

MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018 AT 6:02 P.M.
JONESVILLE TOWN HALL IN JONESVILLE, SC 29353

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Ralph Tucker, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney 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 delivered to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, 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, Mrs. Curtis Hunter, Mrs. Casie Jolly and emailed to Mike Stevens at WBCU Radio Station, to Graham Williams at the County News, to Charles Warner at the Union Times, to Jason Spencer with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Chris Lavender with the Spartanburg Herald Journal, to Shell Suber at MHISC and to Randall Hanvey. A notice of the meeting was also posted on the County's website.

Council Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order.

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:

Joan Little, 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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 9, 2018 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

John Lummus as President and CEO of Upstate SC Alliance made a presentation on trends and insights in economic development. They are the regional marketing group for counties for Upstate South Carolina. They go around the world to try to find projects to bring back to Union County and the other counties. They work with the local economic development offices to assist them with research on different projects. They market the upstate region to the world and he stated they are seeing three trends in the global market. The first trend they are seeing is a change in the size of projects. Major projects are down fifty percent over the last ten years and middle market firms are where they find new job growth. The second trend is a growing demand for

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innovation. The third trend is our expanding role in the world market. Trends equal new opportunities to engage with the global market. Or ability to tap into new markets through exporting is a big opportunity. There is concern over trade policies and new tariffs.

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson stated she has an employee in Child Support that will be retiring on March 22nd. They are going to a new system in Child Support and will be holding training in December and January. She requested permission to hire someone now so they could go through the training process. Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson stated she could use Title IV-D funds to pay someone for thirty hours a week.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve hiring someone for the Child Support office to be paid from Title IV-D funds as requested.

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

Development Board Director Kathy Jo Lancaster stated the Development Board recommends the appointment of Thomas Hobbs to serve on the Development Board representing an existing industry with over fifty (50) employees. He currently serves as the Human Resource Manager at Standard Textile.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Development Board and appoint Thomas Hobbs to serve on the Development Board representing an existing industry with over fifty (50) employees.

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

Mark Adams who serves on the VA Committee thanked Council for getting Cindy Fore some help in the VA Office. He stated he was there on behalf of the Veterans Day Parade Committee and asked Council for a donation to help with funding. He said they feed the veterans and dignitaries that attend that event. Chairman Frank Hart asked where their funding normally comes from. Mr. Adams stated they get some funding from the delegates, the Veterans Memorial Park and the Veterans Post #22. They are requesting support from the local delegates. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Veterans Affairs Office reports to the State Delegation. He said the State only provides \$5,000 in funding for that office and the rest is funded by County Council. There would be no Veterans Affairs Office were it not for the County Council through the budget process. He said Council could consider the request for funding during the next budget cycle. Mr. Adams asked how they could get additional funding from the State and Chairman Frank Hart suggested he contact the members of our State Delegation to request that.

Chairman Frank Hart stated we only have one IT person to represent the County but with the new systems, security requirements, court administration and equipment maintenance it has become too much for one person to handle. There have been complaints from departments because it takes so long to get computer services that are needed. We need to hire an additional network person. The current IT person is being overworked and can't keep up with the growing demands of the job in addition to nearing retirement. Chairman Frank Hart said the Council was provided with a job description. He said the IT Department reports to Ann Boggs as Finance Director. They propose a salary of \$39,000 for a computer analyst which is probably not competitive. Chairman Frank Hart stated we have a vacant Public Works Director position that was not filled for the first half of the fiscal year. He suggested those funds could cover that if they hire someone for the second half of the fiscal year. They would still have to hire a Public

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Works Director so there would have to be a commitment to budget the salary and fringes for the additional IT position in the new budget.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to approve hiring an additional IT person at a salary of \$39,000 plus fringe benefits for the second half of the fiscal year as recommended.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked if we have anyone in mind or would we need to advertise the position. Chairman Frank Hart stated we could post it but he did not know if we have anyone with that expertise and it is not a very competitive salary. Sheriff David Taylor said we are having issues with security compliance. We have over 200 computers in the County system. Chairman Frank Hart stated Council has to be committed to providing the funding in the new budget. Councilman David Sinclair stated they were already committed to providing continued funding for the changes in the salaries for the correctional officers. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked how confident we are about revenues to cover it. Chairman Frank Hart stated right now we feel good about that but there are a lot of variables. There is definitely a need for an additional person if you want to maintain an effective IT department. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated ESAB is closing their facility in Union. As part of the agreement they have brokered with them, the building will be coming back to Union County. There is quite a bit of electrical infrastructure that is in the building. Some of it is specific to ESAB's process which they would take with them. They are leaving what the County needs from the infrastructure standpoint for the plant itself. It is close to one million dollars worth of infrastructure. Under the agreement, ESAB would leave that equipment and the County would pay them \$100,000 upon the County either selling or leasing the building.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to give the County Supervisor the authority to enter into the agreement with ESAB on behalf of Union County.

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

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated she was working on the year end requirements and making sure Council has the financial reports.

Sheriff David Taylor said he had a dispatcher who put in their notice this week. He has openings for a dispatcher and a deputy and may have another deputy retire by the end of the year. He has six people waiting to get into the Academy. They are in the process of converting their records management system to the new Zuercher system. They received \$80,000 from the Timken Foundation to help fund the laptop computers for their cars. They are working on the dispatch console upgrades. They received the four used vehicles purchased from government surplus. They will have to install in-car cameras and radios. They hope to have them on the road by the next meeting of Council. Two of their vehicles were damaged due to hitting a deer.

Rieta Drinkwine with the Carnegie Library stated they have a more than fifty percent increase in library traffic. They are doing well with the partners. United Way says they feel safer being located in the library and they can more effectively serve the people. They are working on finalizing construction and they have their Certificate of Occupancy. She said they appreciate

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the help of the County and the various departments helping them get situated back in the newly renovated library.

Katherine Pendergrass stated she had a change in job title to Community Development even though she continues to be involved in the workforce development. She has people contacting her looking for people to fill positions such as maintenance technicians and maintenance supervisors. There is a program where retired persons can be placed in an agency and they are paid through the program for training. They have skills, knowledge and experience that could be utilized. She said they participated in Senior Day at the Fair. She attended a Ten at the Top session where they talked about housing. She attended a plant managers meeting and they seemed interested in the training program she had done in the past. She participated in the Opportunity Fair at the high school where professionals talk to students about careers. She and Jami Trammell serve on the Small Business Development Centers Advisory Board. Over 400 surveys were returned on the transportation study. She along with the Sheriff and some others participated in the DSS multi-agency disciplinary forum. She continues to work with the schools to come up with programs. The Halloween event on Main Street was a success and she thanked the Council members who participated in handing out candy.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter stated the Coon Hunt was coming up December 1st and they will be having a new fox hunt. On the weekend of December 17th, the Sheriff has agreed to chasing ghosts in Union County by putting together a paranormal trail. The Sheriff has agreed to allow one of the paranormal companies to set up in the jail.

Economic Development Director Kathy Jo Lancaster said they are showing the spec building and Midway Plant and there is a lot of interest. They are getting a lot of hits on the Trakas site in Jonesville.

Jami Trammell with the Chamber of Commerce said the Halloween Downtown event was a success which provided a safe place for trick or treating. They had businesses that set up on Main Street for the event. The Kids from 101 Main participated and enjoyed the Halloween Block Party. They plan to feed them tomorrow night to thank them. They are working on sponsors for the Christmas Parade. They will have live entertainment and they are working with Tourism on the Christmas Lighting program. Label Shopper store has opened and they are working on other retail recruitment. They hope to have some more stores open before the end of the year.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution and delivery by Union County, South Carolina of a Fee-In-Lieu-of-Tax Agreement and Special Source Revenue Credit Agreement with BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC with respect to certain industrial projects in the County whereby the projects would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and whereby that company will be provided certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure and other property; and providing for related matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution authorizing, under certain conditions, the execution and delivery by Union County, South Carolina of a Fee-In-Lieu-of-Tax Agreement and Special Source Revenue Credit

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Agreement with BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC with respect to certain industrial projects in the County whereby the projects would be subject to payment of certain fees in lieu of taxes, and whereby that company will be provided certain credits against fee payments in reimbursement of investment in related qualified infrastructure and other property; and providing for related matters.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Volvo Car US Operations Inc.; and other matters relating to the foregoing.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Volvo Car US Operations Inc.; and other matters relating to the foregoing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC with respect to certain economic development property in the County; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Special Source Revenue Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC with respect to certain economic development property in the County; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a title to real estate to Alan James Rose as personal representative of the Estate of James Marlin Rose conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina, in a certain parcel of real estate located at 225 South Street, Buffalo, South Carolina 29321 and as shown as tax map #072-06-13-008 (see Exhibit "A" attached hereto for full legal description).

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a title to real estate to Alan James Rose as personal representative of the Estate of James Marlin Rose conveying the interest of Union County, South Carolina, in a certain parcel of real estate located at 225 South Street, Buffalo, South Carolina 29321 and as shown as tax map #072-06-13-008 (see Exhibit "A" attached hereto for full legal description).

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit Arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between Union County, South Carolina and Milliken & Company; and other matters related to the foregoing.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax and Infrastructure Credit Arrangement pursuant to a Fee-In-Lieu of Tax Agreement between

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Union County, South Carolina and Milliken & Company; and other matters related to the foregoing.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance to amend the agreement for development for Joint County Industrial Park by and between Spartanburg County and Union County, South Carolina, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, 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 amend the agreement for development for Joint County Industrial Park by and between Spartanburg County and Union County, South Carolina, so as to include additional property in Spartanburg County as part of the Joint County Industrial Park, and other matters relating thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they held the ribbon cutting on the Label Shopper store which is doing well. They cut the ribbon on the new nursing school and cut the ribbon on the newly remodeled stadium. He said the Sheriff mentioned the Zuecher system and the 911 console upgrades and those items have been ordered. He said they had completed Phase II on the Lockhart Flat Stack Trail. The new ambulance for EMS has been ordered and they have ordered the new roll-off truck for public works. He worked with Rob Fraim and Linda Mitchell to get the fire departments migrated over to what was the EPD frequency which is now the primary fire frequency to help with the bleed over issue. The County paid for the reprogramming of the radios and they need to work on sirens for some of the stations. It was a good interim solution that did not cost a lot of money. They have been working on repairing the dam at Buffalo Mill Pond. There is a lot of activity on Main Street. One of the investors they have been working with purchased one of the buildings and they plan to develop two retail commercial units downstairs and student housing upstairs.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she would be calling a Planning Committee meeting soon to discuss the forfeited land properties

Chairman Frank Hart presented for Council's approval financial statements from the Agricultural Fair Association, the Development Board, Veterans Memorial Park, Bonham Fire District, Buffalo Fire District, Carlisle Fire District, Cross Keys Fire District, Kelly-Kelton Fire District, Philippi Fire District and Southside Fire District.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to approve the financial statements from the Agricultural Fair Association, the Development Board, Veterans Memorial Park, Bonham Fire District, Buffalo Fire District, Carlisle Fire District, Cross Keys Fire District, Kelly-Kelton Fire District, Philippi Fire District and Southside Fire District.

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

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

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Chairman Frank Hart thanked the Town of Jonesville for hosting the meeting and stated he appreciated the attendance and participation.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council