

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 09, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M
GRAND JURY ROOM AT UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Dany 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, Daniel Prince at WBCU Radio Station, Graham Williams at the County News, 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 5:30 PM. Councilman Dany Bright gave the invocation and Chairman Russell 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 absent.
District 4 Annie Amith was present.
District 5 Carolyn Rutherford was present.
District 6 John Flood was present.

Chairman Russell presented a service award to Chad Stephens-Public Works for 5 years of Service, and SRO Kevin Smith-5 years of current service but who had many years of service prior to leaving and returning, and to Esther Starnes- 911 for 35 years of service.

Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for the March 12 council meeting. He noted that we would correct the minutes to note that Councilman John Glenn was present as it had been noted that he was absent. He came in just as the roll call had been completed. Chairman Russell asked if there were any other additions or changes to the minutes and there were none. Councilwoman Annie Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with the requested change, councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell moved on to the next item on the agenda which was a request by Councilman Bright to allow individuals to serve on council rule or created boards as well as boards appointed by but not governed by council. Councilman Bright made the motion and Councilman John Glenn seconded the motion. Chairman Russell opened the item for discussion. Councilman Bright noted that in reviewing the Boards and Commissions Ordinance, his interpretation of the ordinance was that it only applied to Boards or Commissions created by County Council. In looking at the long list of vacancies, he does not want to put further restriction on individuals who are willing to serve. Councilman Flood stated that he thought the intent that we had

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enforced was the statement in the ordinance restricting service to one appointment was to restrict the ability of one individual to control multi aspects of the county. Councilman Bright stated that was not what he was referring to, that he was referring to boards that were not created by council. Individuals would still not be allowed to serve on more than one county created or ruled board, but they would be allowed to serve on other boards that are not created or governed by council but for which council is allowed to appoint. Councilman John Glenn said that he had read through the ordinance twice and he was confused by it, but he was not a fan of allowing people to serve on two boards, but that we had a long list of board seats that needed to be filled. He feels the ordinance is hard to understand, he understands what councilman Bright is saying. He thinks we need to clean the ordinance up. Chairman Russell confirmed that our attorney is working on updating the Boards and Commission Ordinance and that it is confusing. It is an old ordinance and had been updated periodically with a sentence here and there to handle things, and he was looking forward to some clarification on how council wishes for him to handle the ordinance. Councilman Flood said that he feels he knows what boards we are talking about and we have a candidate who would not violate the restriction. Councilman Bright pointed out that we didn't have an ordinance that restricts appointments to boards not under county rule. Councilman Flood requested that we move on to the appointment then. Councilman Bright said he was concerned with the next agenda item and because there is a long list of boards that need members. Councilman Flood said he wanted to make clear that if we move forward with allowing appointments to both county rule and non-ruled boards that means that any member of a Special Purpose Fire District could be appointed to county rule boards since the county has no authority over SPD Fire Departments. Chairman Russell called for a vote on the motion with the following results:

Councilpersons Bright, Glenn and Rutherford were in favor of the motion and Councilpersons Smith and Flood were opposed. The motion carried.

Chairman Russell moved on to Board appointments as follows:

UCCADA- District 2 has one vacancy, and there no applications

Appeals Board-no applications.

Building Code Board of Appeals, one applicant. Councilman Bright made a motion to appoint Conley Trammell, Councilman John Glenn seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission-District 2 has one vacancy and one application. Councilman Glenn recommended Timika Wilson, Carolyn Rutherford seconded the motion and the recommendation carried unanimously.

Cross Keys Fire Board-no applications

CRCOG-one vacancy at large, Councilman Bright recommended Mayr Ernest Moore, councilman Flood seconded and the vote carried unanimously.

Tourism-one vacancy and no applicants

KKFD-one vacancy and one application. Councilman Bright made a recommendation to appoint Melissa McFarland, councilman Glenn seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Philippi Fire Dept-no applications.

The next item on the agenda was for council to allow County Supervisor Russell to proceed with having our attorney begin the process of transferring ownership of the Buffalo Mill property to

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the City of Union for the purpose of securing grant funds for an environment clean-up. Councilman John Glenn made a motion to proceed, councilwoman Smith seconded. Chairman Russell called for discussion, councilwoman Rutherford said that people were calling her and that the people from Buffalo are not happy about it and she wanted to clarify that this was the first reading. Chairman Russell clarified that this was not a reading at all. That all we were doing was allowing our attorneys to begin the process of drafting an ordinance that would have to go through three readings and a public hearing. To give a bit of history on the property he stated that the county acquired the property many years ago and held the property too long to be eligible for grants to clean the property up. If it is transferred to the City of Union, they can qualify for the necessary Brownfields grants to clean the property up. The county does not have the money to clean the property up, the City can get the grants. Chairman Russell called for vote since there were no other questions. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was to consider moving forward on accepting a transfer of property located at 307 East Main Street Union, SC for the purpose of entering into a VCC clean-up. The City of Union was going to do this, but you cannot have two VCC clean-ups at once; the City is willing to take the Buffalo Mill property and the County would take this property. Councilman John Glenn made a motion to proceed with accepting the property, councilman Flood seconded; discussion was called for and there was none. Chairman Russell called for the vote. The vote carried unanimously.

The next agenda item was to consider a request from Union County YMCA to donate a 2006 Chevrolet Express Van to the YMCA. The van is not in use and we had planned to auction it. A motion was made to donate the van by councilman John Glenn, a second was made by councilwoman Annie Smith. Chairman Russell called for questions, councilman Flood asked what the van was worth at auction. Chairman Russell stated that there was really no way to know, it would just depend on if there was any demand. There were no other questions so chairman Russell called for the vote which carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell moved on to the Ordinance portion of the meeting and brought attention to the first reading of the 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance, contained in the ordinance are the numbers that were presented to council at a Finance Committee meeting on March 25, 2024. Councilman Flood made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and hold first reading, councilwoman Rutherford seconded. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none, he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

The next ordinance was first reading in title only to allow Sunday alcohol sales. Councilwoman Smith made a motion a motion to dispense referring to committee and proceed with first reading, councilman Flood seconded. Chairman Russell called for questions, he called for the vote and it carried unanimously.

The next ordinance was authorizing a FILOT between Union County and Tyger Solar LLC, third and final reading; the public hearing had been held prior to the council meeting. Councilman John Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the ordinance, councilman Flood seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none and the motion carried unanimously.

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The final ordinance was authorizing the development and approval of a Multi County Industrial Park Project, in reference to Tyler Solar, third and final reading. The public hearing was held prior to the meeting. Councilman Danny Bright made the motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the ordinance, councilman Glenn seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none, he called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Russell recognized elected officials present, Treasurer Debbie Robertson and Sheriff Bailey. They had no comments.

Chairman Russell moved on to the Supervisor's Report, council had been provided a copy of the report, and a copy of the report will be attached to the minutes.

Chairman Russell called for council announcements. Councilman Bright announced that after a public meeting held by SCDOT in reference to a proposed traffic circle to be constructed at the intersection of Bob Little Road, Bobby Faucette Road and Jonesville Lockhart Hwy (SC Hwy 9), that the SCDOT had agreed to place rumble strips leading up to the intersection to and see if this helped prior construction of the traffic circle.

Councilwoman Rutherford announced that she would have her May Day celebration on May 4, 2024 at the original Sims location behind Dixie Curb.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn, councilwoman Rutherford seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:12PM.

Phillip G. Russell, II, Chair, Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council