

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 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, 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

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 November 9, 2021.

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

Doralyn Jones said she was a family medicine physician in Spartanburg representing the Via College of Medicine that is a medical school dedicated to teaching future physicians to be community minded and globally minded physicians that do outreach to their community. They received a grant from DHEC to increase awareness about COVID vaccines, education and getting vaccines. Their target is more in the rural areas and Union County falls under that. She gave some statistics on the age groups and percentage of individuals who had received the vaccine. They were at USC-Union on December 2nd and plan to come back on January 12th or 13th. They will be at Thomas Chapel on December 17th. They are providing education and vaccinations at the events to try to increase the vaccination rates.

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Steven Stone gave an update on the Coon Hunt events held in Union County. They have two main events held in December and February that includes Walker Days. They have evolved to holding five events that they are taking part in. A Youth Hunt was held in October and in September they partnered with Tourism to hold the Show and Shine. In December they held the Palmetto State Jamboree. They are trying to plan these events to maximize on tourism dollars and increased participation and attendance. They plan to participate in the Spring Fair with a barbeque and are looking at possibly holding a squirrel hunt next year. He estimated they brought in 2,300 people from outside Union County to this year's events. They have donated to charities in Union around \$8,000 through Walker Days and the Union County Coon Hunters Association.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests to fill vacant budgeted positions. Kevin Shropshire requested permission to fill a vacant budgeted full-time position at the Sports Complex Recreation Department.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to fill the vacant budgeted full-time position at the Sports Complex Recreation Department.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests for capital expenditures. At the October 4th meeting, Council approved the purchase of a UPS System for IT at a cost of \$19,519.00 but when ordered the cost came in at \$21,759.45 resulting in an increase of \$2,240.45.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the additional cost of \$2,240.45 for the purchase of a UPS System from the proceeds of the 2021 General Obligation Bonds.

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

Public Works Director Rusty Snider requested permission to fill a vacant budgeted position for an Equipment Operator I.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to fill the vacant budgeted position for an Equipment Operator I at Public Works.

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 but there were none.

Chairman Frank Hart stated Council had a copy of the bid tabulation sheet from Langley & Associates for the bids for the Wells Fargo building upfit. The low bid was from Satchell Construction at \$198,490.00.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the low bid from Satchell Construction at \$198,490.00 with the funds to come from the proceeds of the 2021 General Obligation Bonds.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion.

Councilman John Flood asked what contractor was doing the renovations on the South State bank building and Chairman Frank Hart stated it was Raby Construction. Councilman Flood asked if the County had ever done business with Satchell Construction. Chairman Frank Hart responded that we had not but had asked for references and they are licensed and have done similar projects. Councilman Flood wondered about using the contractor that was already doing a project for the County rather than using an unknown contractor since there was less than \$500 difference in the two bids.

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The motion carried with four (4) Councilmembers voting in favor of the motion and one (1) Councilmember (Councilman John Flood) opposing.

Chairman Frank Hart asked if any elected officials wanted to address Council. Sheriff Jeff Bailey stated the vehicles approved by Council were in the process of having the logo added and being upfitted. They should have those in operation by the first of the year. Everything is working well with the Drug Task Force and they are working with the City, County, State and Federal agencies. The Joint Task Force and the relationship between the County and City and law enforcement is better than it ever has been. They met with C4 Ministries and Alcohol and Drug Abuse to discuss a grant they are trying to get. He said they want to help people get treatment if they need it and educate them to help keep them from getting on drugs. He said they are trying to stay active in all the communities and help people.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider a Burn Ordinance and he asked Councilman John Flood if he wished to report anything from the Planning and Development Committee since they had met to discuss the ordinance. Councilman John Flood said the Committee had asked for some changes to be made in the proposed ordinance. It still allows the burning of yard debris but restricts the size and where it can be located in relationship to a structure. Councilman David Sinclair said he wanted clarification on burning yard debris. He asked if a tree fell in your yard and you cut it up then you cannot burn it. Chairman Frank Hart said you could as long as you follow the guidelines set in the ordinance. Councilman John Flood said it typically excludes burning household waste which is a DHEC violation.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading the ordinance to regulate outdoor burning in Union County within all unincorporated areas except as otherwise authorized or provided; and other matters related to, including, without limitations, exceptions and exemptions thereto and therefrom.

John Flood: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance to regulate outdoor burning in Union County within all unincorporated areas except as otherwise authorized or provided; and other matters related to, including, without limitations, exceptions and exemptions thereto and therefrom.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented in title only first reading of an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Project Vidar providing for the payment of a fee in lieu of taxes, the issuance of special source revenue credits, the terms of a Union County Economic Development Grant, 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 authorizing the execution and delivery of a Fee Agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Project Vidar providing for the payment of a fee in lieu of taxes, the issuance of special source revenue credits, the terms of a Union County Economic Development Grant, and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented in title only first reading of 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

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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: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first 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.

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

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He said he attended the South Carolina Association of Counties Legislative Conference as he is on the Board of Directors for the SCAC. The Board of Directors voted to return one year of dues for each county as a COVID 19 assistance which would mean about \$8,000 for Union County. The Deputy Director with the SCDOT presented an update on the State road infrastructure. The new Federal Highway Bill will send about 30% more revenue to South Carolina for road improvements. Bonnie Ammons from the Rural Infrastructure Authority presented some information on utility infrastructure. The Governor has recommended that about \$500 million be sent to the Rural Infrastructure Authority out of the ARFA funds. He talked with someone about the broadband service for Union County that said he would be providing us with a map where they have identified the priority sites where we should start. They are going to lay in the Federal money that is being invested through Spectrum as well as State money. The update from the State Retirement System said they had averaged a 28% return over the last year and 7.6% over ten years. They continue to have discussions with the Spartanburg Community College and the Superintendent of Schools about how to find a way to move forward on the Advanced Technology Center. We have a \$4.8 million commitment from Spartanburg Community College in matching funds if we can put together a plan to move forward. He said they continue to work on the housing initiative and met with the developer and tract builder with the preliminary subdivision plan being submitted and improved. The County of Union and the City of Union are partnering to move that initiative forward. We applied for some EPA COVID grant funding but were denied. They are working on applying for EDA and CDBG funding on the \$9.7 million project to get sewer from the City of Union to Jonesville and upgrade the line to Trakas which would give us about an 800,000 gallon per day capacity which would open up that end of the County for industrial development. The grading is about 80% complete on the Midway Drive Connector to bypass the Lukesville Community. The bridge on Midway Drive was replaced and opened up on December 9th. The boat ramp project is out for bid. Council awarded the bid on the Wells Fargo building which should be about a 90-day project. There is an inmate at the jail that has been there 1,268 days awaiting trial and we are not set up to hold somebody for nearly four years. The inmate has been deemed incompetent to stand trial and they are waiting on a mental evaluation. They are working on trying to get that issue resolved. One thing good about the compensation plan is that the Sheriff's Office is fully staffed and the Detention Center and EMS are nearly at full staff. He appreciated Council working to make sure we are competitive with our people. We have an option with the City of Union on the Sims property and they have been working with a developer on the redevelopment of the property for multifamily market value

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housing. They will be meeting with the School District in January to discuss that plan. The Vidar Project is a very large project with potentially hundreds of jobs and over \$100 million in investment.

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

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

David Sinclair: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss two economic development matters and two personnel matters.

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

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

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to close executive session.

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

John Flood: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council