

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2011 AT 5:43 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Tommy Sinclair, Vice Chair Kacie Petrie, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Ben Ivey, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly
Absent: Councilman Randall Hanvey

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, WBCU Radio Station, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Ms. Ann Canada, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Anna Brown with the County News, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Frank Hart, Mr. Ray Treadway, Mr. Howard Gibson, and Mr. Robert Small. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called the meeting to order. Councilwoman Dora Martin-Jennings 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
Dora Martin-Jennings, District 2 - Present
Tommy Ford, District 3 - Present
Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present
Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Absent
Kacie Petrie, District 6 - Present

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to approve the previous minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on July 12, 2011 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented service award certificates and gift cards for Roger Hill for five years of dedicated service, for Mark Gregory for five years of dedicated service and for Ricky Mallett for ten years of dedicated service to Union County.

Dr. Stan James appeared before Council to give an update on Wallace Thomson Hospital. Dr. James introduced the people attending with him who were Mr. Tim Merritt as the CEO of the hospital and Bobbie Jean Lawson and Dr. Gerald Fielder who serve on the Hospital Board. Dr. James stated that the health of the hospital district is good. He thanked Council for trusting them with this hospital district. He thanked the County Supervisor who planted the seed that they could go independent and was with them through the entire process. It turned out to be a salvation for the hospital. The hospital employs 538 people who needed a good administration that they now have in place. Things are going smoothly with an effective general surgery program. They have expanded the OB/GYN. On

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2011

Monday, they are starting an excellent orthopedics program and they plan to pursue a urology program. They have lost several family doctors recently but they are in pursuit of doctors to replace them. Their fiscal year ends September 30th. So far this year, their revenues have increased by 5.6%. Their net income is \$1,587,000.00 more than last year this time. They now have enough cash on hand to cover fifty three days. That means that if the hospital did not have any income they could run it for fifty three days. Last summer that number was in the teens. They paid off the six million dollar bonds on May 31st. Dr. James stated they could not have accomplished this without County Council's support. Hospital CEO Mr. Tim Merritt highlighted what they have done in the last ninety days. They have signed two new long term surgeon agreements. They signed long term agreements with two doctors to provide OB/GYN services. Dr. Natasha Jeter who is a Union County resident will join the OB/GYN services in January of 2012. They will be providing full time orthopedic coverage starting next Monday. They will be recruiting other specialties like urology and primary care. Those will really bring the revenue here and keep healthcare here at home. They have cleaned the entire facility and the patient satisfaction scores skyrocketed in the area of cleanliness and the overall appearance of the hospital. They are in the process of replacing carpet and furnishings in the lobby and other waiting areas to improve the image to the patients and families that come there. There are other upgrades and improvements being made at the hospital and the nursing home. Under capital purchases they bought new stress test equipment in cardiology. They bought a new pulmonary function system for the respiratory therapy department. They are putting in a new computer system in the hospital. They are buying a new digital mammography system. They are buying a new telephone system for the hospital and nursing home. They bought a new ice machine for EMS which helps when they have events where they set up recovery rehab locations like the Timken Sports Complex. From a management and employee standpoint they conducted an analysis and received a lot of input and participation for the department management and leaders. They went through some employment recognition activities to help bring moral up. They are going to look at the benefit package to try to keep the staff here. They have to remain competitive if they want to keep qualified staff. He and the CFO make rounds throughout the hospital receiving input from employees and checking out how the building looks. They get input from families and guests as to how they feel about the hospital. Mr. Merritt stated he had been here three and a half months and things were busy but rewarding. He said they were excited about the direction the hospital is going from a financial standpoint and patient care standpoint. They want to provide good quality care for the patients and good customer service to keep healthcare here at home. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he feels ten times better about the hospital than he did this time last year and they know leadership is important.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that next on the agenda is to consider two upcoming vacancies on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the two positions.

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

Chairman Tommy Sinclair informed Council that Jenny Alexander is leaving which would create a vacancy on the Union Carnegie Library Board.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to advertise the vacancy on the Library Board.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2011

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any elected officials or department heads who wished to address Council.

Sheriff David Taylor stated they had been chasing cows pretty regular lately. The County has one Animal Control Officer. The City has two officers and cover seven square miles. The County is trying to cover 514 square miles with one. The burden of that is falling back on the Sheriff's Office. Since May 1, 2011 to August 7, 2011 the deputies in the Sheriff's Office has answered 125 animal control calls. They answered 62 calls about cows in the road, 5 calls about horses in the road, 3 calls about goats in the road, 1 call about a pig, 2 calls about chickens, 12 calls about snakes, 3 calls about cats, and 37 calls about dogs. It cost almost \$2,200.00 in salaries this past weekend for the Sheriff's Office to assist animal control in trying to round up 25 cows. The Council needs to look at getting the Animal Control Officer some help. This is taking the deputies off the road protecting and serving the public to do cattle roundup. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated he would ask the Council Committee on County Administration and Finance to consider this at their meeting next week. He informed Council work had started on the jail this morning.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair said he had a good conversation with Magistrate Jimmy Crocker about managing the jail population. Tax Assessor Susan Hanvey informed Council they have three appeals as a result of the tax reassessments which will go to the Appeals Board. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said he had talked to Bobby Bowers and the County Council districts have to be reaffirmed and maybe realigned as a result of the latest census. He provided Mr. Bowers with the County Council incumbents address to go over.

Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated they were working on the bleachers at the stadium. The materials will be here Friday. He has lined up a certified aluminum welder with the degree that is required. They have an engineering firm that will sign off that the bleachers are safe upon completion. They are pushing to get them done by August 19th but if they cannot get them done by then they hope to have them finished by August 26th. He stated there would be thirty plus teams playing in tournaments at Timken Sports Complex for the upcoming weekend. Councilman Tommy Ford asked about the cost to repair the bleachers at the stadium. Mr. Wade said he did not have a cost on that yet but the welder will be paid by the hour. He did not have a bid yet on the engineer who wants a stress weld test before they start. He ordered materials out of Charlotte at a cost of \$2,500.00 to \$2,600.00. The cost of the parts on the welding was estimated to be five to six times the cost of materials. Councilman Tommy Ford said he wanted that put on the agenda for the Finance Committee meeting and he was told it was already on that agenda.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair handed out color coded maps of the areas for the fire districts and the areas that some of the fire districts had requested be included in their district. The request from Carlisle Fire District had not been coded on the map. To get the expansions done in this tax season it would have to be done soon. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if it would benefit any of the citizens to come under the fire district that requested they be included. She said she understood that if they are outside the five mile radius from the fire department the citizen would not receive any benefit. Councilman Ben Ivey stated it would just give them fire coverage but there would be no breaks for insurance coverage

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2011

because of the ISO rating. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that if you are not in a fire district the fire department does not have to respond. The fire departments normally do respond but they do not have to. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated property taxes would go up for those being included in a fire district but they would not see any savings on insurance costs. Chairman Tommy Sinclair said they do not have the water supply and hydrants needed out in the rural part of the county. Being included in a fire district would not automatically lower the individuals insurance.

Councilwoman Joan Little stated there were three people present at today's meeting that came before Council last month wanting Council to amend their ordinance pertaining to the use of alcohol on county property. People could not understand why Council did not vote on the matter. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated that a council member would have to call it to a vote. Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated County Council did not take a vote either for it or against it. It was taken as information and no vote was taken on the matter.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair stated that on September 11th there would be recognition of the tenth anniversary of 9-11. This would be tied to an event at the stadium put on by the Camp Meeting group. There would be recognition of our first responders, our firefighters, police, EMS, etc. He said he would provide Council with more details as they become available.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair said he met Tuesday night with the Lockhart folks about a recreation site. There were eleven people present from DNR, Pacolet Milliken, South Carolina Conservation Society, Tyger River Recreation Basin group, Mayor of Pacolet, and others. He said he met with the School Board last night and they are at the next level of discussion on that and wants to discuss it at the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday night.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair called for any other business.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie called a meeting of the Committee on Planning and Development for Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the County annex.

Chairman Tommy Sinclair presented audits and financial statements from Union County Development Board, Mental Health, Historical Society, Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Council on Aging for Council's review and approval.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to accept the audits and financial statements as presented.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Councilwoman Dora Martin called a meeting of the County Council Committee on County Administration and Finance for Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Law Library.

Dora Martin-Jennings: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2011

Thomas L. Sinclair, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council