

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Council Vice Chair David Sinclair, Councilwoman Annie Smith, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, Councilman John Flood, and Clerk to Council Kindra Horne.

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 at 5:30PM. 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  
District 2 – Vacant  
David Sinclair, District 3 – Present  
Annie Smith, District 4 - Present  
Carolyn Rutherford, District 5 – Present  
John Flood, District 6 – Present

Councilman John Flood: Made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on June 20, 2023.

Vice Chair David Sinclair: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II asked for questions, comments, deletions and there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote with the result being all in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented service awards to the following: Ashley Ivey Voiselle 5 years of service-Sheriff's Deputy, James Pat Littlejohn 15 years of service-Election Commission, and Kristen Spencer 5 years of service-Sheriff's Deputy.

The next item on the agenda was for appointments to Boards and Commissions, with the following recommendations and appointments made:

AIRPORT COMMISSION, 3 vacancies and 3 appointments made

Chairman Russell recommended Antonio Distefano for appointment, vice-chair Sinclair seconded the motion and all council members voted in favor of the motion.

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Councilman Danny Bright recommended Steve Bogan for appointment, vice-chair Sinclair seconded and all of council voted in favor.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Daniel Burnett for appointment, councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford seconded and all of council voted in favor.

UC ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION, 3 vacancies and 3 appointments made

Chairman Russell recommended Charles Lott Sr., councilwoman Annie Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Councilman Danny Bright passed on his appointment.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Robin Foster Rodgers, councilman Danny Bright seconded and all voted in favor.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended Mary Owens for appointment, councilwoman Annie Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

APPEALS BOARD, 5 Vacancies and 4 appointments made {District 2 appointment held until council seat is filled}

Chairman Russell recommended George Goins, councilwoman Rutherford seconded, and all voted in favor.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended Linda Balek, vice-chair David Sinclair seconded and all voted in favor.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Jimmie “Butch” Carter, councilman John Flood seconded and all voted in favor.

Councilman John Flood recommended Elise Ashby, councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford seconded and all voted in favor.

FAIR BOARD, 3 vacancies and 3 appointments made

Chairman Russell recommended Amanda Black, councilman John Flood seconded, and all voted in favor.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended William Jolly, councilwoman Annie Smith seconded, and all voted in favor.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Gerald “Tony” Gregory, vice-chair Sinclair, seconded and all voted in favor.

LIBRARY BOARD, 3 vacancies and 3 appointments made

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Chairman Russell recommended Rhonda Hollingsworth; councilwoman Annie Smith seconded with all voting in favor.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended Krisit Ford-Scales, vice-chair Sinclair seconded, with all voting in favor.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Emma Garner, vice-chair Sinclair seconded, with all voting in favor.

PLANNING COMMISSION. 4 vacancies, 3 appointments made {District 2 appointment is held until council seat is filled}

Chairman Russell recommended Staci Morrison, councilman Bright seconded and all voted in favor of the appointment.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended Tom Balek, vice-chair Sinclair seconded; voting in favor were Danny Bright, David Sinclair, Annie Smith and John Flood. Councilwoman Rutherford abstained from voting. The appointment carried with 4 votes.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Daniel Crocker, Councilman John Flood seconded and all voted in favor.

TOURISM COMMISSION, 3 vacancies and 2 appointments made

Chairman Russell recommended Elizabeth Oliver, councilwoman Annie Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Councilman Bright stated that he wanted to wait on his recommendation and that he would make it at a later meeting.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Elizabeth Harris, councilman John Flood seconded and all voted in favor.

Chairman Russell stated that moving on to the Fire Boards, since they were not set up to be appointed by specific council seats that any council member could make a recommendation and that they could make recommendations by one at a time or by more than one.

Councilwoman Annie Smith recommended Chis Scott, Phil Garner and Julie Gregory for appointment to the Bonham Fire Board. Councilman John Flood seconded, Danny Bright, David Sinclair, Annie Smith and John Flood voted in favor of the appointments and Carolyn Rutherford was opposed.

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Vice-Chair David Sinclair recommended Bobby Pollander, James “Walker” Smith, Ernest Crocker, and Kenny Puckett to the Buffalo Fire Board. Councilman Bright seconded, voting in favor were Danny Bright, David Sinclair, Annie Smith, and John Flood. Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford was opposed.

Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford made a recommendation to appoint Mike Spencer, Jr. Patricia Jeter, Kimberly Booker and Keith O. Spencer to the Carlilse Fire Board. Councilwoman Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Vice-Chair David Sinclair recommended appointing James Rice, Michael R. Smith, Sabrina Martin Heuring and Jimmy Estes to the Cross Keys Fire Board, John Flood seconded and all voted in favor.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended appointing Raymond Finch, Harold Browing and Jared Smith to the Kelly Kelton Fire Board. Councilwoman Annie Smith Seconded and all voted in favor.

Philippi Fire Board had four vacancies and three applicants, only two of the applicants were able to be appointed as the third had already been appointed to a different board. This left two unfilled seats on the board. Councilman Danny Bright recommended Tony Neal and Chuck Montgomery to the Philippi Fire Board. Vice Chair Sinclair seconded and all voted in favor.

Moving on, chairman Russell asked for comments from any elected officials present and there were none.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution declaring intent by the County to reimburse expenditures. In the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, Council approved a lease to purchase capital expenditures; which included 4 patrol vehicles for the Sheriff’s Office. The lease to purchase agreement has not been finalized and therefore the funds from it are not available at this time. However, Sheriff Bailey has found the vehicles he needs for his officers in stock at a dealership. If we do not purchase them now, another county could purchase them leaving us to wait months to get the vehicles. In order to purchase the vehicles now, we will use funds from account 327 in the approximate amount of \$260,000.00. Once the lease purchase funds are obtained, we will reimburse the 327 fund for the amount expended. Councilman John Flood made a motion to dispense referring the Resolution to committee and to approve the Resolution declaring intent, vice-chair David Sinclair seconded and all voted in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman Russell gave a brief synopsis of his supervisor's report which he had provided to council.

Chairman Russell called for committee reports and council announcements and there were none.

Councilwoman Annie Smith made a motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05PM.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman  
Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council