

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022 AT 5:40 P.M.
MEETING ROOM AT 103 WEST MAIN STREET
STREAMED TO FRANK HART UNION COUNTY
SUPERVISOR FACEBOOK PAGE

Present: Chairman Frank Hart, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via Zoom, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Tommie Hill, Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly and County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros.

Absent: Councilman Ralph Tucker and Councilman John Flood

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, emailed or delivered to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, Jeff Fellers with Clemson Extension, Mr. Mickey Gist, Mr. Robert Small, Mr. James Kollock, Mrs. Casie Jolly, Daniel Prince at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, the News Room at the Spartanburg Herald Journal, Shell Suber at MHISC, and Michael Lee with MHISC as well as to elected officials and heads of various county departments and offices. A notice of the meeting and a copy of the agenda were also posted on the County's website.

Chairman Frank Hart called the meeting to order. Councilman David Sinclair gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Tracie Campbell, District 1 – Present via Zoom

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Absent

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

John Flood, District 6 – Absent

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to approve the minutes as written of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on December 14, 2021 and a special meeting on December 17, 2021.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented service award certificates and gift certificates for Naomi Bassett for 5 years, to Melanie Lawson for 5 years, to David Sinclair for 5 years, and for Guy Copeland for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council received a letter from the Union County Historical Society stating there were display cases at the old Buffalo Mill building that were not being used and requested they be donated for use at the Union County Museum.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to donate those display cases to the used at the Union County Museum.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had a copy of a letter from the Union Soil & Water Conservation District related to management of the Brown's Creek Reservoir. They have some maintenance that needs to be done regarding a flood gate control. They provided an estimate in the amount of \$6,750.00. He recommended the County assist them by providing \$3,500.00 from the County Contingency Fund.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to assist the Union Soil & Water Conservation District with the cost of repairs to the flood gate control by providing \$3,500.00 from the County Contingency Fund.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was Coach William Royce but he was not present.

Chairman Frank Hart asked if there were any requests to fill vacant budgeted positions. Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson said she had an employee who retired and she needed to replace that budgeted position.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to replace the budgeted vacant position in the Clerk of Court's Office.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for any requests for capital funds but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any recommendations for appointments to vacant positions on the boards and commissions but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had a copy of the proposed schedule of Council meetings for calendar year 2022. The Council will go back to meeting in the Grand Jury Room at the Courthouse beginning in February. The meetings are normally held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month but the dates have been changed in June because of the Primary and in November due to the General Election.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the County Council meeting dates for 2022 as presented.

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

Chairman Frank Hart asked if any elected officials wanted to address Council but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Project Vidar providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Project Vidar providing for a payment of a fee in lieu of taxes and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County industrial and business park (Project Vidar) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirement of payments of the fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

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David Sinclair: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance authorizing and approving (1) the development of a new joint County industrial and business park (Project Vidar) pursuant to Section 4-1-170 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina 1976, as amended, in conjunction with Spartanburg County (The "Park") such park to be geographically located in Union County and to include the aforementioned project; (2) the execution and delivery of a written Park Agreement with Spartanburg County as to the requirement of payments of the fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes with respect to park property and the sharing of the revenues and expenses of the park; (3) the distribution of revenues from the park to the counties and relevant taxing entities; and (4) other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented for first reading in title only an ordinance to approve and adopt a reapportionment plan for the election districts used to elect members of County Council; to authorize the County Supervisor and other County officials to take any necessary actions to effectuate the purposes of this ordinance; and other matters related thereto.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance to approve and adopt a reapportionment plan for the election districts used to elect members of County Council; to authorize the County Supervisor and other County officials to take any necessary actions to effectuate the purposes of this ordinance; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He said they are still working on the new Career and Technology Center to be co-located on the Spartanburg Community College campus. They are working on a funding plan and hope to present that at the February meeting. They have been working on a housing development for Union County and expect some type of announcement in the Spring of 2022. The County has partnered with the City of Union and the Town of Jonesville to provide industrial grade wastewater capability to the Trakas site in northern Union County. They are applying for EDA and CDBG funding to finance the project. They have reached out to the Power Team to assist with a grant as well. They are working on an application for funding of this potential \$9.7 million project which would open up the northern end of the County for development. The County applied for and received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety in the amount of \$173,661 for personal equipment and a vehicle for each for three School Resource Officers. He said his written report included the numbers for the EMS and 911 calls. Councilman Ben Ivey stated in the past they were having problems with compactors at the Recycle Centers and asked if they were having any major issues. Chairman Frank Hart stated the County purchased two new compactors recently and some sites are trying out having two compactors to help with capacity issues and maintenance issues which seems to be working well. Chairman Frank Hart stated economic development continues to move forward and we expect an announcement shortly on Project Vidar. Alcohol and Drug Abuse started an evening intensive outpatient group which is basically a higher level of care before going into an inpatient facility.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports but there were none. He asked Councilwoman Tracie Campbell as Chair of the Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary and Recreation if she had a chance to review the notes of the meeting she held. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell responded that she had and Chairman Frank Hart asked if she could provide him a comment on that to share with those guys ahead of time.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart entertained a motion to amend the agenda to include an economic development update on Project Vidar during executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to amend the agenda to include an economic development update on Project Vidar during executive session.

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

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss two personnel matters and receive an economic development update on Project Vidar.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss two personnel matters and receive an economic development update on Project Vidar.

Chairman Frank Hart stated they were ready to close executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council