motion. Three (3) Councilmembers (Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilman Randall Hanvey) opposed the motion. One (1) Councilmember (Councilwoman Kacie Petrie) abstained. The motion failed.

County Council took a short break at 6:48 p.m. and reconvened at 6:57 p.m.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he was in the process of setting up a meeting with the Director of the State to discuss workforce development in Union County. He said he had been in

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touch with the chair of the State Workforce Investment Board and they should be doing that in the next couple of weeks.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the public health committee was using the community indicators and had been meeting. They have focused on the Eat Smart Move More Program to help with obesity and diabetes.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Katherine Pendergrass had been leading the way on the Workforce Summit meetings. They are looking at refining the system for what happens to folks when they come into the center, how they are processed, and referred out to the other agencies.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had reviewed short term initiatives to address our declining population but he decided to delay that until another meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had met with the Union Delegation members to request State funding. Thanks to Representative Mike Anthony we have a number of items in the initial pass of the budget but it has to make it past the House, Senate and be ratified by the Governor. He said they had asked for funding for the drug court as well as assistance with Lockhart utility replacement for the bridge project on Highway 9 and funding to support the mechatronics program at the Advanced Technology Center in Union.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had provided Council with a copy of a presentation put together by MASC on the Local Option Sales Tax for them to review. He discussed with Frank Rainwater with the Bureau of Economic Advisors about a workshop for Council and DOR staff tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 7th at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a tentative timeline for the budget process. Budget requests are due to be turned in on February 19th and packets should be available to Council by February 26th. He proposed holding budget workshops on March 2nd, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th with a Council retreat in early April to talk about budget, administration and a strategic plan.

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

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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel related matter and a contractual matter related to county facilities.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss a personnel related matter and a contractual matter related to county facilities.

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

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The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council