

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AT 5:30 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, Councilman David Sinclair, Councilman Tommie Hill, Councilman John Flood, Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly and County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros.

Absent: Councilman Ralph Tucker

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 or emailed 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

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Absent

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

John Flood, District 6 – Present

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the minutes as written of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on September 14, 2021, the special meeting of County Council held on September 27, 2021, the special meeting of County Council held on October 4, 2021 and the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 12, 202.

John Flood: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart presented service award certificates and gift certificates for Jake Black for 10 years, for Melvin Linder for 10 years, for Amy Sanders for 5 years, for Holly Wise for 5 years, to Jeff Wright for 15 years and to Ronnie Wade for 50 years of dedicated service to Union County.

LeighAnn Arthur and Ricky Smith with the Livestock Association gave an update on their first Livestock Show held September 23rd through the 25th. She thanked Union County for being a sponsor and said they had a total of ninety sponsors resulting in \$23,254 in donations. Every kid that

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participated received something and they have a balance of \$3,388 for the next show. There were 462 attendees.

Chairman Frank Hart asked Council about the County Christmas Party. Due to COVID the County did not hold a Christmas Party last year but rather provided \$15 for each County employee. Each elected official or department head chose whether to give their employees a gift card or have a meal for their office or department. Council agreed to do the same this year.

EMS Director Eric Harold requested the purchase of equipment from funds received by the County from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. He requested the purchase of five cardiac monitors, two patient stretchers, and one LUCAS Device at an estimated cost of \$250,000. There was discussion about the need for ADDs. Chairman Frank Hart said he supported the use of those funds for the purchase of the equipment for EMS but the balance of those funds will be needed for the expansion of the jail.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve not to exceed \$250,000.00 from funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act to the purchase five cardiac monitors, two patient stretchers, and one LUCAS Device for EMS.

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Councilman John Flood asked Eric Harold how he planned to address the need for ADDs for the Sheriff's Office and the fire departments. Eric Harold said other than grant avenues he did not have a plan for those at this time. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests to fill vacant budgeted positions. He said a vacant position at the Timken Sports Complex needed to be filled since Greg Weaver had taken a position with Code Enforcement.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to fill the vacant budgeted position at the Timken Sports Complex.

John Flood: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests for capital expenditures. Public Works Director Rusty Snider requested the purchase of two roll-off containers at a cost of \$18,832 including tax and shipping.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the purchase of two roll-off containers at a cost not to exceed \$19,000.00 from the proceeds of the 2021 General Obligation Bonds.

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

Chairman Frank Hart asked if Council had any recommendations for any vacant positions on any boards and commissions.

John Flood: Made a motion to appoint Lynn Eaves to serve on the Tourism Commission to fill an unexpired term.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated there was one applicant for the Building Codes Board of Appeals. He suggested Council try to find applicants to fill vacant positions on the boards and commissions.

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

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Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution declaring the results of a referendum held on November 2, 2021 on the question of the imposition of a One Percent (1%) Sales and Use Tax in Union County, South Carolina. A majority of those voting in the referendum voted against the question.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution declaring the results of a referendum held on November 2, 2021 on the question of the imposition of a One Percent (1%) Sales and Use Tax in Union County, South Carolina.

John Flood: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution whereby the Union County Council agrees to provide the 20 percent match of \$25,000 of the total project cost, through cash and in-kind support, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the project. Union County plans to apply for a grant to make improvements, including paving the existing parking area and trail, to Renaissance Park which is located in the Santuc area.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution whereby the Union County Council agrees to provide the 20 percent match of \$25,000 of the total project cost, through cash and in-kind support, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the project.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart introduced a resolution supporting ReGenesis Health Care in its efforts to become a public transit provider; and further supporting the designation of ReGenesis Health Care as a public transit provider by the South Carolina Department of Transportation; and other matters related thereto.

Tommie Hill: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution supporting ReGenesis Health Care in its efforts to become a public transit provider; and further supporting the designation of ReGenesis Health Care as a public transit provider by the South Carolina Department of Transportation; and other matters related thereto.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion.

Councilman John Flood asked what this was for. Chairman Frank Hart stated Council would support ReGenesis being designated by DOT as a public transit provider and would work with them to further public transit in the County. Councilman John Flood asked if this was for medical transport. Chairman Frank Hart said it would initially be for medical transport but potentially for other services as well. Councilman John Flood asked if it would adversely affect anybody else doing this kind of work in the county. Chairman Frank Hart stated to their knowledge there was not anyone else doing that in the county. Councilman John Flood asked about Mike Spencer and Chairman Frank Hart said that was Medicaid transport and this is different.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He said the Infrastructure Bill cleared and is expected to be signed by the President. There is a provision in the Bill to add Union County to the Appalachian Regional Commission which will provide additional grant opportunities. He stated there was a low voter turnout for the special election. The number of votes on the referendum for the Capital Projects Sales Tax was close but it was not approved by the voters. He thanked everyone who worked on getting it on the ballot. Voters prefer the current Council/Supervisor Form of Government as opposed to the Council/Supervisor Form of Government. Chairman Frank Hart said they continue to work on the Housing Initiative and are close to finalizing a deal with a developer. They will be meeting with a tract builder this month to present the site. They are still working on the sewer infrastructure from the City of

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Union to Jonesville. They were not successful in the last round of grant funding but are looking at trying to secure State Rescue Plan Act funding for the project. The County financial report shows us pretty much on track in terms of expenditures at 33% at the end of October. The bid package is close to going out for the road resurfacing project with \$950,000 being approved by the CTC for County roads and up to \$1 million for State roads. The Midway Drive extension is under construction and should be completed in the next ninety days. On the Midway Drive bridge replacement project, the bridge is fully installed and the road should be reopened within days. The Lockhart Boat Ramp was finally approved by U. S. Fish and Wildlife and should go out to bid this week. The contractor has started the renovation of the old South State Bank building for the County offices complex and it is expected to be completed in April of 2022. The Wells Fargo building renovations is out for bid which are due on in on November 10th. They have a meeting on November 16th to start working with an architect on the expansion plan for the jail. Code Enforcement has been busy as there are a lot of condemned houses in Union County with twenty houses already being torn down this year between the City and the County. We have eleven more that the owners have signed a voluntary demolition consent form that they are working on getting through the process as well. We need a Recreation Committee meeting at some point due to the amount of participation in football, basketball and baseball to discuss the leagues. They applied for a Broadband Grant initiative where they partnered with Charter which should be announced in December. They worked with some of the downtown merchants to move the Christmas Downtown event up which has been scheduled for November 18th. They are still working with the developer on the Sims Project and hope to go to the School Board in December to present the offer from the developer for the facility. The idea is to turn that into multi-family market value housing. There was an announcement on Tiger Industries this week which will be located in the old Midway building which the County sold to them. They will bring \$10.8 million in investments and 61 new full time jobs. There are three projects that could total over 500 jobs and \$180 million in investments that are promising. Alcohol and Drug Abuse is partnering with the Town of Lockhart to provide outreach services at the Town Hall. They made some changes in staffing at 911 and the management is in the process of implementing formal quality assurance standards. Chairman Frank Hart said Dennis Merrifield had been working on the radio system and said it was 100% operational. They look forward to getting feedback from the fire districts and others using the system on how it is performing. Councilman John Flood asked when the South State Bank building would be completed and Chairman Frank Hart said that project and the Wells Fargo building should be completed in April of 2022.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports. Councilman John Flood said he would need to hold a Planning and Development Committee meeting.

Sheriff Jeff Bailey requested capital expenditure funds for the purchase of 4 Tahoes at a cost of \$140,820 and \$86,000 for upfitting the vehicles and IT costs. They were told the radios they got from Spartanburg would be obsolete in two years so the cost estimate includes new radios for the vehicles.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to purchase the 4 Tahoes to include upfitting and IT costs not to exceed \$230,000 from the proceeds of the 2021 General Obligation Bonds.

John Flood: Seconded the motion.

Sheriff Jeff Bailey said they had requested funds for two K9 units but they were able to take care of that with donations so that is \$25,000 he had requested that would no longer be needed that could help offset the cost of the new vehicles.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

Chairman Frank Hart called for a motion to amend the agenda to add the discussion of economic development and a legal matter to executive session.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to amend the agenda to add the discussion of economic development and a legal matter to executive session.

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

John Flood: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel, economic development and legal matters.

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

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

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

John Flood: 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 stated the Development Board had recommended the appointment of Drake Jackson as the At-Large member and Dr. Randy Lowell as the representative for Higher Education to serve on the Union County Development Board.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Drake Jackson and Dr. Randy Lowell to serve on the Union County Development Board as recommended.

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

Chairman Frank Hart said he had a letter from Lee Brannon as President of the Union County Fire Chiefs Association stating they give out three awards each year which are the John L. Kingsmore Award, the Buford B. Brown Award and the Jake Sullivan Award. He asked that the three awards be displayed in the Union County Courthouse. The Chiefs Association would take care of the cost of the plaques and making sure each year they are updated.

Councilman John Flood asked the Clerk to Council to schedule a meeting of the Planning and Development Committee on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 12:00 Noon at 103 W. Main Street.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council