

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman Ben Ivey, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, Acting County Attorney Pete Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: Councilman Tommy Ford

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.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. 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 - Absent

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Chairman Frank Hart called for approval of the previous minutes. Councilman Randall Hanvey stated he wanted to make a correction in the minutes for June 4, 2015. During their last discussion about the budget, he made the statement that two pennies was what it would cost to add the fees. He was talking about it would be pennies on the dollar of what it would cost. The actual cost he thought would be like ten cents or something like that instead of the two that was put in the minutes. He asked that it be corrected in the minutes.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on June 4, 2015, the special meeting of County Council held on June 9, 2015 and to adopt the minutes with the correction to the June 4, 2015 minutes.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider vacancies on the Stadium Commission. There are two vacancies and one applicant who is John David (JD) Wilcox, Jr. Chairman Frank Hart stated it would be the recommendation from Councilman Ralph Tucker.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to appoint John David (JD) Wilcox, Jr. to the Stadium Commission.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2015

Joan Little: Made a motion to advertise the remaining vacancy on the Stadium Commission.  
Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented an Automatic Aid Agreement with the fire departments for Council's approval. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she has been working with the fire departments to get this done and the agreement has been signed by the Chairman of the Board and Fire Chief for each of the fire departments. They wanted to have a plan in place for different levels of fires. Mike Lancaster stated all the fire departments were in agreement upon County Council's approval. If approved by County Council, a copy with all the signatures will be sent out to every fire department in the county. Chairman Frank Hart stated in the past the automatic mutual aid agreements had been handled on a department by department basis and was an issue for 911 to keep current. This would lock that in place. Mr. Lancaster stated this was not an automatic mutual aid agreement. An automatic aid agreement is when a fire department has an agreement for structure fires or any other type of instances that they agree upon. They are automatically dispatched which is related to the ISO credit. A mutual aid agreement means they have a working relationship with another fire department and would not give them the ISO credit you need to keep their lower fire insurance rates for their residents. The proposed automatic aid agreement addresses 911 dispatch procedures and they plan to go over that with Linda Mitchell. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated if a fire department is not toned out and they have firefighters come to the site then they are not covered by the County's workers compensation insurance. If they are toned out then they are covered. This sets up the procedure to follow. Chairman Frank Hart stated it was almost the first time they have had county-wide cooperation on how the fire departments would operate. Mr. Lancaster stated all the fire departments in the County are facing the same struggles with manpower. Their biggest issue is to make sure the citizens of Union County have adequate fire protection. Volunteers are getting harder to come by so they want to make sure the citizens of Union County are protected. He hoped this agreement would provide that. Councilman Ralph Tucker asked about fire hydrants and Mr. Lancaster stated those were handled by the water companies.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adopt the Union County Fire Service Automatic Aid Agreement which was agreed upon by the fire departments on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015 and that this would be the standard operating procedure for Union County going forward.

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

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade gave an update on the airport. He stated the County received a grant in the amount of \$305,891 which would go with the \$166,000 grant received last year for a total of \$472,491. We expect to receive State funding in the amount of five percent to go with this. This funding pays for the homes purchased as part of the clear zoning. The homes are up for sale and there will be a public auction held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. after the Clerk of Court's sale. There are four houses, a manufactured home, and a four car garage for sale located on the Sardis Road as well as a house and property located on Poplar Road in Jonesville. The houses, manufactured home and garage on the Sardis Road have to be moved and relocated from the current property which will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Purchasers will have to sign a contract that they will move them. There will be a deposit made by the purchasers and if they do not move the property then the deposit would not be refunded which is being done to protect the County.

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 14, 2015

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie thanked Ronnie Wade for all his work at the Fourth of July celebration. Chairman Frank Hart said he had very good feedback on the event.

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

Clerk of Court Freddie Gault stated they had some problems with the air conditioning in the courtroom. Building Superintendent Kenny West worked on getting a new unit which was installed yesterday at a cost in excess of \$10,000.00.

Detention Center Director Neil McKeown stated they are trying to get their new employees acclimated. They had lost part of their staff due to retirement and transfers.

Councilman Randall Hanvey recognized Neil McKeown where he had seen a news article praising him and his workers for their help with the new Farmer's Market.

Nathan Burdine as the new Animal Control Officer stated they have a new septic system. He requested that each Councilmember ask the people in their district what they think Animal Control should do. He would like to take that feedback to make some changes.

Ronnie Wade thanked Neil McKeown for the cleanup at the park after the fireworks show.

Tourism Director Curtis Hunter updated Council that they are trying to have more of the Coon Hunter events come to Union.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a resolution to authorize and direct the County Supervisor to enter into a Commercial Lease Amendment with the County of Spartanburg to lease space located in the County owned building located at 103 West Main Street for use by SC Works on behalf of Union County and determine the terms. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Workforce Investment Board recently went through a budget reduction but they made a commitment to keep our person in Union. They are looking at eliminating the rent in order for them to stay at that location. Chairman Frank Hart stated WIB would be responsible for paying the utilities and they would continue to operate in the same building. They are looking at using the building for the Workforce Summit and for workforce training. They had asked that the County waive the rent for one year. The resolution would authorize the Supervisor to have an agreement drafted to waive the rent for this fiscal year. Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if that had been in the projected revenues and Chairman Frank Hart said it was so we would not be collecting that \$9,000.00 for rent on the building. Chairman Frank Hart felt it was important to maintain the service. Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilman Randall Hanvey asked that it be part of the agreement that the Union location would be staffed for the full fiscal year. Councilman Ralph Tucker said he had talked to the Mayor and he told him he was going to try to get the County some money to try to keep that building going. Chairman Frank Hart said he understood they were going to request some assistance from the City on the utilities.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution pertaining to a Commercial Lease Amendment with the County of Spartanburg as stated.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2015

Chairman Frank Hart asked Council to consider adding a mechanic to support the ambulance service and vehicle maintenance. They had budgeted \$158,000.00 for EMS for outside costs. It is currently being handled by a firm out of North Carolina. As part of the plan to reduce EMS costs, he proposed to add one mechanic to be paid for out of that line item in the EMS budget. That mechanic's first priority would be the ambulance maintenance but they would work on other County equipment as well in particularly doing the preventive maintenance which we are subbing out now. Human Resources and Payroll Manager Kindra Horne stated the salary range for the position was \$23,887 to \$33,615 plus fringes. Chairman Frank Hart stated the pay would be dependent upon the certification of the individual.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to add the mechanic to be paid from the existing EMS budget.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion.

There was discussion about the levels of certification and training requirements. There was discussion about making sure the work done on the ambulances does not interfere with the warranties on the vehicles.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated they had an Ottaray neighborhood meeting on June 20th. Although she was unable to attend she understood they had a very good meeting and that it was very informative.

Councilman Ben Ivey stated on the Road Department they had some calls about pothole issues and roads. He said he had looked at them and they would be put in line for some repairs but they were minor. They had a little washout from a water line in the Goldville area that they need to look at.

Chairman Frank Hart stated that on July 8<sup>th</sup> the Federal judge approved the plan to allow the affiliation with Spartanburg Regional. Part of that plan is a new facility for Union County. Spartanburg Regional is already looking at property and locations. The hospital is important not only for healthcare for our citizens but also for the growth and future of the community. It is hard to attract people, businesses or industry without a hospital. The hospital would not have made it through the summer without that relationship. He thanked Paul Newhouse, the hospital administration, and the Hospital Board. There were a number of board members that had completed their term but agreed to remain to see the process through. Had the County Council not agreed to forgive the \$3 million which was owed to the County, the deal would not have happened and ultimately the hospital would have been liquidated and would not have continued to exist in Union County. That action was a key component in moving the deal forward. Without the payroll advancements we would not have a hospital. He thanked the Legislative Delegation and particularly Representative Mike Anthony who coordinated a meeting with the County Supervisor, the Hospital administration and the bankruptcy attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services. There was a considerable amount of money owed to the State which was over a million dollars. That money was considered primary debt which meant it had to be paid first. Through Representative Anthony's efforts they agreed to reclassify that debt. It sweetened the pot for the creditors to make them more likely to support the plan. That in

## COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 14, 2015

conjunction with the County forgiving the three million dollars with some concessions from Spartanburg Regional is what basically got the creditor committee to support the plan.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the EMS transfer over to the County has been completed and the integration is continuing. EMS Director Ronnie Roberson thanked County Council and said they are going through the process of being part of the County operations. He said they are moving forward.

Chairman Frank Hart said they were working with Spartanburg Community College on the Advanced Technology Center to expand course offerings. They are holding preliminary discussions with the School District about a technology based early college program. This would be taking a group of high school students and by the time they finish high school they would have earned an associate's degree with a technical emphasis. They would probably not be able to complete the mechatronics degree but could complete an associate's degree in applied science with an emphasis in mechatronics and would have garnered a couple of certificates along the way so when they finish they could literally go to work. He said he was working through the Spartanburg Community College and the USC-Union Memorandum of Understanding Agreement. They still have some details to work out but it is progressing. He said he was investigating a program where the County would provide free tuition for any graduating senior who will complete a program of study at an institution in their county. It sounds expensive but when you look at the lottery dollars and what the State is paying it is really not that expensive. It is a great marketing tool with the high school students.

Chairman Frank Hart stated that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July they would be holding the second Workforce Summit at 10:00 a.m. at the SC Works office on Main Street. They will talk about how to improve workforce training in Union County and how to streamline the process. There are more agencies than he could list that are involved. They are trying to work through those details so that when someone walks in then there is a clear process on how they get evaluated, how they get plugged into the right organization, and get employment.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Timken Sports Complex is hosting the State Dixie Youth Tournament this week. He thought there were thirty six teams participating and we anticipate thousands of visitors because of that event. There have been a lot of comments from people from out of town on how nice our facility is.

Chairman Frank Hart stated we have ordered software and equipment to update our gas usage system. The new system will tie the vehicle to the operator to the mileage. It will give better accountability on how the fuel is being used.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Building Codes Ordinance amendment draft is nearly complete. They have a few minor details to work out. There are no major changes on what is being enforced but it would clean up the appeals process and eliminate some of the contradicting language.

Chairman Frank Hart said they would probably miss the September filing date for the next phase of the Ottaray Project. They will have to push that to next year's cycle. They will be meeting

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2015

with the environmental group which did the phase one assessment on the Ottaray Park. The plan is to proceed with the already approved purchase of the property.

Chairman Frank Hart said Ronnie Wade had been filling in at the Timken Sports Complex and at the Recreation Department. On behalf of the Sports Complex he has been enrolling kids for the football program. Some of the football equipment is over ten years old and they will probably have to buy some new equipment.

Chairman Frank Hart said he had some preliminary discussions with Timken regarding the possibility of expanding parking for the Timken Sports Complex.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had a letter from the Town of Carlisle formally requesting code enforcement assistance. He plans to discuss with the County Attorney details of how this would work and come back to Council with a proposal.

Chairman Frank Hart state the next monthly meeting of the Union County Council on August 11<sup>th</sup> will be held in Carlisle at the new Carlisle fire station.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to review and approve audits and financial statements for Southside Fire District, Veterans Memorial Park, Union County Carnegie Library and Clemson Extension.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept the audits and financial statements as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the legislature passed a new law pertaining to the Freedom of Information Act concerning amending agendas and public meetings. If you are going to amend an agenda and you are taking final action then it has to be an emergency item. You can still discuss items but not take any final action. There is still discussion on handling committee meetings and acting on those recommendations.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they need to hold an executive session to discuss a personnel matter and a contractual matter related to the EMS building.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and contractual matter as stated.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss a personnel and contractual matter as stated.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to close executive session

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had come out of executive session and no votes were taken.

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 14, 2015

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the Family Medical Leave Act extension for Sarah Hopkins to August 10, 2015.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council