

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE
LIVE STREAMED TO WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GEARUPUNIONSC

Present: Chairman Robert L. Love, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell (via telephone), Councilman David Sinclair, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, 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 Robert L. Love called the meeting to order. Council Chaplin 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 telephone)

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Absent

David Sinclair, District 3 - Present

Ben Ivey, District 4 - Present

Carolyn Rutherford, District 5 – Present

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 September 13, 2022.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion, Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

Chairman Robert L. Love presented service award certificates and gift certificates for James E. Boulware for 5 years, for Danny F. Inman for 5 years, for Anne Dehart for 15 years, for Nikia Brannon for 20 years, and for Sue I. Cudd for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Robert L. Love stated next on the agenda was a presentation by Phil Bell to discuss the Union Main Street holiday kickoff. Phil Bell was not present at the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2022

Michael Taylor addressed Council to discuss county government. He provided some background on his family. He said he was disappointed in this Council and in this County. He said he had lived here long enough to observe that the people in the Supervisor's Office and the Sheriff's Office have used these offices for their benefit and their embellishment. All he has to do is go over the elected leaders that have set in either the Supervisor's chair or the Sheriff's chair and remind you of how many has gone to prison and how many are guilty of embezzlement. The Sheriff's Office even had a suicide involved in it. There has been a lot of crime committed by the County leaders in the county. The Council failed to observe this and have let Frank Hart do whatever he wants to. Frank Hart set himself up in a permanent job because he was fixing to get ousted from this job. He set himself up to get a magistrate's job and when he did, he and Jeff Bailey decided to reorganize the courthouse to get a better office uptown here while the jail is full of filth, mold and disrespectful people. He said David Taylor put him in that jail. He said Sheriff Taylor had to pay him \$2,000 an hour to stay in that jail. The County was responsible for it but of course the insurance paid it. That is just another sheriff and the sheriff we have now doesn't care anything about that. All he wants is a nice office and wants to go on TV in his polo shirt or his carpenter work shirt and talk to people about bent no-trespassing signs while at the same time we have people escaping from jail. He can't catch them for a week. He had a teenage girl here in town, from what he understands, that he couldn't catch for several days. This guy has no experience in law enforcement, and he is in there to only better himself. That is the reason he keeps jumping on TV all the time. He said he tried to talk to him when he first went in office, and he plainly lied to him, but he won't get a chance to do that again. If Council wants to let these officials get by with this kind of stuff, then sit up here and let them do it. We have a Sheriff that has a conflict of interest since his wife works for Diamaduros Law Firm. That needs to be stopped immediately. She has no business working for a law firm that participates in court actions either against or with the Sheriff of Union County. He said he would like to see the Sheriff wear the designated uniform that is designed for that office. If you do not wear that uniform, in his opinion, you are a coward. When he wears that uniform and steps out of his car, that uniform demands respect. If he is wearing his polo shirt or work shirt, people will be just like him and not give a flip about him. He can get back in his car and he brings no authority out here. Do something and make him wear a uniform. Councilman David Sinclair stated Mr. Taylor said he had been in this county since 1980, has witnessed a lot of corruption, comes from a decorated family and has vast knowledge of all these things that went on. He asked him if he had ever run for Sheriff, Supervisor or County Council. Michael Taylor responded he would soon be seventy-five years old and what this County does not need is another Good Old White Boy running things. He was not sure how they were able to fool the electors the way they do but he thinks it has a lot to do with what church you go to. He said he was too old and not in good shape. He said he served his country, and he served it proudly.

Chairman Robert L. Love said next on the agenda was LeighAnn Arthur and Ricky Smith to give an update from the Livestock Association, but they were not present.

Chairman Robert L. Love stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests to fill vacant budgeted positions but there were none.

Chairman Robert L. Love stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests for capital funds.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2022

Tourism Director Curtiss Hunter requested the \$35,000.00 in capital funds set aside for the renovation of the old jail for the Visitor's Center. Some of the work has already begun with inmate help. Chairman Robert L. Love said she had told him Phase I would cost \$6,500.00.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the funds requested in the amount of 6,500.00 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditures account for Phase I of the renovation of the old jail.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion, Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

Christina McDowell with Alcohol and Drug Abuse requested \$9,126.80 in capital funds for the purchase of five desktop computers for her office.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the funds requested in the amount of \$9,126.80 from the Non-Departmental Capital Expenditures account for five desktop computers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion, Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

Chairman Robert L. Love stated Council had previously adopted a resolution to provide the local match in the amount of \$55,000.00 for the Goldville Fire Substation in the Carlisle Fire District and requested it be designated to come from the Economic Development Fund #327.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve the \$55,000.00 for the local match for the Goldville Fire Substation to come from the Economic Development Fund #327.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion, Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

Chairman Robert L. Love called for any comments from elected officials but there were none.

Councilman David Sinclair stated the County had been in the process of redoing the County Road List and a couple of roads in the Mount Vernon Estates were not in the County Road List. Council accepted a couple of roads that met the County's policy for the requirements for the roads to be taken in. He had several people tell him how much they appreciated it and how good it looks. He recognized Public Works Director Rusty Snider and his group for the work they are doing. One of the roads was Ralph Ridge.

Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford said she was still having problems with tree limbs hanging over the road. The limbs brush cars when it is raining. Councilman Ben Ivey asked if the trees were on City streets or out in the County. Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford responded they were all City streets. Council told her she would need to talk to the City of Union about that.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2022

Chairman Robert L. Love introduced a resolution authorizing Union County to submit an application and budget to the South Carolina Department of Transportation to initiate a three-year Pilot Rural Transit Program; authorizing Union County to negotiate and finalize terms of an agreement with Senior Services Inc. of Chester County to provide public transportation services for and on behalf of Union County; and other matters related thereto. If the application is approved, South Carolina Department of Transportation would provide up to \$150,000 each year with the County providing another \$150,000 each year for the three-year pilot program.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution authorizing Union County to submit an application and budget to the South Carolina Department of Transportation to initiate a three-year Pilot Rural Transit Program; authorizing Union County to negotiate and finalize terms of an agreement with Senior Services Inc. of Chester County to provide public transportation services for and on behalf of Union County; and other matters related thereto.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion, Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

Chairman Robert L. Love gave his Supervisor's Report. He and Neil McKeown would be meeting with representatives from Spartanburg Community College at the Detention Center to discuss providing a welding program for inmates. He asked Airport Manager Ronnie Wade to talk to Council about an opportunity for federal funding for the airport. Mr. Wade stated there is a competitive grant from money that came about years ago when they fired the air traffic controllers at the airport under the Reagan Administration. They had a lot of people that went to doing contract towers. They had about \$25 million dollars they just awarded for those. About \$20 million dollars of that is going to be used to redo the contracts. The money we have now is to develop terminals. Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina got one reward last year. This is something that if you were not prepared for then you don't have a plan to ask for the money. They are trying to put a plan together and have an engineering firm Michael Baker that said for \$5,000 they would put a proposal together so we can ask for this money. This amount of money is in the neighborhood of \$3 million dollars. The State of South Carolina also participates with funding up to \$500,000. This project they have going on will go on for four years. It would be nice if we could put the proposal in, accept the money and build us a terminal. If we can't, we have four years this same proposal would be accepted and submitted. He said they mentioned three thousand square feet and they were worried about how you would promote jobs which is one of the criteria. He explained to them we provide jobs by making us work together through the Development Board, Chamber of Commerce or whoever. They can develop a facility at the airport with meeting rooms. They need to be able to sell this project. Ronnie Wade requested \$5,000.00 to pay the engineering firm to do this. Chairman Robert L. Love stated this is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that has been passed and has a total of \$25 million dollars. At least ten percent of that money is required to be spent at small airports such as ours. It is a 95% grant and there is a deadline of October 24th that the application must be submitted. County Engineer Jerry Brannon stated that at some point we are going to need a terminal and if we can get somebody else to pay for it then we need to look into it. Councilman Ben Ivey asked

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2022

Finance Director Ann Boggs where the funds would come from for the design. Ann Boggs stated it could be taken from Operational Contingency.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to take \$5,000.00 from the Non-Departmental Operational Contingency account to have the Michael Baker Engineering Firm do the design for the airport terminal.

John Flood: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

Chairman Robert L. Love called for any committee reports but there were none.

Chairman Robert L. Love called for any other business but there was none.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Chairman Robert L. Love did a call for votes with Councilwoman Tracie Campbell via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair voting in favor of the motion. Councilman Ben Ivey voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Robert L. Love, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council