

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Tommy Ford, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, 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 Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station and to Graham Williams at the County News. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

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 April 12, 2016, the special meeting of the County Council held on April 13, 2016, the special meeting of the County Council held on March 23, 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 certificate for James E. Jeter for 5 years, for Ned K. Little, Jr for 5 years, to Nathan J. Gilstrap for 10 years, and for Kermit M. Rice for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals. This board is appointed by all of Council as opposed to one member being recommended by each councilmember. The vacancies are for two active members and two alternates. There was one applicant who was Etta Rae Johnson. There were no recommendations and the positions will be readvertised.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Planning Commission for two vacant positions. There were three applicants who were Elise Ashby, Etta Rae Johnson and Frank M. Hart.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Etta Rae Johnson to serve on the Planning Commission.

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

Joan Little: Made a motion to appoint Frank M. Hart to serve on the Planning Commission.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider vacancies on the Library Board. Michael C. Rupp had resigned and since his and one other position have terms that expire on June 30, 2016, would Council want to advertise both.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to advertise both positions on the Library Board.

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

Sheriff David Taylor presented Council with pictures where the old jail flooded during recent heavy rain. He stated they had some damage to a computer, a master case file, body worn cameras, covert cameras stored in that area, and a bullet proof vest at an estimated cost of \$3,155. He requested that Building Superintendent Kenny West look at the problem to come up with a solution to fix it. Human Resources Manager Kindra Horne stated insurance would cover the loss of equipment after the \$1,000 deductible. Sheriff David Taylor said they were also concerned about mold and mildew problems.

Sheriff David Taylor stated Kermit Rice had retired from the jail and commended him as having been a loyal employee who would be greatly missed.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to discuss providing Hospitality and Accommodations Tax money to the Tourism Commission for possible funding to outside agencies. Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated they had studied the State law and understood those funds were intended to be used to generate new money for the County through tourism. She stated that if Council wants to provide those funds through the Tourism Commission again this year then Council should meet with the Tourism Commission to discuss it further. Council agreed to meet with Mrs. Hunter and the Tourism Commission at their next budget session.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider a bridge loan for Buffalo Fire District. He stated we are in the process of adopting an ordinance for the creation of the Buffalo Fire District due to some issues in the past concerning the creation of the district. Before these issues came to light, Buffalo Fire Department had ordered a new fire truck which is ready for delivery. Because the ordinance has not been adopted yet and the loan approved, he said Council could consider a 60-day bridge loan for the Buffalo Fire District to cover the cost of \$280,433 for the fire truck and equipment. The loan would then go to the fire district.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion that the County would approve a 60-day note for the purchase of the truck for Buffalo Fire District.

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

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter introduced Tony Brown who is the general manager for the Union County Dragway which is under new ownership. Mr. Brown stated he has three main objectives which are making it profitable, achieving goals within the industry, and staying in good standing with the community. He stated racing is a legitimate business and is a huge industry. They will be holding the Steele in Motion event at the dragway this weekend and expect 5,000 to 6,000 in attendance.

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

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade thanked Building Superintendent Kenny West and his crew for helping repair a hangar door at the airport and wiring of the new sign at the stadium.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance adopting the annual budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 for Union County.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance adopting the annual budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 for Union County as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance to provide for the creation of a fire protection district to be known as "Buffalo Fire District" pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 19 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended; to designate the boundaries of the fire protection district; to authorize the levy of an annual ad valorem tax on all taxable property within the fire protection district for the operation and maintenance of the fire protection district; to empower the County Council of Union County to issue General Obligation Bonds of the County, payable from an ad valorem tax levied within the fire protection district for the purpose of providing fire protection service in it; to provide for the administration of the fire protection district; to authorize the execution and delivery of an Agreement related to the fire protection services with Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department; and other matters related thereto.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to creation of a fire protection district to be known as "Buffalo Fire District" as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had sent a proposal to the City of Union for an improved City/County partnership for animal control efforts in our community which he plans to present to City Council at their next meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Animal Control Officer Nathan Burdine has been working on improvements at the animal shelter. Mr. Burdine has been cleaning up the area, constructing a shed for additional animal housing, working on a new entrance to the shelter and parking to improve the appearance and efficiency in operations.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated the County received PARD funding to construct a community park in Ottaray with a shelter and a ball field and to install some playground equipment in the Carlisle community. That project will be completed by the end of the month. He thanked the members of the Union County Delegation for their support in securing the grant.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were close to finalizing the resurfacing road list for 2016 to resurface 54 county roads covering 25 miles.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they are moving forward with an organizational plan for Public Works. Brad Jolly is now the interim public works director responsible for solid waste, road and bridge maintenance, and the county equipment shop. Those duties are in addition to his duties as the building official. He commended Mr. Jolly who would be picking up a lot of additional responsibility with no additional money.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they are working on a Bachelor of Science registered nursing program at USC-Union. He met with Dean Catalano, the Union Medical Center leadership, the Union County Healthcare Foundation and other industry representatives to discuss the process to move the program forward. It will require USC-Union to partner with one of the USC system nursing colleges and those discussions are underway. We have a tentative industry commitment of \$75,000 to support the startup of the program. Chairman Frank Hart stated he has a goal of fall of 2017 for enrollment of freshman students to matriculate into the program.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the attorneys are wrapping up the public notice for the Local Option Sales Tax ordinance and the draft ballot question. He said he had a tentative time line to work on the communications side of that project. In June he would work with WBCU Radio Station for an informational program with call-ins. In July he scheduled to contact civic groups for presentations such as Rotary, Lions and Civitan. In August he scheduled churches and senior groups as well as community meetings using the Cross Keys, Kelly-Kelton, Jonesville and Lockhart fire departments. In September he proposed community meetings using Bonham, Buffalo, Carlisle, Lockhart and Monarch fire departments. In October he proposed community meetings using Phillipi, Santuc, Southside and City of Union fire departments. He requested that the councilmembers attend those community meetings that are in their district. Council would need to decide what kind of advertising they want to do such as billboards to let the people know what they are voting for on the ballot.

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

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter, economic development matter and a contractual matter.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to come out of executive session and stated no votes were taken.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council