

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021 AT 5:30 P.M.  
STREAMED TO FRANK HART UNION COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR FACEBOOK PAGE

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

Absent: Councilman Ralph Tucker and Councilman David Sinclair

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, Mike Stevens and 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 Ben Ivey 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 - Absent

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Tommie Hill, District 5 - Present

John Flood, District 6 – Present

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on July 13, 2021, the special meeting of County Council held on July 28, 2021 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented a service award certificate and gift certificate to Eric Harold for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart read and presented a proclamation to Marlon Hunter as CEO for ReGenesis Health Care proclaiming August 8-14, 2021 as National Health Center Week.

Dionta Palmer on behalf of USA Warriors Pro Am Baseball Team requested sponsorship to provide a show in Greenwood for fans, families and veterans.

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Elise Ashby with the Robinhood Group requested \$27,502.00 for the FoodShare Union Program. She said they also need a new location to operate out of since they are currently using the County Recreation Department.

Christina McDowell as Director of Alcohol and Drug Abuse requested \$34,000.00 to replace the switch, the cables, the server and purchase a battery backup system for their computer system.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve \$34,000.00 to replace the switch, the cables, the server and purchase a battery backup system for the computer system for Alcohol and Drug Abuse with some of the funds to come from the General Obligation Bond proceeds and some of the funds to come from Fund 795 Alcohol and Drug Abuse revenues.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was a presentation by the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission. Members of the Commission made a presentation on how they determined which projects would be funded and why. Dolton Williams as a member of the Commission stated they recommend the following projects:

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|--|--------------|---|
| 1. Advanced Tech Center                            | \$11,153,987 | Sponsored by Union County, SCC, Union County Schools    |
| 2. Uplift Parks                                    | \$2,399,563  | Sponsored by Union County Parks, Recreation and Tourism |
| 3. Animal Shelter                                  | \$320,000    | Sponsored by Holly Wise                                 |
| 4. YMCA Pool Upfit                                 | \$104,575    | Sponsored by YMCA                                       |
| 5. Fairgrounds, Industrial Building Upgrade        | \$505,475    | Sponsored by Union County Parks, Recreation and Tourism |
| 6. Multipurpose Arena                              | \$3,275,400  | Sponsored by Union County Parks, Recreation and Tourism |
| 7. Jonesville High School Restoration & Renovation | \$1,000,000  | Sponsored by the Town of Jonesville                     |
| 8. Soccer Field & Field House                      | \$1,241,000  | Sponsored by YMCA                                       |

The total for these projects is \$20,000,000.00. Chairman Frank Hart said there would be a referendum posed to the public at a special election in November to determine if the voters would support the Capital Project Sales Tax. The Commission had adopted a resolution posing the Referendum Ballot Question to appear on the ballot. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell asked if the proposed Advanced Tech Center would impact USC-Union. Chairman Frank Hart stated they view those group of students as a different target audience. They are trying to capture those students who are not pursuing post-secondary education so it should not take anything away from USC-Union. Chairman Frank Hart stated Council would need to accept the adopted resolution from the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission and accept the proposed projects.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to accept the adopted resolution from the Capital Project Sales Tax Commission and accept the proposed projects.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to consider any job vacancies but there were no requests.

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Chairman Frank Hart stated Council needed to consider appointments to boards and commissions and called for any recommendations for appointments. Chairman Frank Hart stated the Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of Tom Hobbs as the HR Director at Standard Textile as a member representing existing industry over fifty employees with a term that expires on June 30, 2024. The Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of Steve Aldrich as Manufacturing Director at CSL Plasma as a member representing existing industry over fifty employees with a term that expires on June 30, 2024. The Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of Isaac McKissick as the Site Coordinator for the Spartanburg Community College campus in Union as a member representing Higher Education with a term that expires on June 30, 2024. The Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of Natasha Jeter who is an OB/GYN with UMC Center as a member representing healthcare with a term that expires on June 30, 2023. The Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of Jeff Humphries as VP of Economic Development with Broad River Electric Co-Op as a member representing financial institutions or other fields impacting economic development with a term that expires June 30, 2023. The Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of John Gregory who is a VP with Arthur State Bank as a member representing financial institutions or other fields impacting economic development with a term that expires June 30, 2023. The Union County Development Board recommended the appointment of Joey Haney who is the Superintendent of the Union County Schools as an ex-officio member with a term that expires on June 30, 2023.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to appoint Tom Hobbs, Steve Aldrich, Isaac McKissick, Natasha Jeter, Jeff Humphries, John Gregory and Joey Haney to serve on the Development Board as recommended.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented an invoice from P & C Mechanical in the amount of \$2,024.70 for repairs to the ventilation system at the ESAB building as part of Project Tiger. He suggested the invoice be paid from Economic Development Fund 327.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve payment of the invoice from P & C Mechanical in the amount of \$2,024.70 from Economic Development Fund 327.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated the bids to construct an alternate access to Midway Green Park had come in resulting in a low bid from Palmetto Group Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,071,984.00. He suggested not to exceed \$850,000.00 be paid out of Economic Development Fund 327 with the balance to be paid out of UTC funds for Midway Drive.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve not to exceed \$850,000.00 to be paid out of Economic Development Fund 327 with the balance to be paid out of UTC funds for Midway Drive for the connector road project.

Tommie Hill: Seconded the motion. Councilman John Flood asked where the road was being relocated and Chairman Frank Hart and Councilman Ben Ivey explained the route the new connector road would take to divert industrial traffic around the Lukesville community. Jerry Brannon said they should begin the project in September with anticipated completion in approximately four months. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart provided Council with a list of roads consisting of Stone Creek, Inman Drive, Post Office Drive, Ralph Ridge Road, Cody Drive and Nicole Drive for Council to consider to be taken into the County's Road Maintenance. He referred these to the Road Committee.

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

Finance Director Ann Boggs stated expenses were pretty much on track for the month of July. We are winding up for fiscal year 2020-2021 which is 99.5% complete. We are pursuing any grant funds that are available.

Public Works Director Rusty Snider stated they are working on work requests and everything is pretty normal.

Detention Center Director Niel McKeown said he is working on the ceremony for 911 since it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They will have a speaker who was at the Pentagon when it was hit. He said they have about 90 inmates at the Detention Center and they are five officers short.

Building Superintendent Ken West said they had been doing a lot of repairs at the Detention Center and the Jail. They installed three new air conditioners with one at the stadium in the restroom, one in the kitchen at the Detention Center and one at the Timken Sports Complex.

Delinquent Tax Collector Lorene Bevis stated they are working on title searches.

Airport and Stadium Manager Ronnie Wade thanked Ken West for installing the air conditioning in the restroom at the stadium. They are using inmate labor to construct the building at Timken Sports Complex and recognized that the inmates do provide services to the county. Mr. Wade said they would be holding a Pep Rally at the Fairgrounds on Thursday. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of August, Union and Chester will be playing. There was some concern about the semi-pro team playing. They held the book review for school supplies for kids. The Yard Sale was Saturday morning. They had a team that played a ballgame that afternoon that paid \$1,487.50 to play. There will be ballgames on August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. He said Kevin Shropshire has been asked to hold Stinger football games on Saturday mornings. They hope to hold another Fun Day at the Airport in the fall. He received two CARES grants awarded by the FAA for the airport in the amount of \$9,000 and \$20,000 and the next one should be for \$22,000. He said he wanted to use these funds to buy a tractor with a ten-foot bushhog since they have over three hundred acres to keep up. The airport was awarded a grant in the amount of \$171,486 for the engineering phase of the rehabilitation of the apron, the taxiways and taxiway extension. On the other grant they have, they had to pay back \$23,000 but the FAA owes us \$82,968.48. Ann Boggs as Finance Director will be handling the grants.

Kevin Shropshire as Director of Parks and Recreation said they held their last local baseball game last Monday. Now they are trying to play catch-up.

Eric Harold as Director of EMS gave his report on call volume and response time. The new ambulance funded by the County should be ready next week. The new ambulance being purchased through grant funds should be ready in late October or early November. They are working on getting the 800 radios operational.

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter provided Council with a list of planned events for August and September. Chairman Frank Hart said he was looking forward to the Bluegrass BBQ and Gun Show.

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Mrs. Hunter said the people handling the gun show did not feel comfortable holding that and Doug Gilliam is working on a Tool Show. She said if the Capital Projects Sales Tax is approved, she would like to have Mike Callahan speak to Council about the multi-purpose arena.

Economic Development Director Dolton Williams stated they had created thirty-five new projects so far in 2021. There is a contract on two buildings for industrial projects and they hope to have announcements soon. They are working on three additional industrial prospects. He said they are also working on a Product Development Plan.

Dennis Merrifield as the new Fire Coordinator said he had met with most of the fire chiefs. He said he did not come here with any type of agenda and he looked forward to working with the talent that exists already. Volunteers care about the community and want to serve. He wants to find out what the interests and needs are for the fire departments to work together to chart a course. Radio communications is a big concern for the fire departments. He said he was working with the vendor on the broadband coverage that was started in 2013.

Joey Haney as Superintendent of the Union County School District stated their goal is to provide educational opportunities for all students. They reached a new partnership with USC-Union concerning an early college program for nursing and early elementary education. Students entering ninth grade could take some college courses which would increase during their junior and senior years. When a senior receives their high school diploma, they could also receive their Associates Degree at the same time in Early Elementary Education or a Nursing Degree with free tuition. Student teaching can be done in our schools with the hopes of them staying to teach in Union County. You are talking about the academic track versus a technical skills type track with the Advanced Tech Center. To make these kinds of things happen, it is important for everyone to work together.

Chairman Frank Hart presented for third and final reading an ordinance to impose a one percent Capital Project Sales Tax, subject to a referendum, within Union County, South Carolina pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, as codified in 4-10-300, Et Seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended (The "Act"); to specify the purposes, projects and facilities for which the proceeds of such tax may be used; to provide the maximum time for which such tax may be imposed; to provide the maximum amount of General Obligation Bonds to be issued to provide for the payment of any costs of the projects and facilities and to pledge such tax to the payment of the bonds; to provide the maximum cost of the projects or facilities to be funded from the proceeds of such tax or bonds; to provide the maximum amount of net proceeds of the tax expected to be used to pay the cost of the projects or debt service on the bonds; to establish the priority in which the net proceeds of such tax are to be expended for the projects and purposes stated; to order a referendum prescribed by the Act to be conducted by the Union County Registration and Election Commission; to provide for the administration of such tax; and other matters relating thereto.

John Flood: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance to impose a one percent Capital Project Sales Tax, subject to a referendum, within Union County, South Carolina pursuant to the Capital Project Sales Tax Act, as codified in 4-10-300, Et Seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended The "Act"); to specify the purposes, projects and facilities for which the proceeds of such tax may be used; to provide the maximum time for which such tax may be imposed; to provide the maximum amount of General Obligation Bonds to be issued to provide for the payment of any costs of the projects and facilities and to pledge such tax to the payment of the bonds; to provide the maximum cost of the

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projects or facilities to be funded from the proceeds of such tax or bonds; to provide the maximum amount of net proceeds of the tax expected to be used to pay the cost of the projects or debt service on the bonds; to establish the priority in which the net proceeds of such tax are to be expended for the projects and purposes stated; to order a referendum prescribed by the Act to be conducted by the Union County Registration and Election Commission; to provide for the administration of such tax; and other matters relating thereto.

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

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

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

Ben Ivey: Seconded the motion.

Chairman Frank Hart asked that Councilwoman Tracie Campbell as Chair of the Council Committee on Law Enforcement, Judiciary and Recreation and Councilman John Flood as Chair of the Planning and Development Committee get together and pull a group to try to get the ordinance finalized before the next meeting. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart gave his Supervisor's Report. He stated they had been working on getting Union County included in the Appalachian Region. They worked with Senator Graham's office, Senator Scott's office as well as Ralph Norman's office. He got a copy today of the Infrastructure Bill and Union County is on page 403 of the Federal Infrastructure Bill that the Senate was supposed to approve today. He thought it was going to move to the House today to strike the word Spartanburg and add Spartanburg and Union to the Appalachian Commission.

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

Chairman Frank Hart requested an amendment to the agenda to add an executive session to discuss an economic development matter.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to amend the agenda to add an executive session to discuss an economic development matter.

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss an economic development matter.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss an economic development matter.

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.

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The Union County Council returned the meeting to regular session.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council