

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
LIVE STREAMED TO [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GEARUPUNIONSC](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GEARUPUNIONSC)

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone, Councilwoman Annie Smith, 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. Councilman Danny Bright gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Danny Bright, District 1 – Present

Ralph Tucker, District 2 – Absent

David Sinclair, District 3 – Present via telephone

Annie Smith, 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 December 13, 2022.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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 Phillip Russell, II presented service award certificates and gift certificates for Deborah A. O'Daniel for 10 years and to Pete Diamaduros for 20 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Amy Austin with the Miracle League of Union County gave a recap of the last nine years. She stated they are looking at replacing the surface of the ballfield located at Timken Sports Complex. They are looking at two options to replace the surface with one being the same as what they have now. They have to get quotes to remove the product but just the surfacing and installation has increased by

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\$124,106. They will be seeking grant funds to help with the cost and doing some fundraisers. To replace the surface of the ballfield they are looking at an estimated cost of \$285,468. She asked if County Council would provide any financial assistance for this project since they have supported them in the past. Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated they had done an amazing job with the Miracle League and said Council will be starting the budget process for the new fiscal year. He stated they would consider the request as part of that process.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II said Council needed to set the date and time for the County Council meeting. We have been holding the regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

David Sinclair: Made a motion to leave the regular monthly County Council meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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 Phillip Russell, II said Council needed to consider appointment of the vice-chairman and called for any nominations.

Councilman Danny Bright nominated Councilman David Sinclair to serve as vice-chairman.

John Flood seconded the nomination. Councilman Phillip Russell, II called for any further nominations but there were none. Councilman David Sinclair was appointed to serve as vice-chairman by acclamation of Council.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II called for any nominations for Council Chaplin.

Councilman John Flood nominated Councilman Danny Bright to serve as Council Chaplin. Councilwoman Annie Smith seconded the nomination. Councilman Phillip Russell, II called for any further nominations but there were none. Councilman Danny Bright was appointed to serve as Council Chaplin by acclamation of Council.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II said Council needed to consider appointments to the Standing Committees. He suggested the members of Council review the different committees to see which ones they would like to serve on and come back with those appointments at the Council meeting in February. Council was in agreement.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests to fill vacant budgeted positions but there were none.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated next on the agenda was to consider any requests for capital funds but there were none.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II proposed holding a special meeting of County Council on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 to hold second reading on several ordinances. Council agreed to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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Chairman Phillip Russell, II called for any comments from elected officials but there were none.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II introduced a resolution for the County to provide \$21,500 in matching funds which is 30 percent of the estimated project cost, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the project. The County intends to make an application for \$50,000 to the Appalachian Regional Commission for funding to develop a Regional Tourism Plan for the County.

John Flood: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution for the County to provide \$21,500 in matching funds which is 30 percent of the estimated project cost, as well as any additional funds needed to complete the project.

Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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 Phillip Russell, II presented for third and final 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.

John Flood: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing the lease of certain Union County-owned real property to Cellco Partnership; and other matters related thereto.

Annie Smith: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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 Phillip Russell, II introduced for first reading in title only an amendment to Union County Ordinance Number 272 to place all boards and commissions created pursuant to Union County Council authority under 4-9-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, under the purview of Union County Council. He stated the ordinance would be amended to change the requirement that newly elected Councilmembers could not make appointments to boards and commissions until June after taking office. It would delete some boards and commissions that are appointed by the Governor and would change the composition of the Stadium Commission.

John Flood: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance amendment to a committee and to accept first reading of the amendment to Union County Ordinance Number 272 to place all boards and commissions created pursuant to Union County Council authority under 4-9-30 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended, under the purview of Union County Council.

David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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 Phillip Russell, II introduced for first reading in title only an ordinance authorizing the sale and conveyance of certain Union-County owned real property to the Union-Laurens Commission on

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Higher Education and other matters related thereto. He said this would turn City Park over to USC-Union to develop the ballfield to college standards and the property would revert back to the County if they ceased to exist.

Danny Bright: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the 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.

John Flood: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford asked if the basketball court at City Park would remain the same or would it be private. So many of the recreation facilities are now locked up. What happens to the children that want to play basketball or baseball. Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated the basketball goals at City Park would be removed but Parks and Recreation plan to relocate them. Councilman David Sinclair asked where the helicopter for Spartanburg Regional Hospital would land. Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated the helicopter pad would still be at City Park but on the back side. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith abstained from voting as she is an employee with USC-Union, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford voting in favor of the motion and Councilman John Flood voting in favor of the motion resulting in a majority vote.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II gave his Supervisor's Report. He gave updates for Administration, the Airport, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Animal Control, Codes Enforcement, Community Development, Detention Center, Economic Development, EMS, Facility Maintenance, Fire Service, GIS/911, IT, Public Works, Shop, Recycling, Timken Park, Parks and Recreation, and Tourism. Special projects included an update on the roof bid for the Chrysler Building, progress on Lockhart Boat Ramp, South State Bank Building and Cott Computer System. He reported that bridge repairs by the South Carolina Department of Transportation would begin soon in Union County

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

Chairman Phillip Russell, II asked if Councilmembers had any comments or announcements but there were none.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II called for a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

John Flood: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter

Danny Bright: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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 Union County Council went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II stated they were ready to close executive session and no votes were taken during executive session.

The Union County Council closed executive session and returned the meeting to regular session.

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John Flood: Made a motion to appoint Kindra Horne as the Clerk to Council.

Annie Smith: Seconded the motion.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II did a call for votes with Councilman Danny Bright voting in favor of the motion, Councilman David Sinclair via telephone voting in favor of the motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith 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.

Annie Smith: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council