

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE
LIVE STREAMED TO WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GEARUPUNIONSC

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Vice Chairman David Sinclair, Councilwoman Annie Smith, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, Councilman John Flood, Clerk to Council Kindra Horne 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
Annie Smith, District 4 - Present
Carolyn Rutherford, District 5 – Present
John Flood, District 6 – Present

Chairman Russell made note that prior to the meeting two public hearings had been held and that we were now in a business meeting. He noted that all council members had been provided with a draft of the minutes from the January 10th regular meeting as well as the January 24th special meeting. He called for any additions, deletions or corrections and none were noted. He called for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Council member Annie Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Councilmember John Flood made a second, Chairman Russell asked for comments, none were made. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Russell presented service awards as follows:

Finance Director Ann Boggs-5 YOS
Recycle Attendants-Nathan Dogan and Thomas Crocker 10 YOS

Chairman Russell recognized Andrew Dobson with Halliday, Swartz & Co. to present the 2022 FY Audited Financial Statements. Mr. Dobson provided hard copies of the Audit to all of Council. He noted that the firm had no significant difficulties in performing the Audit. He explained that there were no misstatements and no material adjustments noted as well as no disagreements with the County management. He explained the financial statements that had been given to Council noting that the County received an unmodified opinion, which is the highest and best that could be given. He noted that the County had expended less than budgeted

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

which meant that the County was doing well managing expenses against revenues. We would see a net change in fund balance of about \$1.4 million this year resulting in a total fund balance of \$10,303,261.00. He explained that what that meant was that we had a healthy fund balance, and that our largest increase in expense had been salary and benefits as well as an inflationary increase in cost of supplies like EMS medical supplies and supplies to care for inmates at the Detention Center. He went on to explain the Single Audit, and the process of taking a look at Internal Controls over cash, revenue, capital assets, and if we were following state law. He explained that any funds held by a government entity are required to be collateralized and what they found was that of the funds held by the County on June 30, 2022 our collateral was less than the total funds that we had on hand, resulting in the County being under collateralized. He explained that everyone was working with the bank to remedy the issue by looking at banking options. All in all, we had a good year and it was a testament to what Ms. Boggs does in Finance for the County. Chairman Russell explained that the under-collateralization issue was a result of the ARPA grant funds being deposited electronically around that date.

Mr. Russell recognized Hannah Jarrett and Lakenya Young with United Way of the Piedmont. Mrs. Jarrett introduced herself and stated that she was here to share an update and information. She explained in 2017 United Way began providing a Community Resource Coordinator service and that we now have a full-time employee dedicated to Union. Lakenya Young, who was born and raised here is now the full time Coordinator to assist families struggling to make ends meet. She provided Ms. Young's contact information and gave Council handouts and business cards for them to share with their constituents.

Chairman Russell moved on to the next item on the agenda which was to discuss the Standing Committee Appointments. He had sent out a proposal to Council for recommendations and received feedback from one Councilmember. He made the adjustment recommended based on that. Council has the proposal in their packets. All Council were fine with the proposal and offered no suggestions. Councilmember David Sinclair made a motion to accept Chairman Russell's proposed Standing Committee Appointments, Councilmember John Flood made a 2nd. Chairman Russell called for discussion and there was none. The motion was approved unanimously with the committee appointments being made as follows:

Administration & Finance

John Flood-Chair	Danny Bright
Ralph Tucker	David Sinclair
Annie Smith	Carolyn Rutherford

Public Roads, Bridges and County Property

David Sinclair-Chair	Danny Bright
Carolyn Rutherford	Ralph Tucker

Personnel, County Offices and Departments

Annie Smith-Chair	David Sinclair
Danny Bright	John Flood

Public Health and Social Services

Carolyn Rutherford-Chair	Annie Smith
Ralph Tucker	David Sinclair

Law Enforcement, Judiciary & Recreation

Danny Bright-Chair	David Sinclair
Carolyn Rutherford	Ralph Tucker

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Planning and Development

David Sinclair-Chair John Flood
Annie Smith Danny Bright

Chairman Russell called for any request to fill budgeted vacant positions. There were none.

Chairman Russell called for any Capital Fund expenditure requests. There were none.

Chairman Russell noted the next item was to consider matching funds for an approved Regional Tourism Grant. He explained that the County match was approved in January but Council made no designation of where the funds would be taken and that needed to be done. Councilman Danny Bright made a motion to take the match in the amount of \$21,500 from the Hospitality and Accommodations fund 215, Councilwomen Carolyn Rutherford made a second, Chairman Russell called for discussion, there was none. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Russell called for reports from Elected Officials, there were none.

Chairman Russell introduced the Ordinance authorizing the sale and conveyance of County owned property to Union-Laurens Commission on Higher Education (3rd Reading). Councilman John Flood made a motion to adopt the ordinance, a second was made by Councilman David Sinclair. Chairman Russell called for discussion, there was none. Prior to taking a vote Chairman Russell noted that Councilwoman Annie Smith was recusing herself from the vote as she is an employee at USC-U. He called for the vote and the vote was 4-0 with all voting members in favor.

Chairman Russell went over his supervisor's report with Council noting that the Audit was completed, a number of Department Heads were working with WBCU to market items to the public, the Airport was finishing up work on the tarmac and would soon be attending an FAA Conference in Spartanburg. UCCADA is working with the schools and local law enforcement, the Assessors Office has completed reassessment and has one appeal, Animal Control put out over 130 nuisance violations and Code Enforcement brought 31 properties up to code and had two properties torn down and collected 21 bags of trash and 19 tires and responded to over 200 Animal calls in the month of January, they are actively adopting animals at the Shelter. Community Development has been monitoring the roll out on the transportation project. As of this report 41 trips have been made. They are continuing to work on broad band access. Mrs. Rutherford, questioned how Code Enforcement determined whose property to tag. Mr. Russell explained that the officers go by the Property Maintenance Code. He told her if there were particular properties, she had concerns about to please notify him outside of the Council Meeting and he would be glad for the two of them to go and take a look and determine if there are issues. Mr. Russell explained that the Detention Center expansion bid came back \$1.5 million over budget. He has requested a meeting with the Architect and the low bidder to see if there was a way to lower the cost. He noted that we had 84 non-sentenced inmates with many in for more than 2 years and one for over 4. We have 1857 backed up court cases in Union County. He is in conversation with Rep. Doug Gilliam, Sen. Shane Martin, Solicitor Bracket and the Public Defender on solutions and he will keep Council apprised. Economic Development is working on several projects that could result in over \$500 million in investment and 1200 jobs, another 14 possible clients interested, and we have two potential retail projects. EMS ran 443 calls in January, with an average on scene time of just over 9 minutes. Fire Service had 261 calls in January. The back-up 911 system is up and running as of today. IT is working to get the new Administrative Offices up and running. Public Works spent over 200 hours on drainage maintenance due to all of the rain we have had. The Solid Waste Division disposed of 541 tons of waste, and almost 5 tons of e-waste was recycled. The cardboard baler is up and running and we are ready to recycle that. The Equipment Shop processed 48 work orders. Parks and

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Rec is busy, ball has started and they are in full swing. We are working on a plan for expansion of services at Timken Park and South Hills Complex. MycoWorks has extended their lease for 103 West Main. The initial work on Goldville Fire Department has begun and bids will go out soon. We have a team of employees working on getting a spring-cleaning initiative started to clean up some neighborhoods. Tourism is starting work on a hotel feasibility study, so that we can market for a new hotel. We are looking at options for replacing our gateway signs and we are working on getting all new vehicles marked up.

Chairman Russell called for Council announcements. Councilman David Sinclair asked for an update on the proposed relocation of the John Hart Recycle Center. Mr. Russell stated that the attorney has the lease and we are waiting to get that back. Councilman Sinclair asked if we were looking at a plan to maintain litter control other than the spring-cleaning initiative? Mr. Russell said that he had met with Department Heads and that they had been notified that Fridays were litter day and that all available inmates would be used for that purpose, but that he wanted people to know this was a social problem that what we needed was to identify money to hire someone specifically for litter control, but we need for people to understand that we need to educate people on not littering. We can't fix it by ourselves. Councilman Flood asked Detention Center Director Niel McKeown, what the story was with inmates. He knew the State stopped us from taking them out during COVID, Director McKeown stated that the availability of inmates was not the problem, the problem was the availability of staff to take them out. We just don't have the employees to take them out. He says on occasion we don't have enough inmates. Mr. Russell stated that we have a scheduling problem and that he was going to take over the scheduling of that and we were picking up trash every Friday. Chairman Russell asked if there was anything else. Councilman Flood made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Sinclair made the second, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman
Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council