

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 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 Tommie Hill, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilman David Sinclair

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, to the County Attorney, and 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, 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. Councilman Tommie Hill 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 - Absent

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Tommy Hill: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on May 14, 2019 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 Robin Brewington for 5 years, for Darlene Pettit for 10 years, for Scott Coffey for 10 years, for Scotty Griffin for 30 years and to Michelle Shugart for 30 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to boards and commissions. Council received a copy of the current openings but there are no applicants. Council was asked to try to recruit people to fill those positions.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Taccoa Switzer to discuss the logo and tag line for the Environmental Art & Music Festival. Council had allowed her to make her presentation after the public hearing which was held earlier.

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Chairman Frank Hart reminded Council that about two years ago they had implemented the Union County Community Scholarship Program. This past year they served between thirty five and forty two students that were attending the Spartanburg Community College Union Campus and the USC-Union Campus. They also funded eight students to go through the Operation Workforce Training. We have some invoices from SCC and USC-Union in the amount of \$34,819.75 and we have a balance of \$307.01 in that account. He asked Council to appropriate \$34,512.74 from the Economic Development Fund 301 account to pay for the scholarships.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appropriate \$34,512.74 from the Economic Development Fund 301 account to pay for the scholarships.

Kacie Petrie: 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 they were winding up some grants and they have some audits on that. They have a couple of supplemental audits and they came out well on all of those. She said she was getting ready for year end.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Treasurer's Office is doing a good job on closeouts. They just closed out for the month of May which is where we want to be.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced Rusty Snider as the new Public Works Director who is a Civil Engineer PE and is retired from the South Carolina Department of Transportation. He stated he had been on the job for one week. Mr. Snider said he appreciated the opportunity to be the Director and the first thing is to work on a plan to be sure they are being productive.

Chairman Frank Hart asked Tax Assessor Jake Black about when they would need to do aerials for the maps. Mr. Black said he thought they were last done in 2011. Chairman Frank Hart asked him to get some pricing on that and come back to Council with an update.

Building Superintendent Ken West stated they had been working on general maintenance such as air conditioning units.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis said they would be mailing out about twelve hundred certified letters this week. They are still trying to collect on delinquent taxes.

Airport and Stadium Manger Ronnie Wade stated the West Springs Community is holding their Fourth of July fireworks display on Saturday, June 29th. The fireworks display at Foster Park will be held on Wednesday, July 3rd and Buffalo will hold their fireworks display on Thursday, July 4th. They are working on the weather system for the airport and when it is finished we will have a local weather station. They are still playing ball at Timken Sports Complex and they have a church program during the mornings this week. He stated the Airport Commission would be meeting to discuss FBOs for the airport. They have a part-time person at Timken Sports Complex that wants to go to full-time and they are in their busiest part of the year. They will be starting scrimmage games at the stadium. They will be starting Phase II of the renovations at the stadium in the next two weeks. He had asked for a price for another set of steps to get down to the field.

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EMS Director Eric Harold stated their call volume for the month of May was 512 calls which is higher than the 466 calls in April. Year to date they have responded to 2,239 calls which is 163 below where they were this time last year. He went over their call response time. He gave a progress update on the renovations at the EMS facility. They still have not heard anything on the AFG grant for a new ambulance. They received a \$19,000 grant from the Spartanburg Regional Foundation for a mechanical CPR device.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass stated they had eleven students taking the Operation Workforce Training this summer. This is happening because of the seed money the County Council provided back in 2018. They decorated their building in February for Paint the Town Red and they won first place. They have four new employees at the Alcohol and Drug Abuse office consisting of an executive director, a prevention director, clinician, and a financial coordinator. She met with the Pacolet River Baptist Association asking them to help get the word out about all the wonderful things happening in Union County. They had the Senior Celebration for the high school seniors. They have a round table meeting on Thursday with various agencies that deal with alcohol and drug issues trying to get them to work together.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and to make appropriations for such Union County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the County may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Union County for such county ordinary purposes; including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Union County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Union County and Union County budgetary matters. The total budget and revenue is \$18,816,144.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020, and to make appropriations for such Union County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the County may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Union County for such county ordinary purposes; including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Union County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Union County and Union County budgetary matters.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Quit Claim Deed to Emslie Elmore Allen conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina, if any, in a certain parcel of real estate located on Jonesville Lockhart Highway as shown in tax map 37-0-0-1 for \$2,445.00 which represents the estimated taxes which would have been paid by Mr. Allen since 2005 when the property was deeded to Union County plus attorney's fees and costs (see Exhibit "A" attached hereto for full legal description).

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Quit Claim Deed to Emslie Elmore Allen conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina, if any, in a certain parcel of real estate located on Jonesville Lockhart Highway as shown in tax map 37-0-0-1 for \$2,445.00 which represents the estimated taxes which would have been paid by Mr. Allen since 2005 when the property was deeded to Union County plus attorney's fees and costs (see Exhibit "A" attached hereto for full legal description).

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution that the Union County Supervisor be allowed to negotiate the terms of and execute a purchase agreement for the Buffalo Mill Site and to appropriate the funds from the Multi-County Park Fund 714 to complete the purchase.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution allowing that the Union County Supervisor to negotiate the terms of and execute a purchase agreement for the Buffalo Mill Site and to appropriate the funds from the Multi-County Park Fund 714 to complete the purchase.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he would forego his Supervisor's Report.

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

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

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

The County Council went into executive session to discuss a contractual matter and a personnel matter. (Councilman Ralph Tucker left at 6:10 p.m.)

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to close executive session.

Ben Ivey: 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.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council