

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Councilwoman Annie Smith, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, Councilman John Flood, and Acting Clerk to Council Linda Jolly.

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 – Absent

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 July 11, 2023.

Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II asked for questions, comments, deletions and there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote; the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Phillip Russell, II presented a service award to the following: Larry Yarbrough-5 years of service with the Union County Magistrate's Office

Chairman Phillip Russell called on Jami Trammell as a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board to discuss Retail Strategies services for the upcoming year. She explained that 3 years ago the City of Union and the County entered into a joint contract with the Chamber as the central contact with a company called Retail Strategies and that companies main focus was to recruit retail establishments to Union County. Since that time, we have gained T-Mobile, Tractor Supply, Harbor Freight, Wendy's, Starbucks, and others I can't mention at this time. The three years has passed and we would like to re-up our contract. We would like to do the same contract as before and the County's portion would be \$15,000 the City's would be as well for the first two years, the last year would increase to \$16,250.00. She offered to answer questions, and there were none.

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Chairman Russell called for a motion to accept the new contract with the funds to cover it being taken from fund 327 (Economic Development).

Councilman Bright made the motion and Councilwoman Annie Smith seconded. Chairman Russell called for discussion. Councilman John Flood asked what the cost of the contract was, Chairman Russell and Jami Trammell both stated that it was a \$15,000 contract. (This is on a yearly basis, with the last year increasing to \$16,250.) Jami also noted that we can cancel the contract at any time with 30 days' notice. Councilwoman Rutherford asked if we could get a refund if we cancelled, Jami stated that was not an option. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Russell offered Elected Officials the opportunity to speak and there were no comments.

Chairman Russell introduced Jeff Wright as the new 911 Manager who is scheduled to begin working full time on August 21, 2023.

Chairman Russell announced that we needed to adopt a resolution to enter into a ground lease with Silver Hawk for property to relocate the John Hart Road recycle and convenience center. Councilwoman Annie Smith made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to committee and to adopt the resolution as written. Councilman Danny Bright made a second. Chairman Russell called for discussion. Councilman Flood asked if the property was located on the same tract of land as the current. Chairman Russell states that the new property is adjacent to it, and it is not in a gully. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote was unanimous.

Chairman Russell stated that we have a resolution to provide local match funding of \$675,000 and any additional funds for a CDBG Grant in the amount of \$750,000 for an aerial fire truck for Bonham Fire District. Bonham Fire District is under the County so we must approve, Bonham Fire District will actually be paying the matching funds, not the County. The total estimated cost is \$1,400,000.00.

Councilman Flood made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and to adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for discussion. Councilman Bright asked for an explanation to the public as to why an aerial truck was needed. Councilman Flood explained that the County only has one older ladder truck and we have had so much industrial growth to keep insurance rates we need to have the aerial truck available for use in the County. We can ask for the city to respond, but they aren't part of an automatic aid agreement, so we really need to have our own. Chairman Russell explained the logistics of responding to a fire on the roof of an industry without an aerial truck demonstrating the need for one in the area. Chairman Russell called for a vote which passed unanimously.

The last item on the agenda was a resolution supporting a petition by the HOA of Rockport Subdivision for annexation into Union County from Spartanburg County. Chairman Russell explained that these property owners had originally been in Union but due to a new survey the county lines had been redrawn and these property owners were now in Spartanburg County. Legislature is working with us on this. He called for a motion to accept the resolution, Councilman Flood made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the resolution. Councilman Bright seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for discussion. Councilman Bright wanted to verify that there would be no cost to residents to proceed and Mr. Russell stated there would be no cost. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote passed unanimous.

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The Supervisor's report was provided in written format to Council. Chairman Russell made note that on August 15, 2023 there would be a special election to fill the district two council seat that had been vacant since the passing of Ralph Tucker. He encouraged all eligible voters to get out and vote for their next representative. He gave Council a draft of an annual activity report that will eventually go to the public and the press. He updated on some projects: Boat Ramp is getting asphalt this week, we are looking at the middle of September on a move-in date for South State, and the Detention Center project is under construction. Chairman Russell gave an update on grant information: Carlisle waste water is close to completion, Lockhart ARC tourism grant is completed, Goldville Fire Station is ready to bid on construction, Renaissance Park ARC grant was received, and Buffalo Mill Pond design phase is complete and waiting on DHEC and Army Corp of Engineer permits. Chairman Russell gave council a list of County maintained roads, about half of those roads have been resurfaced since 2015. He wants to implement a work order system to report roads that need attention to Public Works.

Chairman Russell asked for committee reports and there were none.

Chairman Russell asked for Council announcements. Councilman Flood expressed the need for volunteer fireman around the county.

There were no other announcements and Councilman Flood made a motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Rutherford seconded and all were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Acting Clerk to Council