

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 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 Annie Smith-via phone Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford-via phone, 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  
John Glenn, District 2-Present  
David Sinclair, District 3 – Present  
Annie Smith, District 4 – Present-via phone (out of town)  
Carolyn Rutherford, District 5 – Present via phone (sick)  
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 September 12, 2023. Councilman John Glenn seconded the motion. The Clerk to Council performed a roll call vote with all members voting in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell presented three service awards to the following:

LaWayne Anderson-Clerk of Court's Office for 5 years of service  
Kayla B. Fowler-Auditor's Office for 5 years of service.  
Tracey Wade-Sheriff's Office for 15 years of service. Tracey had been omitted from the service award list in error, earlier in the year when she should have received her award.

Chairman Russell brought to the attention of council that the Institute of Innovation in Cherokee County has sent a letter requesting the donation of a deadline police vehicle to be used for training purposes at their educational facility. Councilman Danny Bright made a motion to donate an available out of service unit to the Cherokee County Institute of Innovation. Vice chair David Sinclair seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for discussion. John Flood asked why they could not get it from their own county. Chairman Russell stated that he had asked that question as well and that he was told that there

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2023

were none available at this time and the school had been waiting for a number of years. Councilman Flood asked about the condition of the vehicle we had in mind for donation. Chairman Russell stated that he and Sheriff Bailey have looked at two vehicles as options, one is an unmarked unit with the front undercarriage missing, the second is a marked unit with front end damage both high miles. There were no other questions. The Clerk to Council performed a roll call vote with all members voting in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell recognized Mary Owens with Sistas and Brothers on the Move. Ms. Owens had made a request for funds during budget workshops and requested to be on the meeting agenda to do so once more. Ms. Owens greeted Council and noted that at the time of her budget presentation last year she did not have her 501c3, and she did have that now; but at this time, she wanted to withdraw her bid that she made for last year as she did not realize she was overbidding. She said that today she wanted to ask for a donation for snacks, bingo and anything to help with their programs. Chairman Russell explained that council could not act on that tonight they would have to refer it to the Finance Committee. He explained that our budget was set, and we would have to begin the budget for the new year soon and she would have the opportunity to come and request a donation along with other outside agencies at that time. He thanked Ms. Owens for the work she is doing.

Chairman Russell notified council that last week he had been notified of a number of sink holes on the property that the county owns at the old Buffalo Mill site. Staff went out and determined there were several holes, many from collapsed drain lines. There is a tunnel under the property and there are many major holes where you can look down and see the tunnel through the ground. The property has been used a great deal for things and now that we know the holes are there, we don't need people on the property. We cannot make repairs at this time due to the environment studies that have to be done. Chairman Russell says that he is proposing using no more than \$35,000 to erect a six-foot fence around the property from the community development fund. It will have three gates, signage and will stay locked. Councilman John Flood asked about the area. Chairman Russell asked for a motion so they can move to discussion. Councilman Danny Bright made a motion and Vice chair Sinclair seconded the motion. Chairman Russell explained that the property was the grassy field across from the pond below the old mill parking lot and that he had included a map in the Supervisor's report. Vice chair Sinclair stated that \$35,000 was a lot of money for a fence, and he would like to know if we could reuse the fencing for something when we do start renovations on the property, or could we not just fill the holes in. Chairman Russell stated we had filled in what we could, but a new can open up at anytime without warning and we may not know and someone could get hurt. Chairman Russell said there is a possibility that the fencing could be repurposed. Councilman Glenn asked if we could consider just putting up no trespassing signs before spending \$35,000.00 on a fence. Chairman Russell says that the signs do not create a barricade and some people don't read or can't read and we could still face an issue if someone were injured. County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros explains that the fence is what needed to be done to protect the county. Councilman Bright asked about temporary fencing and Chairman Russell says there is no cost difference. There were no other questions. The Clerk to Council performed a roll call vote with all of council voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Russell moved to the next item on the agenda which was to consider allocating \$7500.00 from the Hospitality and Accommodation fund to fund additional public safety needs during the Union County Fair. Councilman John Glenn made a motion, Councilwoman Annie Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell explained that the City of Union Public Safety Department typically worked the

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2023

crosswalks, but this year they cannot due to a staffing shortage. The Sheriff's Office is going to have to handle it this year. He says the cost will be around \$1800.00 for that, but we have also got to station EMS at the fair and in prior years we have paid for that from the EMS budget, which puts a strain on them. He said that these funds should be able to assist with things of this nature. Vice chair Sinclair said it was important to note that the fair was already covering the cost to have officers staff inside the fairgrounds. Councilman Flood asked if he was talking about staffing an extra EMS truck or to offset the cost of taking a truck out of service. Chairman Russell said a specific truck would be at the fair, not a truck that would be on the road, an augmented extra truck. Chairman Russell called for other questions. Councilman Flood asked how many times EMS had transported out of the fair. Chairman Russell said he did not have that answer. Chairman Russell stated that anytime you have something like this you needed EMS provisions based on the rules of incident command. Councilman Flood said we had not required it for Coon Hunts or other big events like Uniquely Union. Chairman Russell said that we had required a truck for Uniquely Union and they brought in additional units. He understands the concern, he is just trying to offset the cost. Councilman Flood said he understood, but he wasn't sure of the prudence of dedicating a truck and parking it there and taking it out of service. Chairman Russell explained it was an extra truck, not the three that are typically on duty that it would be a fourth unit. Councilman Bright asked if there were a massive emergency would that truck leave and respond and Chairman Russell said yes. There were no other questions. A roll call vote was performed with all of council voting in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Russell called for any elected officials wishing to speak. There were none.

Chairman Russell moved to an Inducement Resolution for Project Rembrandt. He explained that this was a pre-agreement for a company Dolton was meeting with and if we are successful these are the terms we would use in the FILOT. There was a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the Inducement Resolution by Vice chair David Sinclair and a second by councilman John Flood. The Clerk to Council performed a roll call vote with all of council voting in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Russell announced First Reading of an Ordinance in Title only for Project Lighting. This company is an existing company that will be replacing equipment and entering into a FILOT. Councilman John Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and to adopt First Reading of the Ordinance for Project Lighting. Vice chair David Sinclair seconded the motion. There were no questions on the motion and the Clerk performed a roll call vote with all of council voting in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Russell stated that the Supervisor's report was posted online. He gave an update on the South State building, the Detention Center project, the Lockhart Boat Ramp, the Spartanburg County line project is moving along. He gave updates on ongoing grant projects. Councilman Flood asked if in the future in the Supervisor's report could we do a summarization of Dolton's work on what had been done and confirmed and what was in the works. Chairman Russell stated that we tried to do that, it was covered in the report and he didn't try to give an annual, just a month to month and that it was provided in the annual report. Councilman Flood stated he wanted it each month as a year to date to prove council was really killing themselves trying to recruit more industry and good paying jobs. Chairman Russell said you could definitely see that in the annual report, but we would try to provide something additional.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2023

Chairman Russell called for committee reports. Councilwoman Rutherford asked if there would be flyers for the Halloween movie night. Chairman Russell said we did have some and an announcement had posted and he would get her some to have. Councilman Russell called for committee reports again. Councilman Flood stated he wanted to call a Finance Committee meeting. It was decided to hold that on October 23, at 5:30PM.

Councilman John Glenn announced he would be in Cross Keys on October 21 from 12PM-2PM to speak with citizens about concerns.

There was no other business. Councilman Flood made a motion to adjourn Vice chair Sinclair seconded, all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman  
Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council