

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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, 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 Danny Bright gave the invocation and Vice Chairman 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.

Chairman Russell presented a service award the following: Scott Griffin-Sheriff's Office, 35 years.

Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for the April 9, 2024 council meeting, and called for any changes. There were no suggestions for changes to the minutes. Councilman Flood made a motion to adopt the minutes as written. Councilperson Rutherford seconded the motion, Chairman Russell called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for a Special Council Meeting held on April 23, 2024; and called for any additions or deletions. There were no changes suggested and Chairman Russell called for a motion to adopt. Councilman Flood made a motion to adopt the minutes as written, Councilperson Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell called for any Board Appointments or Removals. There were three applicants to the Building Code Board of Appeals. There were four vacancies on the board, 2 regular seats and 2 alternate seats. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to appoint Jeff Tweed, Councilman Flood seconded, there was no discussion or questions so Chairman Russell called for the vote and it carried unanimously. Councilman Flood made a motion to appoint Nixon Small, Councilman Bright seconded, there were no questions and the vote carried unanimously. Danny Bright made a motion to appoint Ryan Whitehead, Vice chair Sinclair seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the vote carried unanimously.

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Chairman Russell introduced Mark Wade, Chief of the Santuc Fire Department and Brandon Norris, Attorney with Burr & Forman. Mr. Norris explained that the Santuc Fire Board had adopted a Resolution to authorize a petition to be submitted to Union County Council to approve issuance of a General Obligation Bond not exceeding \$500,000 for the district. The funds would be used for improvements in the district. Mainly for a new building adjacent to the current station. Mr. Norris allowed Chief Wade to discuss the need and their plans. Mr. Norris explained that the district had identified a need, and that this was the only feasible means to fund the need. The district is requesting that Council approve issuance of the bonds pending a successful referendum. At the next meeting of Council there would be a bond ordinance for first reading for an issuance of a GO bond not to exceed \$500,000, the ordinance will also authorize a referendum to be placed on the ballot for the residents of the Santuc Fire District to vote on the bond. If the referendum is successful there would be a bond issued, if the referendum is not successful then there is not bond. This Ordinance would require three readings and a public hearing. At the next council meeting Council will also be provided a Resolution authorizing a public hearing to be advertised and held prior to third reading of the ordinance. Once issued the bond would be paid using milage from the fire district.

Chief Wade explained to council that they would like to build a building to hold training and to have showers and a way to clean turn out gear. The station that is there now, is basically a garage for the equipment and is not sufficient for the needs of the department. Councilman Flood asked how much the milage would be. Chief Wade said they were in the process of determining that now. Brandon said that they were working with the Auditor to get that, it is looking like it may be between 7-9 mils, but we can't know until the debt is actually issued.

Chairman Russell, said that Chief Wade had approached him a while back and had asked what the process would be to do this. He referred Chief Wade to Burr Foreman and that is what brought us to this. We are moving quickly because if we want to put this on the ballot for the residents to vote on, we have to have it to Voters Registration by August 15, 2024, and we have to have three readings and a public hearing. He explained again that council isn't approving the debt, council is only approving to put it to the voters in the district; then if they approve the debt, council approves the issuance of the bond.

Councilman Bright asked if we had sought out other funding? Brandon explained that there current milage could not fund it because their operating mils are capped just like the county so there are no other ways for them to borrow. Chief Wade says they only get \$30,000 per year. Council Bright pointed out the Goshen Hill Department being built with grant funds, Chairman Russell said that it was being built with CDBG funds. Chief Wade said he had been told that since we had Goshen Hill and the Bonham Aerial Truck under CDBG we couldn't have anymore for a few years. Councilman Glenn pointed out that we are limited to the number of CDBG projects that can be done at once. Councilman Bright said the State had a ton of money. Chairman Russell stated that we have no action listed on this tonight, but that he would want to move forward with first reading for council to consider at the next meeting. Councilman Flood concurred. There were no other questions for Chief Wade or Mr. Norris.

Chairman Russell presented the Prioritized Community Needs list. Council had created the list along with CRCOG. Vice chair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the list as presented, councilperson Smith seconded. There were no questions so Chairman Russell called for the vote, which carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell present the 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance for second reading. He called for a motion to accept second reading. Councilman Flood made a motion to approve second reading, vice chair

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Sinclair seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none; he called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell introduced an Ordinance authorizing allowing the SC DOR to issue permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages without regards to the days or hours of sale and explained that the ordinance was to allow this question to be put on the ballot for public vote. Councilperson Annie Smith made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve second reading. Councilperson Rutherford seconded, chairman Russell called for questions and there were none; he called for a vote with the following results: Danny Bright, John Glenn, Annie Smith, Carolyn Rutherford and John Flood were in favor and Vice chair Sinclair was opposed. The motion carried with a 5-1 vote.

Chairman Russell introduced an Ordinance, 1st reading in title only to transfer to the Buffalo Mill property to the City of Union. Councilman Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve 1st reading, councilman Flood seconded. Chairman Russell called for questions and councilman Flood asked where the reciprocal ordinance was for the property would be getting in exchange. Chairman Russell stated we only have to have a resolution to accept property, not an ordinance, and we won't take possession until there is environmental 1 and 2 study done. Vice chair Sinclair wanted to note that this was only the first step in the process and it was still ongoing and there would need to be some conversation that would need to take place between the city, County, DHEC and the citizens of Buffalo. Chairman Russell noted we are still waiting on the estimate of cost to clean to property up, that the County can't afford to do it and this is a way to get it cleaned up with grant dollars, but we would need to have clarity about what the end goal is. There were no other questions or comments. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell recognized the two elected officials present, Treasurer Robertson and Sheriff Bailey. Sheriff Bailey mentioned the recent search for missing Carlisle resident Lisa Johnson and thanked councilman Glenn, Supervisor Russell and Mayor Ferguson Glenn for their help.

Chairman Russell noted that our County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros had been appointed to a Family Court Judgeship and that his last day with the County would be May 31, 2024. Pete Diamaduros has been serving as our second chair county attorney and has been appointed to a Judgeship as well. Sammy served as county attorney for 24 years and Pete as second chair for 21 years. We thank them for their service and wish them both well. Our new county attorney will be Jennie Williams, she will begin her service as county attorney on June 1, 2024.

Chairman Russell went over his supervisor's report.

Chairman Russell requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilperson Smith made a motion to enter executive session and councilperson Rutherford seconded. The motion carried unanimous. Council entered executive session at 6:09 p.m.

Chairman Russell announced that council was out of executive session at 6:21 p.m. and that there had been no action taken during the executive session.

There were no committee reports.

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Chairman Russell asked if there was any other business, there was none. He called for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Annie Smith made a motion to adjourn, vice chair Sinclair seconded, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council