

JOINT MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
AND THE LOCKHART TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 AT 6:22 P.M.
LOCKHART POWER COMPANY LOCATED AT
420 RIVER STREET IN LOCKHART, SC

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

Absent: Councilwoman Kacie Petrie

Present-Town Council: Mayor Ailene Ashe, Councilman Donnie Adams, Councilwoman Connie Porter and Clerk to Council Brenda Jenkins

Absent: Councilwoman Beverly Shrader and Councilman Barry Canupp

Council Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order for the Union County Council. County Council Chaplain 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 – Absent

Mayor Ailene Ashe called the meeting to order for the Lockhart Town Council followed by the Roll Call.

Mayor Ailene Ashe stated she was excited that they had applied for the grant for the trail around where the old mill used to be and the boat ramp.

Mr. Don Shetley as Chairman of the County Transportation Committee stated they had committed funds for the utility relocation pertaining to the bridge project in Lockhart.

Chairman Frank Hart said State Representative Mike Anthony has talked to the Department of Natural Resources concerning the boat ramp in Lockhart. Because of the wetland delineation they will have to find an alternate location. They are working on it and they have the support of Senator Harvey Peeler on the project.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the animal control officer is able to come into Lockhart and enforce State animal control laws but not county ordinances.

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Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on March 8, 2016 and to approve the minutes as written.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Tourism Commission.

Joan Little: Made a motion to appoint Melissa Y. Lawson to serve on the Tourism Commission.

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

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to appoint Lynda Casey-Clark to serve on the Tourism Commission.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Kimberly Lawson to serve on the Tourism Commission.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart recommended George Bruce to serve on the Tourism Commission.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to appoint George Bruce to serve on the Tourism Commission.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Jackie W. Earls, Jr. to serve on the Building Code Board of Appeals.

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

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to readvertise the remaining positions on the Building Code Board of Appeals.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Planning Commission.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Lewis Jeter III to serve on the Planning Commission.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to readvertise the remaining positions on the Planning Commission.

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

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter introduced Mr. Corey Barnes who plans to hold an event at the Union Dragway. Mr. Barnes stated 1st Class Promotions and Pink Seal Health Awareness would be holding King of the Street Bike Race and Car Showcase on May 7, 2016 at the dragway and said it would be a family-oriented event.

Sheriff David Taylor presented a proclamation asking Council to direct that all flags on County buildings be flown at half-staff on May 15, 2016 in recognition of Peace Officer's

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Memorial Day and in memory of those law enforcement officers, who through their courageous deeds, have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities or have become disabled in the performance of duty, and to honor those law enforcement officers presently serving all communities.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to approve the proclamation pertaining to Peace Officer's Memorial Day as presented.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Sheriff David Taylor asked about the jail agreement and Chairman Frank Hart stated they would be getting that to the Council so they can hold a committee meeting.

Sheriff David Taylor stated Leon Lancaster with the Sheriff's Office was having some health issues and was going to Duke for treatment. He asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any comments from elected officials or department heads but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council would be postponing second reading of the ordinance pertaining to Kelly-Kelton Fire District until a legal issue is sorted out.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance to levy and impose a One Percent Local Option Sales and Use Tax within Union County, South Carolina, pursuant to Section 4-10-10 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended; to define the specific purpose of the tax; to impose conditions and restrictions upon the use of the proceeds of the tax; to provide for a county-wide referendum for the imposition of the tax; to provide for the conduct of such referendum; to provide for the administration of the 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 pertaining to the One Percent Local Option Sales and Use Tax.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he was finalizing the extension of the lease agreement with ESAB for an additional seventeen months.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had appeared in Circuit Court concerning the abandonment of Wildcat Road and Judge Hayes issued an order to support that road abandonment. They had pretty well finalized all the issues with the Republic landfill expansion.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had rolled out the Tuition Assistance Program and renamed it the Community Scholarship Program at Union County High School. They had about a hundred seventy kids that filled out the information sheets. He handed out brochures that had been provided to the students. The program trains the students and hopefully will retain them as well as building up our local institutions.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated they had tentatively secured a \$135,000 grant for the mechatronics program which will be announced at the May Council meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart stated that IT Manager Diane Freeman rebid the copier services for the County and she got all the equipment upgraded and cut our monthly bill from \$4,900 down to \$2,900.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County had acquired a PARD grant in the amount of \$23,958. It will be used for playground equipment at Carlisle. They will be doing a picnic shelter in the Ottaray area with a grill and swing set. They will be constructing a practice ball field at Ottaray as well as a new practice field at the Monarch ball park with new backstops. The County will be providing in-kind services and labor as the County's part of the match. This project has to be completed by May 31, 2016.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there was one open position in the Road Department. He will be asking Council in the meeting tomorrow for permission to fill that vacancy.

Chairman Frank Hart said he was still updating the fire department ordinance to appoint the special tax district board members and should have something for Council soon.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they completed construction of an extended shed at the animal shelter. It was all donated materials and they used inmate labor which will give them the capacity to move a large number of animals while the cages are being cleaned.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had met with the Dean of USC-Union and the President of Union Medical Center regarding an RN program at USC-Union. His goal is to implement that program by the fall of next year. They had one industry tentatively commit \$75,000 for equipment.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he has met with Mike Massey from the School Board and presented financials for the Stadium and Timken Sports Complex. They are reviewing the numbers and they will discuss further the cost of using the facilities as well as the plan for capital improvements.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had been working with State Representative Mike Anthony concerning a law in South Carolina that says if you have over sixty thousand acres of State forest that you, for the purpose of buying capital equipment, are exempt from Act 388 in terms of millage limitations. If a fire department wanted to buy equipment such as a fire truck then they could levy tax millage to do so. State Representative Mike Anthony introduced a Bill so that it would say State or National because we have Sumter National Forest which would make us qualify. They hope the Bill will be approved by the Senate and signed by the Governor. This would allow the fire departments to do lease purchase agreements.

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

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

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Mayor Ailene Ashe adjourned the meeting for the Lockhart Town Council.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting.

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

The joint meeting of the Union County Council and the Lockhart Town Council adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council