

JOINT MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
AND THE LOCKHART TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017 AT 6:02 P.M.
LOCKHART POWER COMPANY LOCATED AT
420 RIVER STREET IN LOCKHART, SC

Present-County Council: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Joan Little (left at 6:35 p.m.), 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

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

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, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Curtis Hunter 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 Shell Suber at MHISC and to 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:

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

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on April 11, 2017, the special meeting of County Council held on April 24, 2017 and to approve the minutes as written.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they planned the walking trail in Lockhart in two phases. Phase II would go around the old mill site and Phase I was to run from the mill site to the boat ramps. Parks, Recreation and Tourism awarded the County \$100,000 for Phase II so they are putting

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together the design. Parks, Recreation and Tourism came back and awarded another \$100,000 for Phase I and they are working on a location for the boat ramps. There was some discussion on code enforcement in the Town of Lockhart, about mowing empty lots, about Clean-Up Day in Lockhart, organizing activities to promote the walking trail and organizing more activities for the youth. Chairman Frank Hart asked if they felt they were getting good support from the County and Mayor Ailene Ashe responded she felt they were.

William Jeter made a presentation on the Lake Project which included where the project originated and the process leading up to where it is today. A water reservoir like this is needed in the upstate of South Carolina. The presentation covered the benefits of the lake, support needed, location of the proposed lake, potential dam location, size and depth of the lake, ownership, public and private land, and the study done in 2003 by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers at a cost of \$500,000. He stated the Patriot's Lake Project would require public and private partnerships including the US Forest Service, the US Department of Agriculture and a private entity that would construct a dam, maintain the dam, own the dam and be responsible for the dam for hydroelectric. The water would belong to the City of Union and Union County and the recreational benefits that would ensue. He said what he is proposing would not cost the County a dime but would take many years to come to fruition.

Councilwoman Joan Little stated she had met with the members of the Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary and Recreation who thought it was a good idea to adopt a burning ordinance as recommended by Michael Lancaster.

Joan Little: Made a motion that the Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary and Recreation recommends adopting a burning ordinance like the City of Union following the DHEC regulations.

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

Councilwoman Joan Little left the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Jay Coffey as Department Chair for Advanced Manufacturing for Spartanburg Community College introduced Isaac McKissick who is the Director for the Union County Campus. He introduced some students that are in the dual enrollment program that are earning credits toward an Associate Degree in mechatronics with Spartanburg Community College at no cost to them. They are going to offer a robotics course this summer which would cost \$600 each for the seven students enrolled. He asked the County to fund the \$4,200 needed for the seven students which is not covered by financial aid. Chairman Frank Hart recommended paying the \$4,200 from the scholarship fund.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to pay the \$4,200 from the scholarship fund.

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

Jeremiah Daleles addressed Council about the need for a parking ordinance for the County. Vehicles are blocking driveways and pedestrian sidewalks. Chairman Frank Hart said he would discuss this with the Sheriff's Office.

Rieta Drinkwine with Union Carnegie Library stated they had received seven proposals for the renovations for the library. Their selection committee will review the proposals and hold

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interviews. They want to use the Historic Tax Credits financing option and explained how it works. The Library Board has approved this but they want County Council's support.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to support the Union Carnegie Library Board in their desire to use the Historic Tax Credits as a funding option for a portion of the renovations project.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion.

Councilman Ben Ivey asked what would happen if they could not sell the tax credits. Rieta Drinkwine stated they would reduce the renovations budget. Chairman Frank Hart stated they had researched this with the McNair Law Firm since there may be other projects where it could be used. The vote was unanimous.

Rieta Drinkwine with Union Carnegie Library stated the person that handled their payroll and accounting has retired. She stated the Library Board is asking the County to take over their payroll and accounting which would save them at least \$15,000. It was suggested this be discussed further with the County staff and address it at the next budget meeting.

Councilman David Sinclair stated the Southside Fire Department had some issues with the roof on the fire station. Michael "Bird" Lancaster stated since the trees were removed as part of the Airport Project they are having shingles blow off the roof of the fire station when there are storms. He asked if there were any County airport funds or "C" Fund money available to put a metal roof on the building. There was discussion as to whether it was a storm issue or just worn shingles on the building. The matter was referred to the Planning and Development Committee.

Chairman Frank Hart presented two bids for a new roof for the Buffalo Senior Center building. The County received a bid from OBS, Inc. and Roof Options, Inc. The low bid was \$21,548 from Roof Options, Inc. Chairman Frank Hart suggested if Council approves the bid then he be allowed to take the funds from an existing budget line item that has a balance such as the Fuel account. Councilman Ben Ivey asked to review the bids.

Chairman Frank Hart asked if the Council had filled out the scoring sheets for the proposals received on the From Building. Council stated they had not and they agreed to do so for the next meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart asked any of the Councilmembers with vacant positions on the Tax Assessor's Appeals Board if they had any recommendations but they did not at this time.

Chairman Frank Hart asked if Council had any recommendation for the position on the Board of Fire Control for Kelly-Kelton Fire District. There was one applicant who was Nancy Garner. Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she had been hesitant to appoint this person because she thought she was the spouse of an existing Board member. She is related to a Board member but is not a spouse.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to appoint Nancy Garner to serve on the Board of Fire Control for Kelly-Kelton Fire District.

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

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

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EMS Director Eric Harold stated they held a mock DUI drill prior to the High School Prom with positive feedback. They now have some public access ADDs at Timken Sports Complex and at the Stadium which came from the South Carolina Office of Rural Health through a grant. There is an ADD located at the Carnegie Library which they will have for public access. This month is Stroke Awareness Month and EMS Week is May 21-27. They will be doing child safety seat inspections on May 26th. They plan to have a CPR challenge and will also have a Family Fun Day on May 27th. He said he is working on grant applications for equipment and training.

Rieta Drinkwine with Union Carnegie Library stated they would be partnering with the School District on an outreach program which would provide devices and Wi-Fi in the communities for those that cannot come to the library. The Friends of the Library will hold their annual tea this Saturday. Taylor Atkinson has been hired as the new Assistant Director for the library.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass said the unemployment rate had dropped from 5.5% in February to 4.8% in March. Their HR Association Meeting will be held next Wednesday. They hold their Partnership Meeting the fourth Tuesday of each month. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Public Indicators Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11th at 8:30 p.m. at the Piedmont Physics Garden.

Rieta Drinkwine with Union Carnegie Library said on Wednesday, May 24th at 4:00 p.m. on Main Street in downtown Union there would be a Story Walk event.

Tourism Director Curtis Hunter said Council had been provided some information on a City sponsored trip to Brevard that she would need a response on by Monday.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance adopting the annual Union County budget for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance adopting the annual Union County budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 as stated.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement (Carlisle Fire District), 2017, in the amount not exceeding \$150,000 between Union County and the lessor thereof to defray the cost of acquiring certain equipment; and other matters relating thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of an Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement (Carlisle Fire District), 2017, in the amount not exceeding \$150,000 between Union County and the lessor thereof to defray the cost of acquiring certain equipment; and other matters relating thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance rescinding and revoking Union County Ordinance 295; and other matters pertaining thereto. This ordinance would repeal, revoke and rescind the ordinance establishing the Road User Fee effective July 31, 2017.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance rescinding and revoking Union County Ordinance 295; and other matters pertaining thereto to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance as stated.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart asked Councilman Ben Ivey if he had a chance to look over the bid for the roof for the Buffalo Senior Center.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to award the low bid for the roof repairs at Buffalo Senior Center to Roof Options, Inc. at a cost of \$21,548.

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

Chairman Frank Hart handed out a copy of the Standing Committees and what they do. He wanted to formalize the meetings where they hold the committee meeting, do a roll call, take a motion and vote on the recommendation from the committee.

Chairman Frank Hart referred to the Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Bridges and County Property the request from Dennis Pridemore for a speed bump on Poplar Drive. He also referred to that committee a request from Linda Rice that the County abandon Linda Circle as well as an assessment by the Public Works Department that we would do that.

Chairman Frank Hart referred to the Committee on Planning and Development the Southside Fire Department roof issue and the purchase of the new airbus for the fire department. He asked for a recommendation from that committee on exactly what we buy.

Chairman Frank Hart referred to the Committee on Public Health and Social Services the comprehensive plan from Alcohol and Drug Abuse with some clear goals for approval by Council.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie asked if the Committee on Planning and Development should work on the contract between outside agencies and EMS. Chairman Frank Hart stated they do need to start work on that and suggested working with EMS Director Eric Harold and Fire and Rescue.

Chairman Frank Hart set up an Ad Hoc Committee with Councilman Ben Ivey chairing the committee. Councilman Ralph Tucker volunteered to serve on the committee. Chairman Frank Hart stated Treasurer Dianne Wilkins, Auditor Brad Valentine and Finance Manager Linda Jolly would serve on the committee with him serving ex-officio. The committee needs to get a RFP out for a new auditing firm since Brown Fant will no longer be handling the audit for the County. He asked that the committee come back to Council with the top two candidates to make a presentation. Council would then select a new auditor for the County.

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 Lockhart Town Council for meeting with the Council and thanked Andrena Powell-Baker with Lockhart Power for hosting the meeting.

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David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting.

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

The joint meeting of the Union County Council and the Lockhart Town Council adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council