

MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT 5:56 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, Councilman Tommie Hill, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: None

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, 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 Allison Roberts 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 - Present
Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Chairman Frank Hart asked if there were any issues the Town Council wanted to address with County Council.

Mayor Ernest Moore stated he did not feel the Town of Jonesville was getting their fair share of the C Funds awarded annually. He stated they have some sidewalk repairs that need to be done. Chairman Frank Hart stated they are using C Funds for resurfacing of some County roads in the Jonesville area. The C Fund Committee felt it was more important to do road improvements first and sidewalks second. Chairman Frank Hart stated if the Town of Jonesville had a specific sidewalk project they want to propose they would lobby the C Fund Committee on their behalf.

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Chairman Frank Hart asked how the code enforcement was working out in Jonesville. Mayor Ernest Moore stated it was going good.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 10, 2017, the special meeting of County Council held on October 19, 2017 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Phillip Russell addressed Council about a Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and Emergency and Disaster Response/Recovery Agreement. It would give them the ability to access all other responders from other counties managed through the State EMD including the National Guard. It would allow the Home Rule volunteer fire districts to apply for a grant that closes November 30th. It allows fire departments with a fifty-one percent or better volunteer contingent or membership to apply for up to \$30,000 of grant money with a one percent match. If the County needed assistance, that approval would come from the Supervisor's Office. The County Supervisor would task the Emergency Management Director for Union to contact the State EMD to tell them the problem we have and the resources needed.

Joan Little: Made a motion to approve the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and Emergency and Disaster Response/Recovery Agreement.

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

Sheriff David Taylor stated he had not requested new vehicles in the current budget in order for the employees to get a raise. He was contacted by the GSA about some used vehicles they had that were fully equipped with blue lights, cages and gun locks. Two of the vehicles are 2009 Tahoes and one has 93,000 miles and the other has about 120,000 miles. There is a 2011 Dodge Charger with less than 48,000 miles. There are two 2010 Impalas with less than 50,000 miles. The five vehicles can be purchased for \$50,000. Councilman David Sinclair asked about how many miles they put on a vehicle each year and the Sheriff estimated 25,000 a year. Chairman Frank Hart requested allocating not to exceed \$55,000 from the Capital Expenditures account.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allocate not exceeding \$55,000 from the Capital Expenditures account.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated currently the nurse at the jail is on the payroll for the Sheriff's Office. If there is a claim made the insurance we carry with the South Carolina Association of Counties will not cover the medical malpractice of the nurse. The jail and detention center are high risk areas. The County took bids for a medical provider that would pick up our staff person under their payroll. Three companies submitted proposals. Southern Health Partners had the low bid of \$158,292 which includes a \$30,000 cost pool. We currently pay the nurse's salary and fringe benefits plus \$59,000 a year. Chairman Frank Hart asked Council to approve to award the bid to Southern Health Partners and approve the proposed budget transfers for the medical provider contract. He proposed transferring \$30,400.00 from the Jail Professional Services account, \$15,577.95 from the Jail Salaries account, \$3,452.71 from the Jail Insurance account, \$1,096.36 from the Jail FICA account, \$2,107.12 from the Jail Retirement account, \$253.30 from the Jail Workers Comp account, \$16,900.00 from the Detention Center Health Care Contract account, \$11,000.00 from the Detention Center Subsistence Care account, and

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\$15,000.00 from the Contingency Fund for a total of \$95,787.44 to cover the contract for the remainder of the fiscal year. The nurse had accumulated vacation and sick time as a county employee and would be transitioning over to the health care provider. He asked Council to authorize him to compensate that employee for the sick time they accrued because the new provider is not going to offer that to them. We typically would not do that but this is a situation where they are being moved over to another service. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked about the difference in cost. Chairman Frank Hart stated last year the cost was approximately \$112,000 and now we are at \$158,000. Sheriff David Taylor stated they would continue to bill the City of Union for their prescription costs which are anywhere from \$3,500 to \$5,000 a month. Councilman David Sinclair asked if that would be an offset and Chairman Frank Hart stated it would be a reimbursement for costs. There was some discussion about the County's liability and caps on lawsuits. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to approve the budget transfers to cover the cost of the contract for the remainder of the fiscal year, to award the contract to Southern Health Partners and to approve payment of the sick leave for the employee. The nurse would become an employee of Southern Health Partners.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to approve the budget transfers presented to cover the cost of the contract for the remainder of the fiscal year, to award the contract to Southern Health Partners and to approve payment of the sick leave for the nurse.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to amend the agenda to hear a presentation from Jonesville Fire Chief D. J. Long regarding a loan for the Jonesville Fire District to purchase a fire truck.

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

Jonesville Fire Chief D. J. Long stated in Jonesville Fire District they have to have three engines at all times for their ISO rating. They presently have two operating and have one with steering issues. They found a used truck in Anderson that will come with a lot of equipment on the truck and it would cost them \$8,000 to \$10,000 just to purchase that same equipment. He requested \$28,500 from the County to cover the cost. Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to approve a loan to the Jonesville Fire Department not to exceed \$28,500 with the repayment terms to be finalized by the County Supervisor.

Joan Little: Made a motion to approve a loan to the Jonesville Fire Department not to exceed \$28,500 with the repayment terms to be finalized by the County Supervisor.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked what account it would come from. Chairman Frank Hart stated he had several items to come from the Contingency Fund on the agenda for Council's approval. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had discussed with the Sheriff managing overtime for his departments. They looked at some organizational changes in the dispatch area which would involve taking a clerk and using them as a fill-in dispatcher. It would cost \$4,100 to get that clerk up to the same salary as a dispatcher. The person is already trained to do the job. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if that would amount to \$8,200 in next year's budget or would it be offset with overtime going down. Chairman Frank Hart stated it would depend but hopefully they would reduce the overtime. He feared they would exceed the overtime they

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already had budgeted. Sheriff David Taylor stated they have employees that go out on medical leave and have turnover in the departments that contribute to the overtime problem.

Chairman Frank Hart requested approval of the holiday incentives at an estimated amount of \$12,000, the proposed medical provider contract funding as presented, and the proposed salary for the dispatch clerk at \$4,100 to come from the Contingency Fund.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the holiday incentives at an estimated amount of \$12,000, the proposed medical provider contract funding as presented, and the proposed salary for the dispatch clerk at \$4,100 to come from the Contingency Fund.

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

Sheriff David Taylor stated Council had approved the intercom system at the jail provided he would obtain two other bids. He said he got two more bids and they both came in higher than the first proposal. The original bidder has been notified they were awarded the bid and they have begun the process to get the intercom system installed.

EMS Director Eric Harold stated their driveway at the EMS facility was being repaired and he thanked the County for that. They requested the State-In-Aid grant and was awarded \$7,509.48 in addition to the \$9,450 they spent on new equipment to improve pediatric patient care. They are working on a renovation alternative for the EMS facility. He has a meeting with a representative with the Spartanburg Healthcare System about transport. John Henderson with the South Carolina Association of Counties will be doing some driver training for their employees as well as the members of the Rescue Squad. He said they plan to participate in the Christmas Parades. Their annual Christmas Dinner will be held on December 5th.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the purchase of certain real property located in Union County, the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by and between Union County and the current owners of said property regarding the purchase, sale and conveyance of such real property; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated purchase, sale and conveyance; the appropriation of funds necessary to accomplish such purchase; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the purchase of certain real property located in Union County, the execution and delivery of one or more agreements by and between Union County and the current owners of said property regarding the purchase, sale and conveyance of such real property; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated purchase, sale and conveyance; the appropriation of funds necessary to accomplish such purchase; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced, in title only, an ordinance amending the Union County Code of Ordinances and Procurement Procedures, in certain limited regards and particulars only, establishing the procurement regulations and procedures of Union County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance amending the Union County Code of Ordinances and Procurement Procedures, in certain limited regards and particulars only, establishing the procurement regulations and procedures of Union County, South Carolina; and other matters related thereto.
David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had approved \$66,000 for the Town of Lockhart to assist them in applying for a Rural Infrastructure Authority Grant. They did apply and have received a grant in the amount of \$385,000. We have been working on some walking trails in the Town of Lockhart through Parks and Recreation and applied for funding for Phase III of the project. The County has already been awarded two grants for \$100,000 each for the first two phases. The bids for the renovation of the EMS facility came back high so they are changing the scope and putting it back out for bid. The low bid was right at one million dollars. They may look at doing the renovations in phases since their main issues are the sleeping quarters and showers. They are close to completing the agreement between the Union County Facilities Corp and the private entity for the construction of a spec building. The County signed an agreement with Union County Fire and Rescue and we have issued them payment. The County asked for proposals for Stadium renovations with a budget of \$1.3 million dollars and received three proposals. The Stadium Commission met and appointed a committee consisting of two members from the School Board, two members from the County, the Fair Board and Stadium Commission for them to go through the proposals and come back with a recommendation. He said he had been meeting with the City of Union regarding code enforcement. Once the agreement is signed the County would start code enforcement this year and building inspections next year. Work is underway at the Timken Sports Complex for the improvements project. Construction on Bonham Fire Station is moving along well with an anticipated completion date of January 5th. The Tourism Director had organized a trip to Brevard, NC and the City Mayor had requested a joint meeting of the City Council and County Council to discuss the findings and recommendations. He said he would be looking at setting up a meeting in December for that. The County had applied for a grant for the purchase of the industrial property and was awarded \$300,000 which would cover about seventy-five percent of the purchase price.

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

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

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council