

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE
LIVE STREAMED TO WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GEARUPUNIONSC

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey, Councilwoman Tracie Campbell, 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 Phillip Russell, II called the meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Ben Ivey gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance which was led by Councilwoman Tracie Campbell.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented service award certificates and gift certificates for Joseph R. Roque for 5 years and for Ricky Mallett for 25 years of dedicated service to Union County.

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

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 November 15, 2022 and the special meeting of County Council held on November 29, 2022.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated first on the agenda was to consider second reading of the ordinance to adopt regulations governing the development of land in unincorporated Union County, hereby referred to as the Union County Land Development Regulations; and to provide for other matters related thereto.

Tracie Campbell: Made a motion to table this land ordinance until there can be further discussion with certain groups of people especially with the land issue and the agricultural part because she knew there have been a lot of people who have been upset and it has really been unclear. She knows we have to have some type of land ordinance and suggested having more meetings where you invite people to have

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input to maybe change things, delete things or whatever the case may be until we can all come together and the future Council votes on what is best for Union County and its citizens.

John Flood: Seconded the motion.

Councilman David Sinclair stated he appreciated all the effort the Planning Commission has put forth in this. He said he was in favor of the land development process but thought the one they currently have needs to be tailored more to fit Union County. He recommended to reach out to those that the plan will affect directly and get them involved then come back to Council with a new draft at a later date. Chairman Phillip Russell, II thanked the public for showing up Tuesday night and felt they were involved and engaged. We have a commission that has worked diligently on this but felt the public did their part as well and their information was well received. Councilman John Flood stated there were probably two hundred to three hundred people that attended the public meeting at Main Street Junction. When we are looking for applicants for boards, commissions and fire boards it would be nice if some of those people would volunteer. You won't fix anything in the county unless you get to be a part of the process.

The vote was unanimous.

Mary Owens stated that on behalf of the Sistas On The Move By Faith Education Center, she, as president was presenting their anticipated budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. They are a Non-Profit organization and have a sincere interest to work with seniors in the City of Union. Their mission is to help motivate, educate and encourage seniors to play their roles. They requested \$29,150.00 and provided a list of how those funds would be used. She explained their agenda and courses offered. Chairman Phillip Russell, II referred the request to the Council Finance Committee.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests to fill vacant budgeted positions. Probate Judge Toni Allen requested permission to fill a budgeted fulltime position in her office.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the Probate Judge to fill a budgeted fulltime position in her office.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated they need to fill a finance position at 911. Nikia Brannon requested permission to fill the Administrative Assistant position as Esther Starnes is retiring. Chairman Phillip Russell stated Esther handles the financial functions at 911 which include funds from various sources including State, Federal and grant funds. She plans to work part-time for the next three months to help train someone.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to allow the 911 Director to fill the Administrative Assistant position.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests for capital funds. He said Sheriff Bailey had been approved for \$32,000.00 in capital funds for computers and radios. The Sheriff was not aware that these funds had been approved so he had purchased those items from his own budget. They found two surplus K9 cars that are in excellent condition and purchased both vehicles for \$30,100.00. The vehicles are already equipped with dog cages and lights. All they will need to do is put the logo on the side of the vehicles and put a radio in them. He asked Council to pay for those vehicles out of the capital funds that had previously been allocated for radios and computers since he had already bought those.

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Ben Ivey: Made a motion to approve payment of \$30,100.00 from capital funds in place of the funds previously approved for radios and computers.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II called for any comments from elected officials.

Sheriff Jeff Bailey stated they had to put down one of their K9 animals who will be really missed as he was important to the department as part of their K9 team.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II introduced a resolution authorizing a First Amendment to the Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between Volvo Car USA LLC and Union County, South Carolina dated December 1, 2018, providing for the extension of the investment period, and other matters related thereto. This would extend the FILOT for a 5-year period.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution authorizing a First Amendment to the Fee In Lieu of Tax Agreement by and between Volvo Car USA LLC and Union County, South Carolina dated December 1, 2018, providing for the extension of the investment period, and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented for third and final reading an ordinance to amend the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and to amend appropriations for such Union County budgets for County ordinary purposes. This is needed to repair the roof on the Chrysler building.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance to amend the operating and capital budgets of Union County for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, and to amend appropriations for such Union County budgets for County ordinary purposes.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing and approving the expansion of the boundaries of a joint county industrial and business park with Spartanburg County pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution, to include certain property owned and/or operated by South Carolina State Ports Authority or one or more of its affiliates or other related companies; and other matters related thereto. This pertains to the expansion of the State Ports Authority's BMW railyard.

John Flood: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing and approving the expansion of the boundaries of a joint county industrial and business park with Spartanburg County pursuant to Article VIII, Section 13 of the South Carolina Constitution, to include certain property owned and/or operated by South Carolina State Ports Authority or one or more of its affiliates or other related companies; and other matters related thereto.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented for second reading an ordinance authorizing the lease of certain Union County-owned real property to Cellco Partnership; and other matters related thereto. Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated Cellco Verizon has offered to amend or continue the lease for \$28,989.00 a year to lease a cell signal on the County's tower plus provide \$60,000.00 worth of repairs to the tower to shore it up for future years.

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David Sinclair: Made a motion to accept second reading an ordinance authorizing the lease of certain Union County-owned real property to Cellco Partnership; and other matters related thereto.

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II gave his Supervisor's Report. He said we received notification yesterday that the CDBG funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 had been approved for the Goldville fire station. He is working with Jerry Brannon, Rusty Snider, ARC, Department of Commerce and Catawba Regional COG on the Buffalo Mill Park start-up project. The County has two and a half years to complete that project. He said he walked through the old South State Bank building. They should have finished mold remediation and should be finishing up on the third floor. Next week they should be working on cables for security and computers. After that they should do the HVAC then install the sheetrock. His guess was that the offices would move into the building in either March or April. He said they had poured one pad on the Lockhart Boat Ramp but got held up due to the rain. They still have to pour the second slab then finish up with asphalt and sidewalks. The County is taking bids on the jail addition with a pre-bid meeting to be held the beginning of January. They will open bids the middle of January so we will know what that project is going to cost. The County is taking bids for the roof at the Chrysler building. The County tore down three abandoned and unsafe properties in Ottaray in the past two weeks. He said we hate that we lost a K9 in the Sheriff's Office and they will be looking for a new K9 animal.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II called for any committee reports but there were none.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II called for any other business. Councilman John Flood thanked Councilwoman Tracie Campbell and Councilman Ben Ivey for their years of service on County Council as this is their last Council meeting. He said they served with the best interest of the County at heart. Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented Councilman Ben Ivey and Councilwoman Tracie Campbell with a plaque and a gift in appreciation for their dedication and service to Union County.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Ben Ivey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council