

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019 AT 5:30 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. Mickey Gist, 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, Rob Fraim at Emergency Services 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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on February 12, 2019, the special meeting of County Council held on February 7, 2019, and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Esther Wagner with Palmetto Pride discussed crime prevention through environmental design. They have grants available for litter enforcement, awareness programs, pick up programs and beautification. She stated they provide free training on how to change your surroundings to welcome those you want in your communities and deter those you do not. Public Art and murals can be helpful deterrents to crime. Chairman Frank Hart stated we have a new Litter Control Officer. He expressed his concern about the difficulty of law enforcement for litter violations.

Brad Goodale with C4 Ministries and C4 Services discussed counseling issues for people with drug problems and people with suicidal tendencies. They go to those who need help rather than waiting for those needing assistance to come to them. They are committed to helping people to keep them from

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being locked up and work with the Union County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff David Taylor stated he had been using their services for years at the jail and they have been the most help to him than any organization with alcohol and drug abuse treatment. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell asked what he was asking for from County Council. He stated they need resources. They want Council to endorse them and give them facility resources. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if their office is currently located on the bypass and Mr. Goodale responded it is. Mr. Goodale stated Kenny O'Shields gave them half of his office to counsel people. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if they were looking for a different type of facility. Mr. Goodale said they would like to do more group mass kind of things and they would like to train people to do one-on-one counseling. He stated they are available 24 hours a day for those who need their services.

Michael Mcleymore discussed a men's addiction and recovery home they are operating. He said he is an ex-addict who opened up the rooms of a building they use as a church in Gaffney for those who are homeless and have drug addiction. They have four houses now on ten and a half acres just outside of Jonesville called The Prodigal's Home men's addiction rehabilitation center. They have one house completely ready housing four men and when they get the other houses done they will be able to house up to ten men. They train the men to do contract work through Creative Builders, Inc. to work on new construction sites to teach them a new trade. They have had roughly four hundred people come through their program. Chairman Frank Hart stated he was excited about all the activity because the drug issue is a major problem in Union County.

Tax Assessor Jake Black stated Sundress Glenn had retired and he requested permission to hire a replacement for that position in the Tax Assessor's Office.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to allow the Tax Assessor to hire someone to fill the vacancy in the Tax Assessor's Office.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Monarch Fire Department requested a sponsorship for their MDF Color to 5K Run/Walk and Festival which is a fundraiser for the fire department.

Chairman Frank Hart stated WBCU requested a sponsorship for "Miracles and Medicine" to raise money for the USC-Union nursing school.

Chairman Frank Hart presented an invoice from McAbee, Scwartz, Halliday & Co. in the amount of \$7,062.14 for charges associated with the SLED request of a financial review of the Sheriff's Office.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$7,062.14 from McAbee, Scwartz, Halliday & Co. from the Contingency Fund.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Piedmont Physics Garden had received a grant for an Environmental Arts Tour which required matching funds. The City of Union has appropriated half of the matching funds in the amount of \$1,500. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Tourism Board had recommended that \$1,500 come from prior funds allocated to the Tourism Commission.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to accept the recommendation to approve the \$1,500 to support that grant.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The motion carried with four (4) Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion and one (1) Councilmember (Councilman Ben Ivey) opposing.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was the appointments to the boards and commissions. Chairman Frank Hart stated there were no applicants for the Appeals Board and that he and Councilwoman Tracie Campbell need to recruit someone to serve.

The applicants for the Library Board were Lauren Ward and Jonathan A. Waller. Chairman Frank Hart recommended the appointment of Lauren Ward.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Lauren Ward to serve on the Library Board

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated we still have an applicant for the Stadium Commission who is James P. McNeil, Jr. but they needed to make sure his reserve deputy commission would not be considered dual office holding. Ronnie Wade suggested Council look at consolidating some of the boards and commissions.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next was to consider the remaining appointments to the Board of Fire Control for the fire districts. The applicants for the Bonham Fire District were Chris Scott and Bobby A. Peake.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Bobby A. Peake to serve on the Fire Board for Bonham Fire District.

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

The applicant for the Board of Fire Control for Cross Keys Fire District was Jimmy Estes.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to reappoint Jimmy Estes.

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

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if the vacancies on the Building Code Board of Appeals had been advertised. The Clerk to Council responded that they were advertised but we only received one applicant who was appointed at the last meeting. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Council would need to recruit individuals to serve on this and any of the other boards and commissions where we have not received applicants to fill the vacancies.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had received a copy of the Standing Committee appointments. He stated Councilman Ben Ivey is the Chair of the Committee on County Administration and Finance. Councilman David Sinclair is the Chair of the Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Bridges and County Property. Councilman Tommie Hill is the Chair of the Committee on Personnel, County Offices, and Departments. Councilman Ralph Tucker is the Chair of the Committee on Public Health & Social Services. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell is the Chair of the Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary & Recreation. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie is the Chair of the Committee on Planning and Development.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he would be contacting the members of Council about setting the dates for the upcoming budget sessions.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County had taken bids for the repairs on the dam at the Buffalo Mill pond. There were three bids and the low bid was \$32,026.86 from Kingsmore Construction Company.

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Chairman Frank Hart said the issue is with water flowing under the spillway on the dam. He recommended this be paid from the Contingency Fund.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to accept the low bid of \$32,026.86 from Kingsmore Construction Company to be paid from the Contingency Fund.

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

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs said she had provided financial reports in the Council's packets. Expenses are trending on the percentage of the fiscal year that has passed. The revenues are down a little which could be offset from Local Option Sales Tax credits.

Sheriff David Taylor said they are in the process of getting the upgrades put in at the 911 center with the consoles which they hope to have completed by the end of the month. The Sheriff's Office has switched to the 800 frequency and they are operating off 800 radios. They started the work on the roof at the 911 facility. Councilman David Sinclair asked how the 800 radio system was performing countywide. Sheriff David Taylor said the 800 system is performing as well as the system they already had but a lot clearer with less radio traffic. They are currently using portable handheld radios but he would be asking during the budget process to add radios to the cars. Councilman David Sinclair said there was concern about no reception in some areas. Sheriff David Taylor said that was the case even with the old system and they are performing as well or better than before.

Neil McKeown who is over the Detention Center and the Jail stated they had been working on restoring the showers using a company out of Chicago at a cost of approximately \$40,000. They anticipate the cost would be covered by the inmate commissary money.

Building Superintendent Ken West stated they had started on the new roof for the 911 facility and they had a new air conditioner system installed in the Grand Jury Room last week.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis said they were getting ready for the taxes to rollover to their office next week.

Airport and Stadium Manger Ronnie Wade stated they had attended the Airports Conference several weeks ago. They are still working on the AWOS System and they should be able to get the license for it next week. They got a bid this week because they have to have a cleanup plan for each of the holding ponds. Union County has been approved for funding this coming budget year for the properties we want to buy at the airport starting with getting the appraisals. We cannot do the fencing project at the airport until we do the properties.

Rieta Drinkwine with the Carnegie Library handed out her monthly report. In February they applied for ten different grants totaling \$150,000 to help expand services they currently provide. They did new programs for adults in partnership with Rose Hill Plantation. They have had a lot of new people come into the library that had not attended previous programs. They are working with USC-Union as part of the mental health initiative. Union County Carnegie Library is a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Services. The ten winners will be announced the end of April.

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Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated there would be a Little Brown Jug Race this weekend and the Union County Drag Strip would be open if weather permits.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of an amendment to a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement dated as of January 8, 2013 by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and Lockhart Power Company, acting for itself, its affiliates and assigns (The "Company") to add property to the project and ratify and approve an investment period extension thereunder; and (2) other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of an amendment to a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement dated as of January 8, 2013 by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and Lockhart Power Company, acting for itself, its affiliates and assigns (The "Company") to add property to the project and ratify and approve an investment period extension thereunder; and (2) other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County Industrial and Business Park (Milliken) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirements of payments of Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the Park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County Industrial and Business Park (Milliken) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such Park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirements of payments of Fee In Lieu Of Ad Valorem Taxes with respect to Park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the Park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution that the Union County Supervisor shall be allowed to enter into an Intent to Lease Agreement with ReGenesis Health Care for a portion of Union County owned property located at 115 Thomas Street in Union, South Carolina 29379 which is the current location of the Union County Health Department with the intended purpose that ReGenesis Health Care shall open a Federally Qualified Health Clinic at the location provided that ReGenesis Health Care is awarded funding for a New Access Point in Union County.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution that the Union County Supervisor shall be allowed to enter into an Intent to Lease Agreement with ReGenesis Health Care for a portion of Union County owned property located at 115 Thomas Street in Union, South Carolina 29379 which is the current location of the Union County Health Department with the intended purpose that ReGenesis Health Care shall open a Federally Qualified

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Health Clinic at the location provided that ReGenesis Health Care is awarded funding for a New Access Point in Union County.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Chairman Frank Hart stated this is a project Katherine Pendergrass has been working on for over a year. They have come to a partnership with DHEC. They are looking at providing primary care as well as dental and potentially vision. People will pay on a sliding scale based on their ability to pay. The County has done a letter of support for their grant with their federal department.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He stated that now that the Standing Committees have been set up he has some items he is referring to each committee. For the Committee on County Administration and Finance with Chairman Ben Ivey he is referring the budget hearings and workshops, the review of council parliamentary procedures and rules of order, development of procedure for background checks and approval of candidates for County boards and commissions, and the development of training standards for County board members. For the Committee on Public Health and Social Services with Chairman Ralph Tucker he is referring multidisciplinary approach to address addiction issues in Union County with the help of Katherine Pendergrass. For the Committee on Public Works, Roads, Bridges and County Property with Chairman David Sinclair he is referring an encroachment permit for the county road system to evaluate how to eliminate overweight vehicular damage to county roads with the help of J. D. Wilcox. For the Committee on Personnel, County Offices and Departments with Chairman Tommie Hill he is referring the review and revision of the County Personnel Manual with the help of Kindra Horne. For the Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary and Recreation with Chairwoman Tracie Campbell he is referring the review of the composition and makeup of the County Tourism Commission and qualifications for members, exploring possible synergy between Tourism, Stadium and Fair Boards with the help of Curtiss Hunter, to review practice use of Timken Sports Complex with the help of Kevin Shropshire and jail facility strategy with the help of Neil McKeown. For the Committee on Planning and Development with Chairwoman Kacie Petrie he is referring the Comprehensive Plan for Union County with the help of Katherine Pendergrass.

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

Chairman Frank Hart requested a motion to amend the agenda to add the discussion of two personnel matters to executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to amend the agenda to add the discussion of two personnel matters to executive session.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter and two personnel matters.

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

The County Council went into executive session to discuss a legal matter and two personnel matters.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session.

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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.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council