

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Councilman John Glenn, Vice Chair David Sinclair, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, Councilman John Flood, and Clerk to Council Kindra Horne. Councilwoman Annie Smith was present at the beginning of the meeting via phone, but was unable to participate due to service going in and out.

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 lead by vice chair David Sinclair.

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

Danny Bright, District 1 – Present

John Glenn, District 2-Present

David Sinclair, District 3 – Present

Annie Smith, District 4 – Present at roll call via phone, but did not vote on any motions or participate in discussion

Carolyn Rutherford, District 5 – Present

John Flood, District 6 – Present

Vice chair David Sinclair: Made a motion to approve the minutes as written for the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on August 8, 2023.

Councilman John Flood: Seconded the motion. Chairman Phillip Russell, II asked for questions, comments or deletions and there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote; the motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Russell called for any board appointments or recommendations. Councilman Danny Bright recommended that council appoint Arthur Hirschmann to the Union County Tourism Commission. Vice chair Sinclair seconded and Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Chairman Russell called on Kathy Jo Lancaster, Director of Community Development for Union County and Mr. Matt Willis, Director of State Government Affairs for Charter Spectrum to provide an update on the broad band build out for the county. Mr. Willis provided council members with a packet of information. Mrs. Lancaster acknowledged that we had been working on this since 2019 and much

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progress has been made. Mr. Willis, referred to the packet he had provided, Charter is building out broad band to over 3000 homes. Addresses to the homes are not included in the packet, but can be provided upon request. He explained the maps that were included in the packet to council. Vice chair Sinclair asked if there was a percentage of people who would have coverage. Mrs. Lancaster stated it was 95%. She also noted that Charter had absorbed the local match portions of the grants that had been awarded. Mr. Willis explained the permitting, poling and installation process of building out broad band, and stated that council was welcome to reach out to him throughout the process and ask specific questions.

Chairman Russell introduced a Resolution to set the Tax Levy for the 2024 Fiscal Year, he explained that a public hearing had been held prior to today's meeting with only one question concerning the difference between higher ed and Spartanburg Community College, he explained that higher ed was USC-U. Councilman John Flood made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to committee and to adopt the Tax Levy Resolution as written. Vice chair Sinclair seconded the motion and chairman Russell called for questions or discussion, there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell notified council of a serious plumbing issue at the 911 communications building. A contractor has come in and found that the best and most cost-effective way to repair the problem is through a process called pipe bursting, the cost is \$42,000. We are covering this from our operational contingency.

Chairman Russell introduced item four on the agenda, councilman Flood is requesting that Council amend the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance to increase funding to the Rescue Squad from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Amending the budget would require three readings and a public hearing. Chairman Russell turned it over to councilman Flood. Councilman Flood made a motion to begin the process of amending the Budget Ordinance. Vice chair David Sinclair made a motion to table, pending a meeting with fire and rescue's chief and board to gain more information. Chairman Russell asked if there was a second to table, councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford made a second to table. Chairman Russell called for a vote, with Danny Bright, John Glenn, David Sinclair and Carolyn Rutherford voting to table and John Flood opposing; the motion to table carried.

Chairman Russell asked if any elected officials had information to share. Sheriff Bailey said his department was getting out and doing security awareness presentations and if any organizations or churches wanted those to contact his office. He also announced that the explorer program was up and running and doing very well.

Chairman Russell called for a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel and contractual matter. Vice chair Sinclair made the motion seconded by Danny Bright. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously. Council entered executive session at approximately 5:50pm.

Council exited executive session at 7:03pm. Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford made a motion to end executive session seconded by Vice chair Sinclair. Chairman Russell called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Russell announced that council was out of executive session and that no action and no votes were made or taken during executive session.

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Based on discussions in executive session Councilman Danny Bright made a motion to hire a Clerk in the Delinquent Tax office. Councilman John Flood seconded the motion and Chairman Russell called for discussion, there was no discussion or questions. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell briefly went over the Supervisor's Report which was provided to Council.

Chairman Russell called for committee reports, members of council requested that a committee meeting be scheduled to discuss Rescue Squad funding.

Chairman Russell called for other announcements and there were none.

Councilwoman Rutherford made a motion to adjourn seconded by councilman Flood. Chairman Russell called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman  
Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council