

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023 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, 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 – Absent
Annie Smith, District 4 – Present-via phone
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 October 10, 2023. Councilman Annie Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote with all members voting in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell presented service awards to the following:

Toni Allen-Probate Judge 10 years of service
Aiken Jeter-Public Works (Recycle) 5 years of service

Chairman Russell moved to the first agenda item and noted that prior to COVID the county had been holding one large Christmas party for all employees. The large party had stopped during COVID and during that time the county elected to give a \$20 allowance for each employee, department heads could purchase a \$20 gift card for each employee to use as they wished or each department could take the \$20 per employee and have their own departmental Christmas meal. Chairman Russell suggest that we continue to provide the \$20 allowance this year, but he also wants council to consider hosting a drop in luncheon. He is requesting that council allot no more than \$10,000 for the \$20 allowance and drop-in luncheon. Councilman John Flood ask how many employees we have, Chairman Russell says it varies

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depending on part time and seasonal needs but 225 is a good average. Councilman John Flood made a motion to allow up to \$10,000 for the purchase of gift cards for employees and to host a drop-in luncheon. Councilman Danny Bright seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none; he called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell stated the next item on the agenda was to discuss training for the boards and commissions appointed by council. He and others on council feel that since we appoint them, we need to provide them training for the job we expect them to do. Council will be receiving some board training on January 23, 2024. The Clerk to Council has reached out to the Association of Counties and they are able to come to Union to provide the training. We will have three dates, two evening dates and a Saturday to accommodate schedules. The dates will be announced once finalized. Council needs to determine who needs to attend and what will happen if they do not. The general consensus of council was all appointed board and committee members needed to attend and if they do not attend then they would be removed. A motion was made by Councilwoman Annie Smith that all board members be required to attend training, if they are unable to attend they must have a viable excuse and will be required to attend make-up training with-in six months. Any appointed board member who does not meet the requirements will be removed by council. Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford seconded the motion. There were no questions, Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimous.

Chairman Russell called on any elected officials with updates. Sheriff Jeff Bailey presented council with SLED's crime statistics some of our numbers were up some were down. He presented a photo of what the new patrol trucks looked like marked up and thanked council for approving them.

Chairman Russell introduced First Reading in Title only of an Ordinance to enter into a multi park agreement with Spartanburg County in reference to Project Lightning. Councilman John Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve first reading. Councilwoman Annie Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell introduced the next item on the agenda which was Second Reading of an Ordinance to enter into a FILOT agreement in reference to Project Lightning. All documents, the Ordinance and FILOT agreement were posted on the county website the Thursday prior to today's meeting. Councilman John Flood made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and to approve second reading. Councilwoman Rutherford seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none. He called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell went over his Supervisor's Report which was posted on the website prior to the meeting. He informed council of the Notice to Quit that had been sent to Raby Construction on the South State Project. They will be out of the building by the 30th of November. Chairman Russell announced the opening of the Lockhart boat ramp.

Chairman Russell called for committee reports, there were none.

Chairman Russell called for council announcements. Councilman Bright announced the Jonesville Festival and the Lockhart Christmas Parade. Councilman Flood announced the Buffalo and Carlilse

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Christmas Parades. Chairman Russell announced the Downtown Open House. Chairman Russell noted the events Calander that we have that is being under-utilized.

Councilwoman Annie Smith made a motion to adjourn seconded by Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 5:30PM.

Phillip Russell, II, Chairman
Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council