

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M.
MEETING ROOM AT 103 W. MAIN STREET, UNION, SC 29379
STREAM TO FRANK HART UNION COUNTY SUPERVISOR
FACEBOOK PAGE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly
Absent: Councilman Tommie Hill

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, the County Attorney, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Jami Trammell with Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, 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, and Michael Lee with MHISC as well as to elected officials and heads of various county departments and offices. A notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda were also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order.

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 - Present
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Tommie Hill, District 5 - Absent
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Council Chaplin David Sinclair gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on June 16, 2020 and to adopt the minutes as written.
David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate for Ashley Blane Lancaster for 5 years, for Gregory S. Weaver for 5 years, to Clifton L. Brannon for 5 years, for Michael G. Brewington for 5 years, for Patrick O. Craig for 5 years, for Kevin L. Faile for 5 years, for Jason B. Garrett for 5 years, for Charles N. Gill for 5 years, for Veronica P. Grant for 5 years, for Phillip A. Harris for 5 years, for Brian J. Martin for 5 years, for Amy C. McCarley for 5 years, for Kevin S. Mitchell for 5 years, for Gerald D. Privette for 5 years, for Yvonne E.

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Taylor for 5 years, for Caleb Temples for 5 years, for James K. Thompson for 5 years, to Mark C. Wade for 5 years and for Mark E. Williams for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Michael Taylor to discuss county government. Mr. Taylor made reference to Jackie McBeth who he said law enforcement officers smothered to death with the knowledge of the City Police Chief and County Sheriff. He made derogatory remarks about Interim Sheriff Sam White, Sheriff David Taylor, County Councilman Ralph Tucker and Supervisor Frank Hart. He had an issue with the people attending the Council meeting who were not wearing a mask due to the Coronavirus.

Chairman Frank Hart presented an addendum to the Landfill Agreement. Council had previously discussed making a concession with Republic Services due to waste coming from Henderson County. The addendum states that effective July 1, 2020, for Henderson County volume only, the Host Fee will be reduced by \$.50 per ton from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2030.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the addendum to the Landfill Agreement as presented and to authorize the Supervisor to execute the document on behalf of Union County.

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

Airport Manager Ronnie Wade stated the Airport Commission recommends reducing property tax from 10.5% to 4% on aircraft in Union County.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to start the process to change the property tax as requested on aircraft in Union County.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to boards and commissions. There is a vacancy on the Board of Appeals due to a term expiration. There are two vacancies on the Building Code Board of Appeals as a member had passed away and there is a vacancy for an alternate. There is a vacancy on the Board for Phillipi Fire District due to the resignation of Carrol Alexander, Jr. Chairman Frank Hart asked if any councilmember had any recommendations for appointments but there were none.

Jami Trammell as Director of the Union Chamber of Commerce presented a proposal from Retail Strategies to provide marketing for retail development. Retail Strategies offered an annual contract with pricing defined for three years of service. The proposal includes an annual opt-out with no penalty. The three-year contract is for a total of \$90,000 at \$30,000 each year. Jami Trammell asked County Council to commit to this for three years providing half the cost and the City providing the other half of the funding. She asked the County to provide \$15,000 from Economic Development money for the first year and she would also be requesting \$15,000 from the City of Union.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appropriate \$15,000.00 from Economic Development funds to use in conjunction with the City of Union for the one-year contract with Retail Strategies.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a request from Veterans Affairs Officer Cindy Fore for \$1,500 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditures account for a computer upgrade.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve \$1,500 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditures account for a computer upgrade as requested.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a request from Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson for \$4,500 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditures account for a security system for the Courthouse.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the \$4,500 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditures account for a security system for the Courthouse as requested.

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

Jerry Brannon as the County Engineering Consultant and Rusty Snider as Director of Public Works came before Council to discuss road projects. Jerry Brannon stated the County has 500 roads in the system and they have resurfaced 190 roads over the past five years. This has been accomplished through the approval of our County Transportation Commission for money from the CTC Program. He provided Council with a copy of the list of proposed roads to be resurfaced for their review and revision. Mr. Brannon stated there are county roads that are difficult to maintain and pave as they were previously small dirt roads that do not meet the County's standards. He said we need to amend and update the County's Road Ordinance. There had been some questions about other roads in the County, the safety issue with Black Bottom Road and some roads that property owners want taken out of the County maintenance. Chairman Frank Hart suggested the Road Committee meet so this could all be discussed in more detail.

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated Council had been provided the financial report for June and there would be additional payments for invoices dated in June. Many of the departments had spent nearly one hundred percent of their budget. The last page of the report reflects the budget transfers made. This helps us know where the funds were spent to help with future budget allocations.

Chairman Frank Hart recognized Interim Sheriff Sam White who was appointed by the Governor to serve in that position until after the General Election in November when a new sheriff is elected. This was due to the indictment of Sheriff David Taylor and his removal from office by the Governor. Interim Sheriff Sam White said he had met with Administration about finances. He met with the magistrates, Circuit Court Judge, and employees in the Sheriff's Office. He plans to come up with the financial needs for equipment for the Sheriff's Office and a document on improvements that need to be made.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade said Supervisor Frank Hart had put a committee together that will meet on Thursday about some things they can be doing during the virus. Carnegie Library has a list of movies they could show using a screen and a frequency where you could hear it in your vehicle and concessions could be provided. He stated there is a need for sidewalks on Highway 176 Bypass. We need to check with Catawba Regional COG to see if there are funds available to have that done. The City needs to be a part of that since it is located in the City. People need to have that access to businesses in that area.

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Community Development Director Katherine Pendergrass stated they normally hold a monthly HR Association and Partners meeting. They held their last meeting in June and will hold the next one in September. They had a Lunch and Learn with the County Supervisor with forty people in attendance and she got approximately twenty surveys that were completed. She said she would share them if Council wants to see them. They held a Blood Drive in partnership with the City of Union, the County of Union and Lockhart Power Company. Lockhart Power Company provided lunch for everyone and they collected 55 units of blood. They held a Gospel Explosion to encourage people to fill out the census. She attended the Prayer Vigil for Juneteenth and represented the County Supervisor at the peaceful protest that was held. Ronnie Wade stated she had been holding meetings at the Recreation Department using a portable PA system. Katherine Pendergrass said they did a Movie Night at the Community Development Office building.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated she is interested in the old jail because of its historic significance. She is working on the John D. Long Lake project and camping is exploding because of COVID-19. The State Parks are filled to capacity and she has been working with DNR and Doug Gilliam.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution acknowledging and authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Union for the provision of a County Magistrate to act as Municipal Judge for the City of Union; and other matters related thereto. Chairman Frank Hart explained that since Judge Hampton had retired with the City of Union, the City wishes to contract to use a County Magistrate in assisting with bonds through August and we need to have an agreement in place. The City would compensate the magistrate through reimbursement.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution acknowledging and authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Union for the provision of a County Magistrate to act as Municipal Judge for the City of Union; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance directing that the implementation of real property reassessment in Union County be delayed for one (1) year, as authorized by statute; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance directing that the implementation of real property reassessment in Union County be delayed for one (1) year, as authorized by statute; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of one or more Incentive Agreements by and between Union County, South Carolina and Project Dutchman Creek, and one or more affiliated or related entities, as sponsor, to provide for a Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes incentive; to provide for Special Source Revenue Credits; to designate a new, or expand the boundaries of an existing multi county industrial park to include certain real property in the county to be owned and operated by Project Dutchman Creek; and to

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enter into any other necessary agreements with the sponsor to effect the intent of this ordinance; and other related matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of one or more Incentive Agreements by and between Union County, South Carolina and Project Dutchman Creek, and one or more affiliated or related entities, as sponsor, to provide for a Fee In Lieu of Ad Valorem Taxes incentive; to provide for Special Source Revenue Credits; to designate a new, or expand the boundaries of an existing multi county industrial park to include certain real property in the county to be owned and operated by Project Dutchman Creek; and to enter into any other necessary agreements with the sponsor to effect the intent of this ordinance; and other related matters.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in tile only an ordinance to acknowledge and authorize the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Union for the provision of a County Magistrate to act as Municipal Judge for the City of Union: and other matters related thereto.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance to acknowledge and authorize the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the City of Union for the provision of a County Magistrate to act as Municipal Judge for the City of Union: and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report and stated he had applied for the J. Mitchell Graham Award through the South Carolina Association of Counties. The project submitted was the expansion of access to higher education and workforce training which covered the work the County did establishing the SCC Union Campus for the mechatronics program, establishing the Union County Community Scholarship, working with USC-Union to bring the nursing facility by donating the use of the building as well as the creation of the Operations Workforce Program. He said he also applied for the Barrett Lawrimore Regional Cooperation Award related to our project working with ReGenesis Healthcare and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to locate a federally qualified health clinic in Union. He said Council has a copy of a printout for the parcel map for the county-owned property located at 1504 Main Street in Buffalo. We have advertised this property for sale before but did not receive any bids. He said he had been contacted by someone that was interested in it so we are going to advertise it again and bring the bids back to Council.

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss an economic development matter, a legal matter and a personnel matter.

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

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

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

David Sinclair: Made a motion to close executive session.

Tracie Campbell: 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.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council