

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Tommie Hill, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie (arrived at 5:35 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 or emailed to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, Charles Warner at the Union Times, 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, as well as to elected officials and heads of various county departments and offices. A notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda were 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 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present (arrived at 5:35 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 February 11, 2020, the special meeting of County Council held on February 24, 2020 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Tony Davies with Republic Services presented a check to Stephen Stone in the amount of \$6,250 representing a quarterly payment against the \$25,000 donation for the Cross Keys Fire Department. This is part of Republic Service's commitment to the local fire service as they would handle any fires that might occur in their landfill.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Donald Lyles but he was not present.

Rob Fraim with Emergency Services presented the Hazard Mitigation Plan and stated it was required for the County to qualify to receive any federal funding through FEMA. It was also discussed what would happen if there were a disaster related to hazardous materials.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020

Chairman Frank Hart read a resolution whereby the Union County Council adopts the update to the Union County Hazard Mitigation Plan in its entirety as an official plan and will undertake annual recording of hazard events, their impact duration and cost.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution whereby the Union County Council adopts the update to the Union County Hazard Mitigation Plan in its entirety as an official plan and will undertake annual recording of hazard events, their impact duration and cost.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were looking at potential funding to add ten stalls at the Farmers Market at a cost of \$850 each for a total cost of \$8,500. That cost would be split with the City of Union since the City owns the property where the Farmers Market is located. He proposed paying \$4,250 from the County's Hospitality and Accommodations Tax funds for the County's portion of the cost.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to provide \$4,250 from the County's Hospitality and Accommodations Tax funds for the County's portion of the cost to add stalls at the Farmers Market.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Sheriff David Taylor had requested six new vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and the Sheriff has located some vehicles. Chairman Frank Hart recommended purchasing three vehicles and look at funding for additional vehicles in the new budget process. They are looking at an estimated cost of \$45,000 each for a Chevrolet Tahoe to cover the purchase price and upfitting costs for a total cost of \$135,000 for three vehicles. He said there was insurance reimbursement money in the amount of \$21,000 due to the damage to the Mustang hitting a deer that could be used to help purchase a new vehicle. He suggested taking an additional \$114,000 from the Multi-County Park funds. He entertained a motion to take \$114,000 from the Multi-County Park funds and \$21,000 from insurance claim proceeds for purchase and upfit of three Chevy Tahoe vehicles.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to take \$114,000 from the Multi-County Park funds and \$21,000 from insurance claim proceeds for the purchase and upfit of three Chevy Tahoe vehicles.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to boards and commissions. He said he had contacted Matthew Jeter about serving another term on the Appeals Board through December 31, 2022 as his appointment.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to appoint Matthew Jeter to serve another term on the Appeals Board through December 31, 2022.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there is a vacancy on the Board for Cross Keys Fire District due to the term expiration for James R. Rice. He said he had talked to Mr. Rice and he agreed to serve another term through December 31, 2022.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint James R. Rice to serve another term on the Board for Cross Keys Fire District through December 31, 2022.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated there were five vacancies on the Building Code Board of Appeals due to term expirations. He asked Council if we could send letters to four of the members to see if they would

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020

be willing to serve another term as these positions are more technical and Council was in agreement. It would still leave one vacancy on that Board as a member had passed away. He stated there is also a vacancy on the Board for Phillipi Fire District.

Andrew Dobson with Halliday, Schwartz & Co. reviewed the results of the audit for Union County for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. He went over the Final Communication Letter, the audit for the Library, GASB 83, OPEB, revenues, expenses, liabilities and capital projects. At June 30, 2019, the fund balance for the General Fund was \$7,538,952 which was an increase of \$1,124,352 from the prior year. He stated the County had a good year as the fund balance had gone up and Council was being wise with the County's money as they have a three-month buffer or cushion to operate on.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Stephen Stone had renegotiated another five-year deal for Southeastern Tree Walker Association which requires a financial commitment from the County. It would cost the County \$5,000 plus the cost of the use of the fairgrounds. It would also require \$5,000 from the City of Union and the costs associated with the use of the fairgrounds. He needs Council to approve execution of the agreement with the assumption that the City would participate as they would have to sign the agreement as well. There are three events covered by the agreement which is the Tree Walker event, the Palmetto Jamboree and a new event in September with barbecue, a gun show and bluegrass. The County had previously funded the events at a cost of \$17,500 so it is a significant reduction. He proposed appropriating the funds from the Hospitality and Accommodation Tax funds at a cost up to \$8,000. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell asked about any revenue taken in from the events. Steven Stone stated tourism revenue increased by \$30,000 but that was not just from their events. He said it had also impacted the retailers in Union such as restaurants. Last year they spent roughly \$44,000 to put on these events.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the five-year agreement with Southeastern Tree Walker Association, authorize the Supervisor to determine the final terms of the agreement, execute the agreement on behalf of the County, and pledge the funds in the agreement not to exceed \$8,000 from the Hospitality and Accommodations Tax funds.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council has a copy of an amended Memorandum of Understanding between Union County and Spartanburg Community College. He entertained a motion to approve the amended MOU and authorize the Supervisor to execute the document on behalf of the County.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve the amended MOU with Spartanburg Community College and authorize the Supervisor to execute the document on behalf of the County.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked what had been amended. Chairman Frank Hart stated it would allow Spartanburg Community College to offer not just applied science courses but also Associate of Science or Associate of Arts courses at their facility in Union. They have some dual credit programs with the High School as well as offering welding and mechatronics. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs said she would start working on the audit for the current fiscal year and the budget for the new fiscal year.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020

Public Works Director Rusty Snider stated he was working on the budget.

Detention Facilities Director Neal McKeown stated he was working on the budget and hoped to finish it tomorrow.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they mailed out the second notices for redemptions for the properties they sold. They mailed out the collection letters for the delinquent property taxes and people have been coming in to pay.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ron Wade said under the contract we signed to get reimbursed from the FAA on the property we just bought, they want us to file a copy of the contract with the deed to the property. The FAA will reimburse the County 90% of the costs associated with the purchase of the property. They are planning the fireworks show on July 3rd as the Buffalo Community does theirs on July 4th. The West Springs Community holds their event on the weekend. He said he had been working with Curtiss Hunter about holding a Fun Day at the airport in August.

Sheriff David Taylor stated there would be a meeting to discuss plans for dealing with the Coronavirus on Friday, March 13th at 10:00 a.m. at the EMC.

EMS Director Eric Harold said there were 647 cases in the United States with 25 deaths and 9 presumptive positive tests in South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control just released their protocol today. He gave his report on the call volume for February. He is working on his budget. He attended the South Carolina EMS Association Legislative Breakfast and met with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. He attended the EMS Symposium.

Community Development Director Katherine Pendergrass said graduation for the Operation Workforce Training program is tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. at the Main Street Junction. They went to SCC Tyger River yesterday for all nine of the participants to pass the forklift certification. Pacolet River Baptist Association sent a letter to Council inviting them to attend a meeting on March 21st. Council had approved the transportation project to move forward but they still do not have an implementation committee. They are helping to promote the census to try to get everyone counted. Last week she attended the Rural Summit and made some great connections.

Development Board Director Kathy Jo Lancaster said they are continuing to work on potential projects, work with prospects to get them in our buildings and sites, working on infrastructure projects and replacing signage at the industrial parks.

Christina Crosby as Director of Alcohol and Drug Abuse stated they have some grant money so they have done some billboards. They will be doing a media campaign so there will be more information about them in the newspaper. Their groups are growing and they are seeing more revenue. They are able to see more clients since they have extended their hours into the evenings.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter handed out a report from Mark Cathcart with 4-H on the Pig Show. They are trying to start plotting some of our visitors. They had the Big Buck event the same day as the Outdoor Afro group. In the last two years, Rose Hill had seven countries represented.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MARCH 10, 2020

Elise Ashby said they had over 8,000 customers, 21 vendors and 9 artisans last year at the Farmers Market. They have nine stalls there now and she said they appreciate the additional ten stalls.

Development Board Director Kathy Jo Lancaster introduced Elizabeth Owens with Milliken & Company. Milliken & Company has been in Union for over one hundred years. Ms. Owens is representing Milliken & Company for the expansion project to put machinery and equipment into the Gillespie Plant and at the Cedar Hill Plant.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing an amended and restated Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina, Milliken & Company and Milliken Nonwovens, LLC and other matters relating to the foregoing.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing an amended and restated Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina, Milliken & Company and Milliken Nonwovens, LLC and other matters relating to the foregoing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Quit Claim Deed to real estate to Milliken & Company conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina, in a certain parcel of real estate that is part of the property located at 256 Midway Drive, Union, South Carolina, and as shown as tax map 82-0-0-1 and is shown as 2.06 acres.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Quit Claim Deed to real estate to Milliken & Company conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina, in a certain parcel of real estate that is part of the property located at 256 Midway Drive, Union, South Carolina, and as shown as tax map 82-0-0-1 and is shown as 2.06 acres.

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report and said he had received several calls from the executive director of the South Carolina Sheriff's Association about the Council's first reading of an ordinance regarding a County Police Department. The South Carolina Sheriff's Association has volunteered to work with the South Carolina Association of Counties to develop some checks and balances as well as best practices to prevent some of the issues seen in some of the Sheriff's Offices across the state. They are concerned that what we do in Union County may cause other counties to follow suit and it could affect the job of sheriffs across the state. Chairman Frank Hart recommended giving that process some time to see what they come up with and revisit this matter at a later date.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart requested a motion to amend the agenda to add discussion of a legal matter during executive session and to enter into executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to amend the agenda to add discussion of a legal matter during executive session and to enter into executive session.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020

The County Council went into executive session to discuss an economic development matter, a personnel matter and a legal matter.

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

Ralph Tucker: 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.

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

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council