

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024 AT 5:30 P.M.  
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Councilman John Glenn, Councilwoman Annie Smith, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, Councilman John Flood, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros 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 Russell opened the meeting at 5:30PM. Councilman Danny Bright gave the invocation and Vice Chairman David Sinclair led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk performed the roll call with the following results:

District 1-Danny Bright was present  
District 2-John Glenn was present  
District 3-District 3 David Sinclair was present  
District 4-Annie Smith was present  
District 5-Carolyn Rutherford was present  
District 6-John Flood was present

Vice Chairman Sinclair made a motion to accept the minutes for the December meeting as written and councilman Flood seconded. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none; he called for the vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell presented service awards to the following:

Kathy Jo Lancaster-Community Development Director for 5 years of service  
Horace Keith Vanderford-Chairman of the Election Commission- 35 years of service

Chairman Russell recognized Thomas Standley who had requested to speak and notified him that he had three minutes to address the council.

Mr. Standley is concerned about the lighting at Monarch Mill because there are no lights on the streets. He would like for the county to become a customer of Lockhart Power and have lighting installed in the area around Bubba's Auction.

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Chairman Russell recognized the Destination by Design team who had been awarded a bid for the Regional Tourism Project- funded by an ARC Grant. Curtiss Hunter, Tourism Director introduced the team and Eleanor Mixon from Catawba Regional. Eleanor Mixon spoke about the RFP and turned it over to Ron and Brandon with Destination by Design. The firm is in Boone, NC, and works across the southeast doing communication, rebranding, and design. They are very familiar with tourism development, and this is what they will be doing for Union, in an effort to bring more economic development to the Union. This will be about an 8-month process, they will start this month. A public meeting should be held in early summer to allow the public to view the proposed plan and the plan will come before council by early fall.

Chairman Russell requested a motion to award the Regional Tourism Project contract to Destination by Design. Councilman Bright made the motion to award and councilman Glenn seconded the motion. Mr. Russell called for discussion, but there was none. Chairman Russell called for the vote, all voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Russell announced that council must appoint an advisory board for the tourism project. Three members were already appointed in the initial phase of the RFP process, they were: Curtiss Hunter, Kevin Shropshire, and Jay Allen. Council needs to appoint some additional members and Mr. Russell suggested that each municipality provide us with a recommendation and council can fill some additional slots as well. The municipalities appointed the following: Bernice Canupp-Lockhart, Ann Stevens Brown-Carlisle, Harold Thompson-City of Union, and Jonesville did not make an appointment.

Councilman Danny Bright recommended Stanley Clowney Jr., councilman Glenn seconded, Mr. Russell called for the vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Vice chair David Sinclair recommended Paul Davis, councilman Flood seconded the motion and the vote counted unanimously.

Councilman John Glenn recommended Mary Hooker, councilwoman Annie Smith seconded and the vote carried unanimously.

Councilman Bright asked if there were any council members on the committee and Chairman Russell said there were not. He asked if any of council wanted to be on the committee. Councilman Bright suggested that Vice chair Sinclair serve, council agreed and Vice chair Sinclair agreed to serve.

Councilman John Glenn also volunteered to serve. Council agreed that with these appointments the committee was complete with 11 members.

Chairman Russell informed the council that the meeting schedule for 2024 needed to be set. A proposed schedule was in the council packet, the meetings would remain on the second Tuesday of each month except June, which would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday due to the June primary election. Vice-chair Sinclair made a motion to adopt the proposed schedule, councilwoman Annie Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none, and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell announced that there were some vacancies on boards and the information on the boards was in the packets. There are 2 on UCCADAC, 1 on the Appeals Board, several on the Building Code Board of Appeals and 1 on the Planning Commission. An advertisement for vacancies will be published in the Union County News.

Chairman Russell discussed the Sheriff's request to use funds that had been approved for iCrime Fighter Software to cover a grant match for body worn cameras. We have a \$12,500 match on a grant we

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received to purchase body worn cameras. We had initially approved \$25,000 for iCrime Fighter but the software would not integrate with the counties system and therefore we did not purchase it. We used \$3,000 to replace an NCIC server at 911, that SLED required us to update. Councilman John Flood made a motion to allow the funds to be used for the grant match. Vice chair Sinclair seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none. He called for the vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell, introduced a letter received by Dean Lowell at USC Union requesting that the County transfer the annex building, now known as the Rippey Building. The building is currently being leased by the University for a term of twenty years. There is no fee for the lease other than the utilities, insurance and regular maintenance on a reimbursement schedule. The building is in deficient condition and the University cannot cover the cost of repairs if it does not belong to them. Councilman Flood made a motion that in keeping with what he believed the intent of council was when it was leased to gift the building to USC that the county proceed without further ado. There was no second, and the motion died. Council Bright made a motion to refer to the committee on Public Works, Bridges, and County Property for further investigation. Vice chair Sinclair seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none. He called for a vote and the vote carried with the following vote- Bright, Glenn, Sinclair and Rutherford for. Flood against, councilwoman Smith recused herself from the vote as she is an employee of USC.

Chairman Russell called on the elected officials who were present to speak.

Sheriff Bailey noted the grant that had been discussed earlier in the meetings and thanked everyone for all the help and cooperation during the storms today.

Chairman Russell introduced an Inducement Resolution for Project Tyger. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to accept the Inducement Resolution. Councilwoman Rutherford seconded. Chairman Russell asked for questions, there were none. He called for the vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell introduced First Reading Title only of a FILOT for Project Tyger. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt first reading of the ordinance. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none, he called for the vote which carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell introduced First Reading Title only of a Multi County Park Ordinance for Project Tyger. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt first reading of the ordinance. Councilwoman Rutherford seconded. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none, he called for the vote which carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell, highlighted a thank you note from Cherokee Institute of Innovation and asked everyone to read his Supervisor's Report which had been provided online. He noted all of the calls that had been received during the storms and how well everything went. All employees and staff did a great job.

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Chairman Russell announced that South State Bank is getting close and we should see the elevator completed quickly, we are working on the fire alarm system and once that is complete, we can get a CO; and the Detention Center project is on track and on time and going well.

Goldville Fire Department pre bid meeting was today. Gateway signs, we are working on the property easements. We are going out to bid again soon, we did this once with no response. Vehicle logos are in and going on as vehicles visit the shop for maintenance.

Chairman Russell announced the MLK Day program at SIMS and invited all of council to attend.

Chairman Russell announced two special council meetings that will be on January 16 and January 23.

Chairman Russell called for other announcements, there were none.

Councilwoman Rutherford made a motion to adjourn, councilman John Glenn seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at approximate 6:15PM.

Council

Phillip G. Russell, II, Chair Union County

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council