

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chair 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. Curtiss 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.

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

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on March 13, 2018 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift card for Billy Keisler for 5 years, for Roger Suber for 5 years, and to David Kitchens for 30 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Tim Gaston to discuss a noise ordinance but he was not present.

Melissa Youngblood informed Council she was a heart attack survivor and had been asked to be a spokeswoman for the Upstate Go Red For Women Luncheon. Go Red For Women is the

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American Heart Association's national movement to end heart disease and stroke in women. Cardiovascular diseases in the U. S. kill approximately one woman every 80 seconds. Eighty percent of cardiac events can be prevented with education and lifestyle changes. The Luncheon will be held on May 10, 2018 at the Greenville Marriott. She asked County Council to be a sponsor for the luncheon at the Table Sponsor level of \$2,000 or the Patron Sponsor level of \$1,000 or the Red Heart Sponsor level of \$500. Chairman Frank Hart stated Council would consider the request at the budget session on April 17th.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider funding for the Tuition Assistance Program. The County received an invoice from the University of South Carolina Union Campus. He said the program is working as evidenced by the enrollment by USC-U and SCC. He recommended allocating \$65,000.00 from the Fund 301 Economic Development money to continue to fund this program.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allocate \$65,000.00 from the Fund 301 Economic Development money to continue to fund the Tuition Assistance Program.

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

Kathy Stepp stated they had noticed businesses closing on Main Street leaving empty buildings, dilapidated structures and historic homes being torn down. The Tourism Director had organized a trip to Brevard, North Carolina to see how they had revitalized their community. They formed a committee called R.I.S.E. which stands for Researching Ideas to Succeed Economically made up of a group of concerned citizens willing to work for the betterment of Union County. They discussed encouraging growth of business in the downtown area, researching avenues for quality of life businesses, and bringing in nice restaurants. They would like to work with all the groups in the county to see how these things can be accomplished and develop a plan. She referred to the clean-up project at the Union Mill Village. She talked about the Physic Garden created by a group of citizens who have taken property and developed it into a beautiful park. All the money is coming through private donations. They want to work to convince people to get involved. Chairman Frank Hart stated County Council supports these initiatives. He said they had a lot of county employees involved in the clean-up project today but no citizens participated. County government cannot do it alone and we need everyone working together.

Chairman Frank Hart stated the County changed to a new provider for the inmate medical contract for medical services at the jail and detention center. To cover the contract until the end of the fiscal year, we need to appropriate \$21,949.56 from the Capital Expenditures account.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appropriate \$21,949.56 from the Capital Expenditures account to cover the inmate medical contract through the end of the fiscal year.

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

Tony Davies along with their General Manager Jimmy Torrey with Republic Services which runs a landfill in Union County presented a check in the amount of \$40,000.00 to Union County for the litter officer. They presented a check payable to Spartanburg Community College in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the SCC Union campus. He also had a check for the March landfill host fees. Chairman Frank Hart stated Republic Services are a great partner for Union County. The check for \$20,000.00 helps pay for improvements at the SCC Union Campus and the

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\$40,000.00 helps to fund the litter officer's position. He said the landfill operation is an impressive state-of-the-art facility.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any elected officials or department heads who wished to address Council.

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated she was staying busy with the budget process.

Sheriff David Taylor stated they needed to move forward with the issue of the lights being out on the County's communications tower. Chairman Frank Hart stated the County is ready to handle that under emergency repairs. If the company will certify in writing that it was caused by lightning damage, the County can pursue that through insurance. Chairman Frank Hart stated it could be handled through the Operational Contingency account.

Detention Center Director Neil McKeown said they were working with Code Enforcement on the clean-up project.

Code Enforcement Officer David Kitchens told the R.I.S.E. group he would like to meet with them to let them know what they have going on. He said they picked up over 300 bags of trash at the clean-up project at the Mill Hill Village. They picked up 9 dumpster loads and they have to go back tomorrow. In the past few years they went from just a couple of houses to nearly one hundred for code violations.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade stated the Airport Commission wants to request, while Council is in the budget process, to reduce taxes on aircrafts in Union County. He said he had brought Council a proposal that shows what the surrounding counties are doing. They are suggesting raising the hangar rent if the aircraft owners do not pay their taxes in Union County. They want the taxes lowered from the 10% currently assessed rate to 4% to make us competitive. Union County is competitive on fuel costs but not on the tax rate. Mr. Wade said they were working on the renovations at the stadium and they need open communications from the different funding sources. He said they do not have the funding for everything they are doing. They are using funds in the stadium budget to do work at the YMCA for a soccer field. If we are going to promote USC-U and have ball fields for them to play on then those things have to be funded. He said he was working on the fireworks for the Fourth of July event.

EMS Director Eric Harold said they conducted the second of their joint training sessions with the Rescue Squad. The South Carolina Fire Academy put on an auto extrication class for the Rescue Squad and all the fire departments in the county. They will be doing the Prom Promise again this year at the high school on Friday April 27th at 9:00 a.m. The South Carolina Highway Patrol, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Union Public Safety, the Rescue Squad, Monarch Fire Department, EMS, Regional 1 Helicopter (weather permitting), and the Coroner's Office have agreed to participate. Sheriff David Taylor said he wanted his office to be invited.

Workforce Coordinator Katherine Pendergrass stated they were at a career fair and got the names of fifteen students that needed help filling out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). They scheduled Mr. Holcombe from USC to come out to SC Works on April 23rd at 6:00

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p.m. to help with that. She met with several guys who are opening a sober living halfway type house. She contacted the Director of Alcohol and Drug so they could be a resource to each other. Some of the department heads and one County Councilmember will be reading to the students at Buffalo Elementary School next week and talk about what they do as a profession. She was glad Council had approved additional funding for the Tuition Assistance Program. She has been promoting that to get students to stay in Union to take classes at either USC-Union or the SCC Union campus. She is coordinating a meeting between the four mayors and SCETV on Monday at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Frank Hart stated he recognized some people from Kelly Kelton Fire District present at the meeting. They had originally planned to hold second reading of the bond ordinance for Kelly-Kelton Fire District but the attorney did not get the paperwork done in time for the meeting.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance establishing the records retention policies of Union County, South Carolina in compliance with South Carolina law; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance establishing the records retention policies of Union County, South Carolina in compliance with South Carolina law; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the lease or other conveyance of certain real property owned by Union County to the Union-Laurens Commission on Higher Education; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated lease or other conveyance; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance of Union County, South Carolina authorizing the lease or other conveyance of certain real property owned by Union County to the Union-Laurens Commission on Higher Education; the execution and delivery of any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effect the contemplated lease or other conveyance; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance of Union County, South Carolina acknowledging and accepting the devolution and transfer of the Union County Jail from the Union County Sheriff to Union County Council; authorizing and directing the execution and delivery of any and all documents or instruments necessary to effect the accepted devolution and transfer; and other matters related thereto.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance of Union County, South Carolina acknowledging and accepting the devolution and transfer of the Union County Jail from the Union County Sheriff to Union County Council; authorizing and directing the execution and delivery of any and all documents or instruments necessary to effect the accepted devolution and transfer; and other matters related thereto.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance in title only to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, and to make appropriations for such Union County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the County may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Union County for such county ordinary purposes; including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Union County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Union County and Union County budgetary matters.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, and to make appropriations for such Union County budgets for county ordinary purposes and for other county purposes for which the County may levy a tax; to provide for the levy of taxes on all taxable personal and real estate properties in Union County for such county ordinary purposes; including sufficient tax to pay the principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness of Union County maturing during said fiscal year; and to provide for other matters relating to Union County and Union County budgetary matters.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced an ordinance in title only authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and Project TRP, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (The "Company"), pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes and provide certain special source revenue credits with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the county (collectively, the "Project"); and (2) other matters relating thereto, including, without limitation, certain other development incentives.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance authorizing (1) the execution and delivery of a Fee In Lieu of Tax and Incentive Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina (The "County") and Project TRP, acting for itself, and/or one or more affiliates or other project sponsors (The "Company"), pursuant to which the County shall covenant to accept certain negotiated fees in lieu of ad valorem taxes and provide certain special source revenue credits with respect to the establishment and/or expansion of certain facilities in the county (collectively, the "Project"); and (2) other matters relating thereto, including, without limitation, certain other development incentives.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated under his Supervisor's Report that we have a number of projects going on with the EMS renovations, stadium renovations and Timken Sports Complex renovations. Renovations at the Timken Sports Complex have come along nicely and are nearing completion. They are a little behind on their original goal on the stadium renovations but still expect to be ready for football season. The Stadium Commission will be meeting at the stadium on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. if any councilmembers would like to attend.

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

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss legal, personnel and economic development matters.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss legal, personnel and economic development matters after a brief recess.

Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to close executive session and said no votes were taken during executive session.

Ralph Tucker: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

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

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council