

JOINT MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
AND THE JONESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.
JONESVILLE TOWN HALL LOCATED AT
131 NORTH MAIN STREET IN THE TOWN OF JONESVILLE, SC

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

Absent: None

Present-Town Council: Mayor Ernest B. Moore, Jr., Councilman Preston Bennett, Councilman Robert Hill, Councilwoman Ann Queen, and Councilman Ronald Young.

Absent: None

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. Councilman 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 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Randall Hanvey, District 5 - Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Jonesville Town Councilman Preston Bennett stated there was discussion about the Town of Jonesville using the County's building inspector. He said he had received some complaints about how the County's building inspector had handled some projects and asked what recourse they would have if they enter into an agreement with the County. Chairman Frank Hart stated the building inspector answers to him so any complaints would come to him. There is a board that hears complaints that are related to the building code. He suggested Councilman Bennett talk to the mayors of Lockhart and Carlisle to see if they were satisfied with their agreement and services.

Jonesville Town Councilman Robert Hill asked about the Mac Cunningham Park. Chairman Frank Hart stated they were working on a deal with the mayor where the County would help take care of some of that maintenance.

Jonesville Town Councilman Ronald Young had a concern about some of the back alleys in Jonesville that need repairs. Chairman Frank Hart stated some of them had been done. The County is resurfacing fifty county roads this year and they had to spread the work throughout the county.

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Mayor Ernest Moore asked about the C Fund Program and stated they need funds for sidewalk repairs within the municipal limits of the Town of Jonesville.

Jonesville Town Councilwoman Ann Queen stated she had requests for the ditches to be cleaned out on some roads and Chairman Frank Hart stated the roads in question were State roads. They would have to contact the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Jonesville Town Councilman Ronald Young asked about the dilapidated houses in Jonesville. Jonesville Mayor Ernest Moore stated they have about a half dozen houses that had already been sold. They are interviewing contractors to tear them down but they have to maintain the property for three years.

Jonesville Town Councilwoman Ann Queen asked about funding for their senior citizens center. Chairman Frank Hart stated he had an appointment to meet with the director for Union County Council on Aging. They had been taken out of the County budget but last year they gave them enough money to cover the match for their federal and state funding. He should have more information by the November meeting. Last year, the County paid the Town of Jonesville \$6,000 which could be counted toward the match.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to adopt the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on September 13, 2016.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated that next on the agenda was to consider vacancies on the Building Code Board of Appeals. He stated those positions had been advertised numerous times with no applicants and suggested Council try to recruit someone.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there was a vacancy on the Stadium Commission and Latitia Wages was the only applicant.

Joan Little: Made a motion to appoint Latitia Wages to serve on the Stadium Commission.

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

Fair Association Director Paul Winters addressed Council about funding for the Fair Association. He stated that two years ago Clemson Extension had been cut out of the County's budget. The Fair Association had agreed to cover the shortfall. The Fair Association had received some funding from the Tourism Commission last year but was denied funding for this year. He requested the County provide funding of \$10,000 to \$15,000 from Hospitality Tax funds for the Fair Association if they expect them to continue to supplement the Clemson Extension office.

Kathy Jo Lancaster with the Spartanburg Community College Union Campus and Dr. John Cantalano with the USC Union Campus addressed Council about the scholarship program established by County Council. With the current criteria to qualify for the scholarship program they are not reaching as many students. They suggested changing the requirement from one year to three years.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to change the time period for eligibility from one year from getting their high school diploma or GED to three years.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart stated the Town of Lockhart requested the County handle their municipal elections and they would reimburse the Election Commission. This would be handled through a resolution.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion that the County would handle the municipal elections for the Town of Lockhart as stated.

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie said she understood the municipal elections were held on different dates than the other elections creating an additional cost. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Town of Lockhart would have to reimburse the Union County Election Commission for the cost of the municipal election.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution that the Union County Council supports the appropriate and continued use of prescribed fire in South Carolina.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution supporting the appropriate and continued use of prescribed fire in South Carolina as presented.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution relating to the declaration of intent by Union County, South Carolina to reimburse certain expenditures made prior to the execution and delivery of a federally tax-exempt Lease Purchase Agreement or other obligations by the County.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution relating to the declaration of intent by Union County to reimburse certain expenditures made prior to the execution and delivery of a federally tax-exempt Lease Purchase Agreement or other obligations by the County.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution acknowledging that the property located at 100 Industrial Park Road, Buffalo, SC is an abandoned property as defined in Title 12, Chapter 67 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. He said there was a company in the process of purchasing the old Her Majesty plant. There are some tax credits that are available to them because it is a textile facility that has been closed and abandoned. They are subdividing the property because it helps in terms of the incentives they can receive.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution acknowledging that the property located at 100 Industrial Park Road, Buffalo, SC is an abandoned property as defined in Title 12, Chapter 67 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Ralph Tucker: Seconded the motion.

There was some discussion on how the property was being subdivided and the company purchasing the property. Councilman Randall Hanvey asked if they would lose use of a part of the parking lot for overflow parking for Timken Sports Complex. Chairman Frank Hart stated he had asked that they continue to allow the County to use that and the company agreed but the parking area may be configured differently.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of a General Obligation Bond (Bonham Fire District) of Union County, South Carolina, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$550,000; fixing the form and certain details of the bond; authorizing the County Supervisor to determine certain matters relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing the issuance and sale of a General Obligation Bond (Bonham Fire District) of Union County, South Carolina, in the principal amount of not exceeding \$550,000; fixing the form and certain details of the bond; authorizing the County Supervisor to determine certain matters relating to the bond; providing for the payment of the bond and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; and other matters relating thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an amendment to that certain 2015 Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and STC5 to include an additional real property location and to include the addition of a co-sponsor; and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, payment of a fee in lieu of taxes related to the new real property location and project property located therein.

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 an amendment to that certain 2015 Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and STC5 to include an additional real property location and to include the addition of a co-sponsor; and other matters relating thereto including, without limitation, payment of a fee in lieu of taxes related to the new real property location and project property located therein.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance to acknowledge and authorize the execution and delivery of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the Town of Jonesville for Union County to enforce ordinances for building codes within the municipal limits of the Town of Jonesville and on behalf of the Town of Jonesville; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: 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 and delivery of an Intergovernmental Agreement between Union County and the Town of Jonesville for Union County to enforce ordinances for building codes within the municipal limits of the Town of Jonesville and on behalf of the Town of Jonesville; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Union County has achieved its Work Ready Certification and there will be a ceremony on the steps of the Courthouse on Monday, October 17th at 10:00 a.m.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated they had to terminate the contract with the vendor for the Transportation Feasibility Study because they were unhappy with the work product. They are having to reapply for funding and will have to go back out for bid.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Planning Commission had held their first meeting and they will provide a report to Council at the November meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart referred to Red Ribbon Week and the dress themes for the different days. He, along with all the mayors, will sign a proclamation on October 24th at 1:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the fall meeting of the South Carolina Association of Counties Council Coalition will be held next week with the classes on Wednesday, October 19th and the meeting on Thursday, October 20th. He asked any Councilmembers who wished to attend to let him or the Clerk to Council know.

Chairman Frank Hart provided Council with flyers on the Down by the River event. They think they will have fifty to seventy five people participate in the race.

County Council agreed to hold a special meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 12:00 Noon to discuss the capital improvements plan for the Timken Sports Complex.

Chairman Frank Hart informed Council there would be a public hearing on the ordinance pertaining to the general obligation bond for Bonham Fire District on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bonham fire station.

Chairman Frank Hart stated we are resurfacing county roads and are about fifty percent complete on the project.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they would be trying to get a PARD grant for the lights for the park in Jonesville. Councilman Ben Ivey suggested contacting Lockhart Power Company to see if they would make a donation toward that project.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the vehicles had been purchased for the Sheriff's Office.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the Public Defender's Office has moved to the City Hall and that vacated space would be utilized by the Solicitor's Office.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they are working on a procurement code update and they need to hold a Finance Committee meeting. They are also working on purchase orders and electronic time tracking.

Chairman Frank Hart said he has a meeting tomorrow with Tim Black with Union County Council on Aging at 11:00 a.m. if any of the Councilmembers wished to attend.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated he met with Frank Hart with the Historical Society who will be on the agenda for the November Council meeting to talk about the plan for the museum.

Chairman Frank Hart referred to the Clean-Up Project in Buffalo being handled by Code Enforcement Officer Allyson Wentz.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they would be closing on sell of the spec building this week.

Chairman Frank Hart handed out information on the Rural County Transformation Fund. The twenty-three smaller counties in South Carolina which have a population less than fifty thousand are not showing any real growth. The plan recommends a tiered program to be funded at \$20,000,000 by the State and disbursed through the S. C. Department of Commerce. Counties in Tier I and Tier II would receive \$300,000. Counties in Tier III would receive \$900,000. Counties in Tier IV would receive \$1,000,000. The tier rating would be provided by the South Carolina Department of Commerce for each of the counties. The purpose of the plan is to provide resources to rural counties to address infrastructure, quality of life, educational, and economic development issues in a manner which supports growth within rural counties. He stated that South Carolina House Representative Mike Anthony had presented the plan to the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

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

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

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to adjourn the County Council meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council