

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022 AT 5:31 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE COURTHOUSE AT 210 WEST MAIN STREET
STREAMED TO FRANK HART UNION COUNTY
SUPERVISOR FACEBOOK PAGE

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

Absent: Councilman Ralph Tucker, 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, 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 John Flood 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

District 5 - Vacant

John Flood, District 6 – Present

John Flood: Made a motion to approve the minutes as written of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on March 8, 2022.

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

Chairman Frank Hart presented service award certificates and gift certificates for Dennis Quinn for 5 years of service, for Annette Smith for 5 years of service, for Carolyn Edwards for 5 years of service, for William Sexton for 5 years of service, for Robert Garner for 25 years of service and for Dianne Spencer for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss the renovations on the Wells Fargo and South State Bank buildings. The renovations on the Wells Fargo building are progressing pretty well and they should be done in the next four weeks or so. When the Council originally approved the renovations, they approved the bid amount. There have been some items that needed to be addressed such as adding heating and air for the server room as well as some other changes. He said he had

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\$27,141.76 in change orders that Council needed to approve since they will be paid from the 2021 GO Bond proceeds.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the payment of the \$27,141.76 due to change orders for the renovations of the Wells Fargo building out of the 2021 General Obligation Bond proceeds.

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

Chairman Frank Hart said there were a lot of supply chain issues due to COVID on the renovations at the South State Bank building. They are having trouble getting some of the electrical components which could result in the renovations going into July or August based on the availability of materials.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any requests to fill any vacant budgeted positions. Probate Judge Toni Allen requested permission to replace the two clerk positions in her officer.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve replacement of two budgeted clerk positions in the Probate Judge's Office.

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

Christina McDowell as Director of Alcohol and Drug Abuse requested permission to fill a prevention position.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve replacement of a budgeted prevention position at Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

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

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson requested permission to replace an employee that will be leaving April 19th in the Common Pleas section of Court.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve replacement of a budgeted position in the Common Pleas section in the Clerk of Court's Office.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated that next on the agenda was to consider any requests for capital funds. He said the Detention Center requested \$8,563.00 in capital funds to purchase a stove. Voter Registration requested \$4,000.00 for tables for the training room. They are looking at replacing the roof on the Animal Shelter at a cost not to exceed \$7,000.00. The total request from capital funds is \$19,563.00.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the \$19,563.00 for the items requested from the 2021 General Obligation Bond proceeds.

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

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated they had been working with an architectural firm to look at an expansion to the jail. They are looking at adding 64 beds as there are times when they have been above capacity and due to the need to segregate inmates for their safety and to protect the liability of the county. They contacted other counties about who they used and came up with Moseley who gave them a cost opinion of \$6.5 million to do that expansion. Moseley Architects is willing to do the architectural design, all the mechanical, electrical, putting together the bid document, prequalifying the firms and then selecting the contractor for a cost of \$375,000.00. He said they were recommending approval of that from ARPA

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Funds. He said we have \$2.1 million left of the ARPA Funds and we should receive another \$2.6 million for a total of \$4.8 million. He asked Council to go ahead and designate that money for the purpose of the jail. He was afraid if they did not do that then they would have to saddle the taxpayers with the total cost of the expansion of the jail.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to take \$375,000.00 from the ARPA Funds for the architectural fees for the jail expansion and to allocate the balance of the ARPA Funds for jail renovations.

Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. Councilman John Flood stated that earmarking it does not absolutely commit those remaining funds. Chairman Frank Hart said Council could go back to vote to do something different but his recommendation is to lock that money down and use it for costs that we know are coming. Councilman Ben Ivey said it was a necessary need and if we don't do it then it would fall back on the taxpayers. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Chairman Frank Hart stated next on the agenda was to discuss the County website and branding. He said this was a project they started prior to COVID which caused it to be a drawn-out process. Dolton Williams as Executive Director of the Development Board stated Jami Trammell has been working on this project for about two and a half years. Everything is ready on her end and on the marketing firm's end. They need to set a date for an internal launch for County employees to review the site for several weeks for any edits that need to be made before opening it up to the public. He said the website was very user friendly. Councilman John Flood said he was under the assumption they would get rid of all the other County websites as they exist and Chairman Frank Hart stated that was correct. Each department would have a page they could put their information on but it would all be hosted as part of the County website. Chairman Frank Hart said Jami Trammell had proposed to do the launch for employees on Friday, May 13th. Councilman John Flood asked why they should wait that long if it is ready to go. Chairman Frank Hart asked Dolton Williams to check with Jami Trammell to see if it could be accelerated.

Chairman Frank Hart asked if any elected officials wanted to address Council.

Clerk of Court Melanie Lawson said her Deeds Department would be allowing for e-filing where out-of-town attorneys can e-file deeds and mortgages. They will have to go through training for that.

Sheriff Jeff Bailey said they received one truck and six Tahoes but now they are being delayed on getting the upfits on the Tahoes. Steel products are four or five months out. They cannot get a radio for the vehicles for five months. They will get what they can done on the upfitting but they can't control the other things that would have to be finished. Things have been going well with the Community Action Team and people have noticed them in the neighborhoods. They have picked up trash in the Lockhart and Kelton community. They will do a clean-up in Carlisle on April 21st then Buffalo on May 19th. Councilman John Flood stated there are issues with cars being parked on both sides of some of the roads which deters emergency vehicles access and asked the Sheriff for assistance with getting that resolved.

Chairman Frank Hart presented second reading of a Union County ordinance authorizing the lease of certain Union County-owned real property and improvements thereon; and other matters related thereto. He said this was the lease related to County-owned property at 103 W. Main Street.

John Flood: Made a motion to accept second reading of the Union County ordinance authorizing the lease of certain Union County-owned real property and improvements thereon; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only an ordinance to adopt the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, 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, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, 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.

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

Chairman Frank Hart introduced in title only a Union County Ordinance authorizing the sale and conveyance of certain Union County owned real property to the Union-Laurens Commission on Higher Education; 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 Union County Ordinance authorizing the sale and conveyance of certain Union County owned real property to the Union-Laurens Commission on Higher Education; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Frank Hart stated he had provided Council with a copy of his Supervisor's Report. He said Detention Center Director Niel McKeown has a part-time person helping with litter for the past two weeks and they had collected 372 bags of trash.

Chairman Frank Hart called for any committee reports. He said Councilwoman Tracie Campbell had held a meeting of her committee with the members of the Fair Board to discuss the Council's plans for use of the stadium and fairgrounds. Councilwoman Tracie Campbell stated they would be holding another meeting to narrow some things down.

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

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss two contractual matters, two economic development matters and a personnel matter.

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

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

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

The Union County Council returned to regular session.

John Flood: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
Tracie Campbell: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Frank Hart, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council