

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice Chair Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little, 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 to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, the Union County Development Board, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jamie Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtis Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, to Graham Williams at the County News, to Charles Warner at the Union Times, to Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Allison Roberts with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Shell Suber at MHISC and to Randall Hanvey. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. Vice Chairman 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
David Sinclair, District 3 - Absent
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on May 9, 2017, the special meeting of County Council held on May 24, 2017 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution recognizing and commending the Union County High School Lady Jackets Softball Team on winning the 2017 Class AAAA State Championship.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented the resolution to the team members and coaches that were present.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Lacy Shropshire for 5 years of service, to Dottie Rodgers for 10 years of service, for Derrick O'Shields for 10 years of services and for Raymond Valles for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

COUNCIL MEETING

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Chairman Frank Hart stated there were four vacancies on the Tax Assessor's Appeals Board.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to reappoint Jay Coffey to serve on the Tax Assessor's Appeals Board.

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

Elise Ashby stated the Ag and Art Tour would be held on June 24th and 25th in Union County with a Kick-Off Dinner on June 22nd. They will hold a Grand Opening on Saturday, June 24th at 8:00 a.m. She listed the six tour sites in Union County and talked about the artists that will be participating. There are two auxiliary sites which are the Carnegie Library and Elle Belle Café.

Allyson Wentz talked about the litter problem in Union County and introduced Mallory Biering with Palmetto Pride and Keep South Carolina Beautiful. Ms. Biering talked about the Adopt a Highway Program to help remove the litter on the highways and how it could be implemented. She suggested having an affiliate in Union County which would allow for grant opportunities. Chairman Frank Hart asked how we would set up an affiliate. Ms. Biering stated the County would need to appoint an affiliate and select a committee to put together a Board. Chairman Frank Hart suggested holding a workshop including all the Councils and mayors to discuss it.

Dennis Frost with Phillipi Fire District stated they are looking to purchase a small truck to respond to car fires, wrecks, woods and brush fires. They found a 2000 Ford F-350 truck with a flatbed and trailer hitch equipped with two 250,000 gallon tanks that can be used for water or foam. He said they need \$7,000 to purchase the truck and asked if the County would help them out. Chairman Frank Hart referred the matter to the Committee on Planning and Development to see if the County could loan them some money with a repayment schedule.

Rieta Drinkwine with Union Carnegie Library stated they are moving forward with their renovation of the library. The Selection Committee did interviews on May 24th and announced the selection on May 26th. They selected Harper Corporation as the contractor and requested Council's approval for the Library Board to contract with Harper Corporation.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the Library Board to enter into a contract with Harper Corporation as requested.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Sheriff David Taylor and Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson stated they had been looking at security for the Courthouse. Sheriff David Taylor said they talked with MSS Fire and Security, LLC and got three proposals. One proposal is for a card access system. One proposal is for a new camera system installation. One proposal is for a security system installation with Aiphone Video intercom installation. The total cost is \$68,788.00. Chairman Frank Hart referred the proposals to the Committee on County Administration and Finance. Sheriff David Taylor said they have the camera system installed and working at the Jail and they have the gate project completed at the Jail.

Building Superintendent Kenny West stated the roof is being installed on the Buffalo Senior Citizens Center.

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Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they sent out the certified letters for delinquent taxes. They are down to about 1,200 delinquent taxes this year.

Victim Advocate Coordinator Michelle Shugart stated they had gotten clarification on what funds they have to spend and what they can carry over.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated they celebrated EMS Week May 21st-27th. On Friday, May 26th they conducted a child safety seat inspection. They held Family Fun Day on May 27th. On June 8th they participated in the Active Shooter training exercise at the High School. He was approved for a DUI Grant in the amount of \$9,450 for some needed equipment. Mr. Harold stated revenues are up and are exceeding projections with the new billing company. He met with Jerry Brannon and the architects about the renovations of the EMS facility.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass stated the unemployment rate had declined to 4.3% and she discussed their success story for May. She said they are partnering with Spartanburg Community College on a construction program to fund six to eight people to go to school at SCC. After they complete the core curriculum then they are going to do OJT funds for them to continue working.

Chamber of Commerce Director Jami Trammell stated they are working with the Union County Recreation Department to present the annual Light up the Lake Fourth of July celebration. They are working on sponsorships for the event. The Tourism Commission will have a Kids Zone from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The band Fantasy will be on stage at 7:00 p.m. with fireworks at 10:00 p.m.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance adopting the annual Union County budget for fiscal year 2017-2018. The total budget is \$16,009,979.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance approving the annual Union County budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 as presented.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement (Carlisle Fire District), 2017, in the amount of not exceeding \$150,000 between Union County and the Lessor thereof to defray the cost of acquiring certain equipment; and other matters relating thereto.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement (Carlisle Fire District), 2017, in the amount of not exceeding \$150,000 between Union County and the Lessor thereof to defray the cost of acquiring certain equipment; and other matters relating thereto as presented.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance rescinding, repealing and revoking Union County Ordinance 295; and other matters pertaining thereto. This ordinance would repeal, revoke and rescind the ordinance establishing the Road User Fee effective July 31, 2017.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance rescinding, repealing and revoking Union County Ordinance 295; and other matters pertaining thereto as presented.

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

COUNCIL MEETING

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Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance in title only authorizing the sale and conveyance of certain real property owned by Union County to 101 W Main, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company; the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by and between Union County and 101 W Main, LLC regarding the development of such real property by 101 W Main, LLC; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated conveyance and development; and 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 the sale and conveyance of certain real property owned by Union County to 101 W Main, LLC as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Planning Commission met yesterday to conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis for Union County. This information will be used in putting the long range plan together. The first Focus Group meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20th at the Main Street Junction at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Dr. Roach is heading up the Education Task Force which met and put together a STEM Program for the summer which targets at-risk middle school students. The program starts Monday, June 12th at Sims. Students will travel to the Union County Airport on Wednesday, June 21st for a presentation on aviation.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Public Health Task Force has adopted the Eat Smart Move More initiative to promote healthy eating and exercise. Their next meeting will be on August 10th at 8:30 a.m. at The Meeting Place on Main Street.

Chairman Frank Hart gave an update on capital projects. The EMS remodel is a \$400,000 project and the goal is to put that out for bid by the end of the month with a target completion date of December 31, 2017. The Timken Sports Complex renovation is an \$800,000 project that should be ready to put out for bid by the middle of July which will be completed in phases. The target completion date for that project is March 31, 2018. The Bonham Fire Station is a \$1.2 million project contracted with Kingsmore Construction. The site and foundation work are underway with building to start next month. The target completion date for that project is December 31, 2017. They are working on a proposal for renovations to the Stadium and should have an RFP ready by month end to review the scope of the work as well to put out to the contractors the project cost.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they are currently in the design stage for Phase II of the Flat Stack Trail Project in Lockhart. Phase II was approved for grant funds first which is around the old Mill site. They have preliminary approval for Phase I from the State Parks and Recreation. The total amount of the grant is \$200,000. They are looking at a target completion on Phase II by October 15, 2017.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County applied for and received a PARD grant for \$23,000 to construct a picnic shelter with bathrooms at the West Springs complex. They are targeting the end of July for completion.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council was provided with a copy of a draft term-sheet for the agreement with the developer for the From Building. He asked the Councilmembers to read through it to make any comments before the next meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County has secured a commitment of \$750,000 from the Union County Transportation Committee for the County road resurfacing program this year. They are in the process of finalizing the resurfacing plan and the work will begin within the next sixty days.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County has sold the spec building at the Commerce Park and needs a new spec building. They have completed the draft term-sheet for the agreement with the developer and he asked for any feedback from Council on that. The attorney is working on a draft agreement as well as the incorporation documents for the Union County Facilities Corp. They are targeting the end of July to try to get this kicked off.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County should receive the first check this month from the State for the May collections for the Local Option Sales Tax for property tax relief. Using the actual collections for May, June, July and August we will estimate the credit to be applied to the tax bills for this year. Property taxpayers will see a credit on their bills this November.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they held the first Housing Summit in Lockhart on April 22nd. The goal is to define a clear strategy for housing redevelopment and new development. There will be a follow-up meeting in late July or early August.

Chairman Frank Hart said he attended the Active Shooter training event at the Union County High School. It was a multi-agency effort and it was sobering to watch.

Chairman Frank Hart reiterated that the unemployment rate dropped to 4.3% which was the lowest he remembered it ever being.

Chairman Frank Hart said the State Public Employee Benefit Authority had put together a plan to stabilize State retirement systems. This plan will result in an increased cost to the County of approximately \$180,000 this year. He thanked the Union County Delegation members for supporting a plan for the State to cover approximately half of that additional cost for the County.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated the Committee on Planning and Development had met and hoped to hold another meeting on June 22nd. Chairman Frank Hart said that Committee is working on the roof issue for Southside Fire Station, the proposed contract terms for Fire and Rescue, and the truck for Phillipi Fire District.

Councilman Ralph Tucker stated he was at the Behavioral Health Services today and they have a new girl they hired on June 5th. She will have to be trained and will work on drug prevention in the schools and the County. They are going to try to get some people in the schools they can train to try to help with the drug prevention program since they are short on staff. Chairman Frank Hart asked that the Committee come back to Council with some goals in the next thirty to sixty days.

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Chairman Frank Hart said he understood the Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Bridges and County Property met and discussed Linda Circle. The members of that Committee who were present said there was a general agreement to pursue abandonment of Linda Circle. Chairman Frank Hart said he would get to work on that. He understood there was discussion at the meeting about speed bumps and the general consensus was that the County would follow the South Carolina Department of Transportation regulations

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated Councilman David Sinclair was working diligently on the Fourth of July celebration for Buffalo. Chairman Frank Hart stated they were working on West Springs as well. Those are the two communities that still do their own events.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council