

JOINT MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
AND THE CARLISLE TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
CARLISLE TOWN HALL IN CARLISLE, SC 29031

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

Present-Town Council: Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn, Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Lyles, Councilwoman Maxine Spencer, Councilwoman Ann Stevens-Brown and Town Administrator Shannon McBride.
Absent: Councilman Radzil Thompson

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, to the County Attorney, and to 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, Katherine Pendergrass, Mrs. Curtiss Hunter, 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, Michael Lee with MHISC, Rob Fraim at Emergency Services and Randall Hanvey. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

County Council Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order for the Union County Council. County 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:

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

Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn called the meeting to order for the Carlisle Town Council.

There was a motion and second to accept the minutes of the Carlisle Town Council and the vote was unanimous.

There was a motion and second to approve the financial report and the vote was unanimous.

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn stated under new business she recommended a special bank account be set up for the I & I surcharge funds. There was a motion and second to set up a new bank account for that purpose and the vote was unanimous.

Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn called for any comments or reports from the Town Councilmembers but there were none.

Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn called for the Administrator's report but Shannon McBride said she did not have anything to report at this time.

Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn turned the meeting over to County Council Chairman Frank Hart.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on August 13, 2019, the special meeting of County Council held on August 12, 2019, the special meeting of County Council held on August 29, 2019 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Roberta Braneck from the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) addressed Council about Medical Assisted Therapy (MAT). She talked about drug abuse disorders and treatment and explained why an addiction is considered a disease. Substance abuse disorders are treatable but not curable and she discussed the stigma associated with addiction. She said it is a disease of the brain and she gave comparisons with chronic diseases. She gave statistics on the drug and alcohol problems in South Carolina broken down by counties. She stated opioids change the structure of the brain. She discussed recovery and wellness. The three FDA approved medications for treatment are methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. Methadone is the most researched medication out there. Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) combines medical care and counseling together. County Councilman David Sinclair questioned the medications used to treat drug addiction as he had been told by a pharmacist that one of the treatment medications is an opioid. He questioned the abuse or dependency on the treatment medications used. Councilman Ben Ivey stated he understood it was being conducted in a controlled environment where you are working them off the drug instead of being on the street for sale. Councilman David Sinclair stated there was concern about the program not being monitored correctly or properly managed. Roberta Braneck stated County Council will have an active role in the facility. There are accreditations involved and there are a lot of pathways for oversight. Council would have to make those decisions. Councilman David Sinclair expressed his concern over how successful the program is. Council Chairman Frank Hart stated there are twenty six counties that have a medical model of treatment. Sheriff David Taylor stated he was opposed to using drugs to try to control drug abuse and had he known in advance he would have tried to block it. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell said she agreed with that. Chairman Frank Hart stated you could find any kind of drug you want in Union County. Would you rather people buy the drugs on the street or do you want them under the care of a doctor getting psychological therapy? Sheriff David Taylor said you don't fix a drug problem with a drug. Councilwoman

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Tracie Campbell said the people of Union County should have a say because she did not want to be held accountable for someone going into one of the clinics and then selling the treatment drugs to one of her students. Christina Crosby as Director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission stated they have a nurse practitioner on site who monitors what each person gets. They do an assessment on each individual and if they do not attend therapy then they do not receive a prescription for the treatment medication. Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn asked how long the treatment lasts. Roberta Braneck stated the length of the treatment is a decision between the doctor and the patient. Sheriff David Taylor asked how they keep a person from filling the prescription then selling it and Ms. Crosby said they could not control that. Chairman Frank Hart said what we had been doing to curtail the drug problem was not working. This is a way to try to get people into therapy and using the services. Sheriff David Taylor said putting drugs out on the street through an organization like this won't fix the problem either. Chairman Frank Hart stated if an addict goes in and works with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission and works with a doctor he would rather they do that than rob him for drug money. Tina Fowler stated the statistics presented showed a bigger problem in Union County with alcoholism than drug abuse. If you want a methadone clinic you need the data to back that up. She agreed that people who abuse drugs are going to get it however they can but she was not going to give it to them for free on her taxpayer dollars especially not without oversight. You need to make sure there is proper oversight before they move into that building, before the first services are given and before the first patient walks through the door. Chairman Frank Hart stated she could talk to Christina Crosby as the Director about how it works, the checks and balances, the drug testing, and the clinician and physician interface. Mayor Mary Ferguson Glenn suggested they should have held a hearing before implementing the program to educate the people in the community so that when you did adopt the program they would be familiar with it.

Karl Pendergrass stated he is a volunteer with Upstate South Carolina Alzheimer's Association based in Spartanburg. The Upstate office serves Cherokee County, Spartanburg County and Union County. The services are free and there are grants available for caregivers. He went over statistics for Alzheimer's and how it impacts the workplace. He provided handouts to the Councilmembers and stated he was not asking for any money as the services to Union County are free. He asked their help in communicating and educating people in the community on the services that are available. He said they would be holding their annual fundraiser in Spartanburg on October 19th.

Sheriff David Taylor stated he had been informed that the quote he had received for the backup server for the body work camera evidence is no longer valid and they need to get a new price quote. Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had approved \$60,000 in the Capital Expenditures account for the server and asked if Council wanted to approve the expenditure not to exceed that amount.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to allow the expenditure up to \$60,000 from the Capital Expenditures account for the purchase of the backup server for the body work camera evidence.

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

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Sheriff David Taylor stated when he took office in 2009 he was provided information from personnel that he had 32 people in the Sheriff's Office. Since that time they are down to 30 people. For ten years they have not gone forward but rather backwards. He provided County Council with a spreadsheet showing the positions and salaries for 2009 compared to 2019 and the differences in salaries. He went over the changes made in job positions. He said they had eliminated positions in the Sheriff's Office, the 911 Office and the Jail due to the bad economy during the fiscal year 2015-2016. Over that ten year period the budget for salaries for the Sheriff's Office had been increased by \$21,208.90 for all the employees combined. They cannot find qualified applicants for the vacancies that need to be filled and we will not be able to keep the qualified people we have if we don't do something about the salaries. He said morale of the employees is low in all the County offices. He asked Council to evaluate the situation and consider a solution.

John Sherfield stated he is a major with the Sheriff's Office and provided information they had obtained comparing Union County to other counties using population, number of positions and average salaries. He said the average salary in Union County for an entry level deputy is \$37,533. The average entry level salary in the State of South Carolina for a deputy sheriff is \$47,212; for a certified deputy it is \$66,015; the average base salary for a senior deputy is \$81,530 which are 8% lower than the national average. He went over the ratio of officers to population. He asked Council to review the salaries for the Sheriff's Office.

Robert Garner with the 911 Office said they need good qualified people and they cannot be competitive with the salaries they have now. The employees are struggling to make ends meet. He asked Council to consider the salaries for the 911 Office. Sheriff David Taylor said they currently have 12 full-time dispatchers and 4 are actively searching for jobs. They have 5 dispatchers that could qualify to retire next year.

Chairman Frank Hart said they appreciate what the emergency personnel, law enforcement and public safety employees do. He said he appreciated the Sheriff along with himself agreeing to cut positions from the budget when times were tough in order to try to balance the budget. Since then, one dispatch position has been added back but they are having difficulty hiring someone due to the salary. This is an issue in other departments as well because we can't find skilled people for the salaries we provide. We increased the salaries for correctional officers by \$2.70 an hour and still cannot find people who want those jobs. We have employees making \$22,000 a year. To give a one percent salary increase would cost approximately \$100,000 but Council is committed to giving a raise in the upcoming budget year. To give a ten percent raise which would be more in line with what is needed would cost \$1 million which would mean a 15 mil increase. It would cost the taxpayer an additional \$60 a year on a house valued at \$100,000. Most of the smaller rural counties face the same problem. It is hard to compare the County salaries to the City's salaries because they have income from the utilities. Chairman Frank Hart said he thought he was the highest paid salaried employee at \$67,000 but there were employees paid overtime that made more than he did last year. He said he was charged with balancing the budget every year in order to be solvent. Council understands what the issues are. They talk to all the departments and it is county wide. He said he does not have an answer and we are not going to get where we need to be next year. He wondered if they would have to target certain areas so we can find

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

qualified people to hire. Council will have to figure that out. Even with the increase in salaries for corrections officers they still cannot find people. Council is committed to try to do something on salaries in the upcoming budget.

Kathy Jo Lancaster as Development Board Director requested permission to fill a vacancy in her office as Dolton Williams had resigned to take another position and his last day is Friday. Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the Development Board Director to fill the vacant budgeted position in her office.

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

Rusty Snider requested permission to purchase two compactors for the convenience centers at a cost of approximately \$28,000. He said he had \$9,500 in the budget so he would need \$20,000. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if he would be able to use parts off the compactors that would be replaced and Mr. Snider stated they want to salvage what they can.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to approve \$20,000 from the Contingency Fund to purchase two new compactors.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented the proposed Needs Assessment list for Council's approval. The list is as follows:

1. Seek funds for the clean-up of the Buffalo Mill site and to revitalize the Buffalo Mill community.
2. Seek implementation funding to address needs in low and moderate income neighborhoods (especially mill villages) to include water, sewer and drainage work; demolition of dilapidated houses; housing needs; street improvements; and safety measures. This will include funding for needs as they were identified in the Ottaray Mill Village Study. Continue to seek funds to upgrade water and sewer service on systems that are not providing adequate service. This includes the Buffalo Mill Village and the Monarch Mill Village.
3. Renovation of the old Sim School for use as a multi-use community center. Use location for consolidation of various public services.
4. Expand recreational facilities throughout the county with an emphasis on communities that need access to parks/community space.
5. Continue efforts to extend water and sewer lines and other infrastructure to sites for potential businesses. This will enhance efforts for economic development and the creation of jobs for low and moderate income persons.
6. Extension of water and sewer lines to serve the area on SC Highway 176 between the Belk Distribution Center and the Spartanburg County line and other areas that are not currently being served. Business corridor development to extend beyond the city limits of Union.
7. Seek funds for a planning grant to study water needs and fire stations throughout Union County. This would entail working with other water providers to identify areas that are experiencing difficulties with wells and adequate water supply. This would enable Union County to prioritize the water needs in order to implement means to provide adequate water service and fire protection.

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

8. Develop access to broadband and internet service in low density areas of the county. There is minimal access to broadband outside of population centers in the county. It is estimated that less than 50% of the county has access to these services.
9. Continue to seek funding for the Lake Project and explore ways to have increased access to water.
10. Protection of historic properties in order to enhance tourism opportunities. This should include the Buffalo Mill building, the Union County Community Hospital and the Cross Keys house.
11. Promote activities that provide fair housing opportunities to all citizens.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to approve the Needs Assessment list.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion. Councilman Ben Ivey felt items 7 & 8 on the list should be switched with items 3 & 4 as they needed to have a higher priority. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated when it was discussed they were going to be limited on what could be done on providing broadband service. It would be more or less setting broadband up in community centers which is what the library is doing now through the satellite sites. Chairman Frank Hart said with the extension of the water lines the CDBG money would not cover that unless you had an industry coming in. As long as it is on the list then it is eligible. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider appointments to boards and commissions. There are two vacancies on the Appeals Board to be recommended by the Chairman and Councilwoman Tracie Campbell. There is one vacancy on the Stadium Commission to be recommended by Councilwoman Tracie Campbell. There are two vacancies on the Building Code Board of Appeals to be appointed by Council that needs to be someone like a plumber, electrician or contractor. Chairman Frank Hart stated there is one vacancy on the Board for Cross Keys Fire District. There is one vacancy on the Board for Phillipi Fire District due to the resignation of Richard Owens and we received an application from Jane Taylor.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Jane Taylor to serve on the Board for Phillipi Fire District.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a request from the IT Department to purchase an exchange server at a cost of \$21,544.50. He stated \$20,000 had been allocated in the Capital Expenditure account for this.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve \$20,000 from the Capital Expenditures account for the exchange server.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated last year the County funded Crime Stoppers at \$1,000. They used that money to reward folks for giving the tips to solve crimes. He recommended authorizing \$1,000 from the Contingency Fund for Crime Stoppers.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve \$1,000 from the Contingency Fund for Crime Stoppers.

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

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Chairman Frank Hart said Council talked about using some of the economic development funds to support specific businesses to come to Union. They did that with Label Shopper and with the student housing on Main Street. He requested \$20,000 be transferred to the Union County Facilities Corporation to assist with a restaurant recruitment for the Main Street area. Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to appropriate \$20,000 from the Economic Development Infrastructure and Community Development Fund to the Union County Facilities Corporation. Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs said she was working on the audit and she had provided Council with the financial report for the month of August.

Neil McKeown as Director of Detention Facilities thanked Council for what they had done for them. They are having problems with infrastructure issues but they are trying to handle what they can themselves.

Tim Roseborough as the new Building Official said he was just trying to get caught up.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass asked Council to consider the Transit Feasibility Study in order to submit a report to the South Carolina Department of Transportation telling them what their decision is. Council needs to decide if they want to move forward with the three year plan or do they not want to move forward. She asked that they consider the needs of the people in Union County for transportation. Chairman Frank Hart referred the matter to the Committee on Planning and Development and asked Katherine Pendergrass to participate.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution that Union County Council agrees to provide a total local match of \$50,000 as well as any additional funds needed to complete the Buffalo Mill Village Project for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Community Enrichment Program to demolish nuisance structures.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution that Union County Council agrees to provide a total local match of \$50,000 as well as any additional funds needed to complete the Buffalo Mill Village Project for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Community Enrichment Program to demolish nuisance structures.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance ordering a referendum in Union County, South Carolina, to submit to the electors of the County the question of whether the County shall adopt the Council-Administrator form of government with a County Council comprised of six (6) Council Members elected for four (4) year terms from single member districts and a chairman of County Council elected for a four (4) year term from the County at large or shall retain its existing form of government (Council-Supervisor with a County Council comprised of six (6) Council Members elected for four (4) year terms from single

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

member districts and a Supervisor elected for a four (4) year term from the County at large); providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing all other things necessary to submit the aforesaid question.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance ordering a referendum in Union County, South Carolina, to submit to the electors of the County the question of whether the County shall adopt the Council-Administrator form of government with a County Council comprised of six (6) Council Members elected for four (4) year terms from single member districts and a chairman of County Council elected for a four (4) year term from the County at large or shall retain its existing form of government (Council-Supervisor with a County Council comprised of six (6) Council Members elected for four (4) year terms from single member districts and a Supervisor elected for a four (4) year term from the County at large); providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing all other things necessary to submit the aforesaid question.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated the wording of the referendum has to be very specific and asked if we would be using the same wording used in the past referendum. Chairman Frank Hart stated they changed it a little because it was confusing. On the last referendum you voted yes to retain the existing form but if you vote yes this time it will be to change it. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance amending and revising the terms and provisions of the Union County Code of Ordinances related to the appointment of trustees to the Union Hospital District, so as to reduce the number of such trustees to three (3), and resetting their terms of office and appointment dates; 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 amending and revising the terms and provisions of the Union County Code of Ordinances related to the appointment of trustees to the Union Hospital District, so as to reduce the number of such trustees to three (3), and resetting their terms of office and appointment dates; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a deed to Vernon Thompson and Claudette Thompson, for and during the term of their joint natural lives and upon the death of either of them, then to the survivor of them, His or Her heirs and assigns forever, conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina by Quit Claim Deed, in a certain parcel or real estate shown as approximately 1.01 acres within tax parcel 027-02-11-004.

Tracie Campbell: 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 a deed to Vernon Thompson and Claudette Thompson, for and during the term of their joint natural lives and upon the death of either of them, then to the survivor of them, His or Her heirs and assigns forever, conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina by Quit Claim Deed, in a certain parcel or real estate shown as approximately 1.01 acres within tax parcel 027-02-11-004.

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

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance to impose a one percent Capital Project Sales Tax, subject to a referendum, within Union County, South Carolina, pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, as codified in §4-10-300, *ET SEQ.*, of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended (The “Act”); to specify the purposes, projects and facilities for which the proceeds of such tax may be used; to provide the maximum time for which such tax may be imposed; to provide the maximum amount of general obligation bonds to be issued to provide for the payment of any costs of the projects and facilities and to pledge such tax to the payment of the bonds; to provide the maximum cost of the projects or facilities to be funded from the proceeds of such tax or bonds; to provide the maximum amount of net proceeds of the tax expected to be used to pay the cost of the projects or debt service on the bonds; to order a referendum prescribed by the Act to be conducted by the Union County Registration and Election Commission; to provide for the administration of such tax; and 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 to impose a one percent Capital Project Sales Tax, subject to a referendum, within Union County, South Carolina, pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, as codified in §4-10-300, *ET SEQ.*, of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended (The “Act”); to specify the purposes, projects and facilities for which the proceeds of such tax may be used; to provide the maximum time for which such tax may be imposed; to provide the maximum amount of general obligation bonds to be issued to provide for the payment of any costs of the projects and facilities and to pledge such tax to the payment of the bonds; to provide the maximum cost of the projects or facilities to be funded from the proceeds of such tax or bonds; to provide the maximum amount of net proceeds of the tax expected to be used to pay the cost of the projects or debt service on the bonds; to order a referendum prescribed by the Act to be conducted by the Union County Registration and Election Commission; to provide for the administration of such tax; and other matters relating thereto.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if the Commission would be appointed before or after third reading of the ordinance. Chairman Frank Hart stated they would be appointed after third reading. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he would forego his Supervisor’s Report.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for any other business but there was none.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting for the Union County Council.

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

There was a motion by Carlisle Mayor Pro Tem Ronnie Lyles and a second by Carlisle Town Councilwoman Maxine Spencer to adjourn the meeting for the Carlisle Town Council and the vote was unanimous.

JOINT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

The joint meeting of the Union County Council and the Carlisle Town Council adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council