

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice Chair Kacie Petrie, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, 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, WBCU Radio Station, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Ms. Ann Canada, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Anna Brown with the County News, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Frank Hart, Mr. Ray Treadway, Mr. Howard Gibson, and Mr. Robert Small. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called the meeting to order. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings 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

Dora Martin-Jennings, 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 approve the previous minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on February 14, 2012, the special County Council meeting held on February 21, 2012, the special County Council meeting held on February 23, 2012 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented service award certificates and gift certificates to Holly Blackwell for 20 years of dedicated service, for Vickie Shields for 5 years of dedicated service, for Charlotte Dawkins for 5 years of dedicated service and for Julia Phipps for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that the next three items on the agenda pertained to vacancies on the Tourism Commission, Carnegie Library Board, and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies on those boards and commissions.

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

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Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented a letter from Mr. Auvis Cole recommending that since he is no longer the Union County Tourism Director and no longer resides in Union County, that the new Tourism Director Will Boyles replace him on the Olde English District Commission.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to appoint Will Boyles to replace Auvis Cole on the Olde English District Commission.

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

Mr. Howard Johnson presented pictures of the site at the old Buffalo Mill showing the progress he had made on cleaning up the site. He said he had taken a couple of loads to the landfill and seven loads to Mark Lancaster's. Council reviewed the pictures and receipts. Building Inspector Brad Jolly stated Mr. Johnson had separated a lot of material and moved it. He had also demolished a building across the road and taken up a ramp. He said it appeared Mr. Johnson was making an effort this month to comply.

Mr. Harold Senn gave an update for the Arts Council. He gave an overview on how arts would help with the regeneration of a community. He referred to several studies that had been done. One stated that it would appear that art projects located in the communities have valuable roles to play in social and economic development. Evidence indicates they can contribute to the overall regeneration of an area using predominantly people centered strategically within a community development framework. There was another study that identified the mix of inherited and creative features that make regions attractive. It helps spur economic development. The Arts Council has set a membership goal this year of 300 memberships. They already have 256 memberships now. They are trying to open up the arts to as many people as they can. They are doing nontraditional and some folk art, gourding classes, collage classes, a creative writing class, a photography class, and a harmonica class. Their gallery has been booked for the entire 2011-2012 season. The Artist's Guild will have a show in May. They have a jewelry art show in September. The Arts Council is working on renovating the two thousand square feet upstairs in their building to provide class rooms, meeting space and storage space. They are working on getting grants for that. They have commitments from two companies that will help pay for it and are working on trying to get two or three more. They hope to have the money together before the end of the fiscal year.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair introduced Mr. Dalton Williams who is the new employee at the Timken Sports Complex. He came from Charleston but had interned in Union.

Mrs. Amy Austin with the Miracle League gave Council an update on their progress. They had talked to organizations, churches, and individuals about donations but they are running into the same question as to where the field would be built. Where it is built and how much it would cost to acquire would determine how much money they need. A facility for individuals with special needs would cost at least one and a half to two million dollars even if the land was donated. They would have a better shot at grants and funding sources if they had a location to announce. They asked Council to allow them use of the first field on the right at the Timken Sports Complex. All the amenities are in place. There is a parking lot, concession area and restrooms that are handicap accessible. They realize the intended purpose of Timken was to be a show place for Union County to bring people to Union and increase revenue. Council has approved other leagues to play and practice at the complex and

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they asked that Miracle League be allowed to do the same. Over three hundred people attended their exhibition game last year. Angie Stalnaker said she was chair of the Miracle League for Union County and they cannot apply for grants without some type of field. If Council would grant them the field space then they would raise the money to make it happen. Senior leagues also need a low impact place to play ball. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if they had people willing to donate money. Ms. Stalnaker responded that they do and the field did not have to be granted to them until they have the money. They have donors and want to apply for grants. There are larger events they want to do to raise money. Recreation Director Becky Cobb stated there was \$40,000 to \$47,000 in PARD money that would be available for this type project. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if the funds were earmarked for special needs and Becky Cobb responded it was not earmarked for special needs but was earmarked for recreation. Ms. Stalnaker estimated they would need \$250,000 if they already had a facility. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings asked if they had looked at the complex and decided which field would be best suited for their needs. Ms. Stalnaker said they had played some exhibition games on a specific field there. Councilwoman Martin-Jennings asked if that was the field they were requesting they be allowed use of. Ms. Stalnaker said they believed that was the field that would best suit their needs. Councilman Ben Ivey asked what kind of revenue they expected to bring in, asked about the upkeep and lighting and how many games they would play annually. Mrs. Amy Austin stated they expect to have a major league, minor league and a senior league. They would be playing one or two games a night on two or three nights a week. A game would last an hour and would be during the spring and fall. Councilman Ben Ivey asked what else the field could be used for when they are not using it since it would be dedicated for special needs. Mrs. Austin said they wanted to collaborate with Special Olympics and the Union County School District so they could provide more to attract people to come into Union. They want to hold tournaments. They want to hold Saturday games when they kick off a season. Councilman Ben Ivey asked who would manage that particular field for scheduling and maintenance. Mrs. Austin said their board would do their own scheduling and look to the recreation department, which they would be a part of, to help with maintenance. There are strict rules involved with a Miracle League field. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said they would be a tenant like any other league.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to allow the Miracle League to use that field with the stipulation that they raise their own money to redo the field.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if that motion would allow the petition of PARD money and Councilwoman Kacie Petrie said it would. Chairman Tommy Sinclair asked if the motion was to allow the use of that field utilizing the PARD money that is available to the county and the Miracle League is charged with making up the difference. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated that she agreed with that.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Randall Hanvey asked how long the field in Boiling Springs had been there. Mrs. Austin said she thought it was six or seven years. Councilman Hanvey asked if anything had been done to it. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said they had expanded their concession stand based off of need. Councilman Hanvey asked about what kind of wear and tear they would be looking at and expenses in the future for upkeep. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie said she wanted it on the record that she spoke to Ronnie Wade who spoke on behalf of Becky Cobb and Kevin Shropshire and said they were all in favor of this. Recreation Director Becky Cobb said there were a couple of companies that Miracle Leagues have to go to for the rubberized surface. She spoke to the people at Boiling Springs and it usually comes with a seven year

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warranty. Kevin Shropshire said as far as maintenance is concerned you either blow it off or sweep it. Councilman Randall Hanvey said it would just be another asset to the complex. Councilman Ben Ivey asked how tight things got during the regular ball season and asked if all the fields were used all the time. Kevin Shropshire said there was a small field in the back that is rarely played on because older folks don't like to walk that far. Councilman Ben Ivey said he was not against it at all but when the complex was started they were generating revenue and had obligations to teams coming in. If they are going to take this field out of the circuit would they be able to handle it with the other fields or would they be crippling themselves. Where would they be at later? Kevin Shropshire stated that very rarely do they use every field. Councilman Ben Ivey said nobody else would be able to use the field once it is dedicated to Miracle League. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie said a lot of the revenue the Timken Sports Complex was going to generate was from the hospitality tax. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said he had asked if they would be able to adjust scheduling to accommodate this. Kevin Shropshire said they have portable fencing that can be moved. Their biggest problem will probably be having enough umpires. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated they had responded to the FAA about the letter of complaint about the airport. He had talked with someone at the FAA who said they had all the information they needed and we are in compliance. He said he wanted to hold a cookout at the next Airport Commission meeting and wanted to invite County Council to attend. The clear zone easements was a \$276,000 project which they are closing out. He wants to invite the property owners to the cookout as well as the people who buy fuel from them and the people who rent hangars. If they have any complaints he wants Council to know about it. Mr. Wade said he wants an airport that serves this community. After this year, the federal grants will be funded at 90% with a local match of 10% rather than the 5% it has been in the past. Mr. Ed Greer has not been able to attend the meetings of the Airport Commission. Because of his lack of attendance, his position needs to be filled for his unexpired term. Mr. Wade said they have signed commitments from the property owners on the clear zoning. After the paperwork is done it will be completed. Next we will need to clear those trees, take the stumps up and the property owners will have to be satisfied with what we do. After that they are working on the AWOL system which is a weather system.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise to fill the unexpired term on the Airport Commission.

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

Mr. Ronnie Wade said he was appointed Chair of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. He found out they were overextended by \$92,000 in 2010-2011. During that same time, they gave out \$31,000 in incentive pay. He went to the conference and when he came back he started looking at the finances. This past year the budget was set at \$501,000 for operations with only \$411,000 in revenue. One of the commission members, David Douglas, turned in his resignation at their last meeting. They are trying to cut down expenses. They were already short by \$89,000. He went over the sources of revenue for Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In the past they had more coming in than they were spending. That is not happening anymore. They have \$15,000 in travel expenses. Mr. Wade asked if the County has a car they would be phasing out they could donate to them and Alcohol and Drug Abuse pay for the repairs if the County mechanic keeps it up. Mr. Wade told Council they will fix the problems at Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said Council took action when they should have by removing a member of the commission. He said they could get the car but they have to

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work out the insurance part. Mr. Wade said the state allows them fifty five point one cent per mile for travel.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair informed Council there is a request for a personnel matter that needs to be discussed in executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The Union County Council went into executive session for the purpose requested.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated they had come out of executive session and no votes were taken.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair said there were no committee reports.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented audits and financial statements for Council to review and approve for Catawba Regional Council of Governments and for Disability and Special Needs.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to accept the audits for Catawba Regional COG and Disability and Special Needs.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated there would be a special meeting of County Council on Thursday, March 15th at 5:15 p.m. to hear a presentation and discuss narrow banding options.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other comments but there were none.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council