

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018 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 David Sinclair, Councilman Tommie Hill, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilwoman Kacie Petrie

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, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtiss 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 the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Chris Lavender with 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. 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:

Joan Little, District 1 – Present

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Present

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Absent

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 8, 2018, the special meeting of County Council held on May 3, 2018, the special meeting of County Council held on May 22, 2018, the special meeting of County Council held on June 4, 2018 and to adopt the minutes as presented.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Nathan Burdine for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Judy Burke Bynum with South Carolina Humanities but she was unable to attend the meeting.

Elise Ashby stated the Ag + Art Tour will be this weekend with a kick-off dinner at the Main Street Junction on Thursday night. Some of the food will be provided from Mr. Jackson's farm. Local musical entertainment will be performing for the dinner and during the tour at Six Oaks

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Farm on Mt. Tabor Church Road. Musicians and artisans will be at various sites. The Farmers Market opens on June 30<sup>th</sup> and will be open from 7:30 a.m. until noon Monday through Saturday. They had asked Council for some money for the tour and the market.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had talked about the purchase of the Zuercher system during the budget sessions. This is a new information management system for the Sheriff's Office, Jail and Detention Center. They currently use Law Traks and they have had issues with support. They think Zuercher will be a long term solution. It could be handled through a lease to purchase agreement which is authorized in the budget ordinance. The company said if the County commits to the purchase before July 1<sup>st</sup> they would give us a ten percent discount which would amount to about \$20,000. The cost of the new system is about \$200,000 but there are additional cost of about \$50,000 for hardware upgrades and data upgrades. The Sheriff secured a grant from the Timken Foundation for \$80,000 for laptops. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to authorize the County Supervisor to enter into a commitment to purchase agreement with the company which would secure the discounted pricing. He stated they are in discussions with the Solicitor's Office to see if they would contribute some funds for the system as well as talking to the City of Union on whether they are going to migrate over to the system. Councilman Ben Ivey asked when we would know all the upgrade expenses and the bottom line on what Zuercher is going to do. Chairman Frank Hart said we have the bottom line on Zuercher and need a couple weeks on the upgrades that will probably run in the \$50,000 range for the router and data upgrades. The Zuercher system had been priced at about \$218,000 but with the ten percent discount it would bring the cost down to \$198,000 not including the upgrades.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to authorize the County Supervisor to enter into a commitment to purchase agreement with Zuercher which would secure the discounted pricing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had an employee at Public Works that left creating a vacant full-time budgeted position which he requested permission to fill.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to fill the vacant position at Public Works as requested.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Councilman Ben Ivey asked what position it was and Chairman Frank Hart stated it was one of the work crew guys in the road department.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss a Magistrate constable position but they would hold that until the next meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart stated USC-Union announced recently the new nursing program and one of the things Council has done to support that effort was student housing. They initially worked with the Commission on Higher Education on a proposal to have a developer come in to provide student housing. The Commission on Higher Education offered a \$50,000 grant which was funded through a millage increase. We had the old From Building on Main Street that was in disrepair which was advertised. The County told the developer if he would come in and convert it to student housing we would give it to them with the understanding that they would use it for that purpose for ten years. There are some local guys who have built three duplexes on the Seigler Road which will be used for student housing. They are asking for half of the cost to upgrade the fire protection in the buildings which is \$13,500.

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Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to pay the \$13,500.00.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The motion carried with three (3) Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion and two (2) Councilmembers (Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilwoman Joan Little) opposing.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Fire Board for Kelly-Kelton Fire District requested advancement on their bond in the amount of \$35,000 for the purchase of a truck for the fire department. The funds would be repaid upon receipt of the bond money which could take sixty to ninety days to secure.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to give Kelly-Kelton Fire District a short term loan in the amount of \$35,000 to be repaid upon receipt of the bond proceeds.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Hal Blackwell to discuss human resources. Mr. Blackwell stated he was the republican nominee for County Supervisor and stated he wanted to change the form of government from Supervisor to a Manager administrative form of government. His goal was to present a solution to a problem and illustrate why the change of government might be appropriate. He told the story of Johnny Lingo and his eight cow wife. The county employees should know the healthy expectation of the employer. He said there had been a lack of respect for the opportunity and they should be given a career path. He suggested talking with each of the employees to map out a career path as a proactive and effective way of preventing the kind of scandals the County has experienced in the past. If you can create an environment where these people can fail and they understand that you have an expectation of them they are going to complain about it in the beginning but they develop as employees. He asked the Council to sit down with him for one hour then he would like to ask them questions that might reveal to them what their biases are. Then they would understand how beneficial it would be to have that conversation with each of the employees of the County. He said looking at the audit they are being reactive and are being dictated to. They could take the initiative to start something new. He said the other alternative would be for him to start digging in the audit and find all kind of cruddy stuff that he could bring up but that is of no value. He hoped Council would take this as an out-of-the-box solution or a way of taking advantage of the situation as it stands.

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated she was working on implementing the new procurement policy and will be holding training next week. We are getting near the year end for the budget fiscal year and watching expenditures very carefully to make sure that is under control and we can meet our projections.

Chairman Frank Hart thanked Sheriff David Taylor for his office working with the Detention Center when an inmate walked off a work site. Sheriff David Taylor said he and Neil McKeown had been working together on the transition from his running the jail to it being run by Neil. They have been going over the training process and said they would get through the transition process together. They have been getting rid of some equipment that is outdated by selling it on gov.deals. They got rid of some drug confiscated vehicles to get them off their lot. Sheriff

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Taylor stated he operates off the Law Traks computer system and the Detention Center has a different system. The Zuercher software with the record management system would allow them to share information. The new system would allow the news media to get mug shots and arrest records. It will give the capability to put the laptops in their cars to transmit reports into the records management system from the field to help them cut down on overtime. They are about to finish the project with the inmate phone system. The last portion is the cellmate phones which they should get next week. Inmates would have access to the phone if they want to buy one. The County sells it to them for \$100 but it does not have access to facebook or the internet. They are able to text, make calls and get legal advice. Councilman Ben Ivey asked how they were doing on cameras and Sheriff Taylor stated everyone has body-worn cameras. Sheriff Taylor said the new inmate phone system would allow the inmates to buy a phone from the County and purchase the minutes for the phone from the County. They would have to download anything they want from a hotspot in the jail and have no access to anything outside of the jail facility. We limit and control what they have access to. Sheriff Taylor said they monitor and listen to how the phones are used.

Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated he received a check for \$15,000 for a medical grant from the Spartanburg Regional Foundation. After that they had the inmate that had been signed out by Jonesville officials walk off from the work detail and the Jonesville officials had been to a class on how to manage inmates. Thanks to the Sheriff's Office, by 11:00 a.m. the next day he had been apprehended and returned. He and the Sheriff are working on the merger of the jail. The Detention Center is working on some locations in preparation for the Fourth of July celebration.

Litter Control Officer Allyson Wentz stated that so far in 2018 code enforcement has worked on 2,477 cases since they are now responsible for providing code enforcement for all of Union County. Litter Control has picked up 6,845 bags of garbage. They have held three community clean ups and fourteen property clean ups. They received an enforcement grant from Palmetto Pride and have made a couple of purchases from that money. They have enough board members to have a Keep America Keep Union County Beautiful Board which will make us eligible for funds from the Keep America Beautiful Foundation. They are filled to capacity at the animal shelter.

The EMS Director Eric Harold said the renovations of the EMS facility are progressing. He said he had not heard anything from his application for AMG grants for two new ambulances. He said he attended a Fire and Rescue Convention last Friday. He is waiting to hear from the Healthcare Foundation on another grant.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they got their certified mailing out and they still have about 1,200 delinquent properties which is normal.

Rieta Drinkwine with Carnegie Library said they are doing summer reading. On July 7<sup>th</sup> they will have an acting drama dance group from Charleston. On July 12<sup>th</sup> they will have a steel band doing a performance. They are planning to do the Teen Lock-in at the Timken Sports Complex since they had about 80 teens participate last year. They are in the middle of their Mental Health First Aid grant and are looking at doing more training.

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Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass stated she attended a meeting where she learned about CDB Gummies which are in Union County and is related to marijuana. The gummies are not supposed to be available to anyone under the age of 18. She said she had read a letter in the newspaper last week thanking Council for everything they had done for them including an interest free loan, use of inmates, and for helping them to move. The letter referred to \$20,000 Council had provided to someone else and they wanted that too to provide training. The letter said the money was for at-risk youth but the money was actually for creating a pipeline for employees for Union County employers.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated the Fourth of July Light Up the Lake celebration at Foster Park will not be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> but rather will be held on Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, 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.

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, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, 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.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the lease of certain real property owned by Union County to Union County Carnegie Library Historic Tax Credit Partnership, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company; the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by Union County with one or more entities in connection with the operation and renovation and improvement of the Union County Carnegie Library; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the lease of certain real property owned by Union County to Union County Carnegie Library Historic Tax Credit Partnership, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company; the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by Union County with one or more entities in connection with the operation and renovation and improvement of the Union County Carnegie Library; and other matters related thereto.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and the Timken Company, a company previously identified as Project TRP, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (The "Company"), pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the county (collectively, the "Project"); (2) the benefits of a multi-county industrial or business park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source revenue credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and the Timken Company, a company previously identified as Project TRP, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (The "Company"), pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the county (collectively, the "Project"); (2) the benefits of a multi-county industrial or business park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source revenue credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance to develop, pursuant to Sec. 4-1-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a jointly owned and operated Industrial Business Park, to be known as the Timken Company Multi-County Park, in conjunction with Spartanburg County, South Carolina, such Industrial/Business Park to be geographically located in Union County, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; to provide for the distribution of revenues from the park among the taxing entities having jurisdiction over the park; to provide for a user fee in lieu of ad valorem taxation; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance to develop, pursuant to Sec. 4-1-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a jointly owned and operated Industrial Business Park, to be known as the Timken Company Multi-County Park, in conjunction with Spartanburg County, South Carolina, such Industrial/Business Park to be geographically located in Union County, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; to provide for the distribution of revenues from the park among the taxing entities having jurisdiction over the park; to provide for a user fee in lieu of ad valorem taxation; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and a company identified for the time being as Project Paris, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (The "Company"), pursuant to which the County shall Covenant to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the County (collectively, The "Project"); (2) the benefits of a multi-county industrial or business park to be

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made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source revenue credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and a company identified for the time being as Project Paris, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (The "Company"), pursuant to which the County shall Covenant to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the County (collectively, The "Project"); (2) the benefits of a multi-county industrial or business park to be made available to the company and the project; (3) certain special source revenue credits in connection with the project; and (4) other matters relating thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance to develop, pursuant to Sec. 4-1-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a jointly owned and operated industrial/business park, to be known as Project Paris Multi-County Park, in conjunction with Spartanburg County, South Carolina, such industrial/business park to be geographically located in Union County, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; to provide for the distribution of revenues from the park among the taxing entities having jurisdiction over the park; to provide for a user fee in lieu of ad valorem taxation; and other matters related thereto.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance to develop, pursuant to Sec. 4-1-170 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, a jointly owned and operated industrial/business park, to be known as Project Paris Multi-County Park, in conjunction with Spartanburg County, South Carolina, such industrial/business park to be geographically located in Union County, South Carolina; to provide for a written agreement with Spartanburg County as to the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; to provide for the distribution of revenues from the park among the taxing entities having jurisdiction over the park; to provide for a user fee in lieu of ad valorem taxation; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance authorizing and approving the expansion of the boundaries of a joint county industrial and business park with Spartanburg County (Wingo) pursuant Article VIII, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution, to include certain property owned and/or operated by Auriga Polymers Inc. or one or more of its affiliates or other related companies; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and accept first reading of the ordinance authorizing and approving the expansion of the boundaries of a joint county industrial and business park with Spartanburg County (Wingo) pursuant Article VIII, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution, to include certain property owned and/or operated by Auriga Polymers Inc. or one or more of its affiliates or other related companies; and other matters related thereto.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart stated under his Supervisor's Report that the EMS renovations are progressing nicely and should be completed in November. The stadium renovations are coming along. He stated he was on the radio last week about the new nursing program at USC-Union. He is working on finalizing the lease with Higher Education for the Annex Building and working through the logistics of where to move the people at the Annex that will be impacted by the Nurse and Science Center going in that building. Council funded a portion of the STEM Camp for middle aged at-risk kids from Sims Middle School and Jonesville Elementary Middle School hosted by the WIB. He met with them at the Airport last week to talk about aviation.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked where we stand on our roads. Chairman Frank Hart said he had talked to Jerry Brannon who is supposed to be getting an updated list of the planned roads for paving.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a legal matter and a contractual matter.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss a legal matter and a contractual matter after a brief recess.

Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to close executive session and said no votes were taken during executive session.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council