

MINUTES  
UNION COUNTY REGULAR MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024, 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, Councilwoman Carolyn Rutherford, Councilman John Flood participated by phone, County Attorney Jennifer Williams, 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 on the bulletin board in the Union County Government Building, 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 5:45PM, the meeting was late opening due to a Public Hearing held prior to the meeting.

Chaplain Councilman Danny Bright gave the invocation and vice chair David Sinclair led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Russell requested the Clerk perform roll call.

Roll call was performed with the following results:

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

Chairman Russell presented service awards to the following:

Robert Queen, Public Works-Recycle 5 years of service.  
Michelle Shugart, Victims Advocate 35 years of service.  
Scott Coffey, Sheriff's Office 15 years of service.  
Christina McDowell, Healthy U 5 years of service.  
Darlene Pettit, Elections 15 years of service.

Chairman Russell called for a motion to accept the minutes for the regular May council meeting. Vice chair David Sinclair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the minutes as written. Councilmember Annie Smith seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. Chairman Russell called for the vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell called for a motion to adopt the minutes for the Special Council meeting held on May 21, 2024. Councilmember John Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt

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the minutes as written. Councilmember Flood seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell called for a motion to adopt the minutes for the Special Council Meeting held on May 28, 2024. Vice chair David Sinclair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the minutes as written. Councilmember Bright seconded the motion. There were no questions or calls for discussion. Chairman Russell called for a vote, with all members voting in favor except for Councilmember Rutherford who abstained from voting. The motion carried with 5 votes in favor.

Chairman Russell noted the vacancies on boards and commissions and asked if there were any recommendations. Councilmember John Glenn made note to the attendees who had voiced concern of alcohol abuse in the community at the public hearing held prior to the meeting, and explained to them that we had a vacancy on the board at Healthy U, that would provide them an opportunity to be involved in community education and prevention of substance abuse. There were two applicants for fire boards, but no applications had been received for any other boards or commissions. Councilmember Danny Bright recommended Jeff Grizzle for the Kelly Kelton Fire Board, Councilmember Glenn seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion carried unanimously. Councilmember John Glenn made a motion to appoint Stanley Clowney to the Phillipi Fire Board, Councilmember Bright seconded the motion. There was no discussion, chairman Russell called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell explained to council that we had been offered a grant to purchase a body scanner for the Union County Detention Center. This grant is being offered by SC DHEC, and will aid in the discovery of contraband at the detention facility. The grant will cover the cost of the scanner up to \$218,700.00. We have received a quote for \$215,594.00, so we should be able to purchase the scanner solely with grant funding. Councilmember John Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and accept the grant award, councilmember Rutherford seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. Chairman Russell called for the vote and the vote carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was approval of an additional \$31,092 in local match funding for an Aerial truck for Bonham Fire Department. There is a CDBG grant for the purchase of the truck for \$750,000. The local match funds above that will be paid by the fire department. There has already been a Resolution authorizing the grant and the expected local match by Bonham; however, the bids came in \$31,092 over what had previously been approved. Council must approve the additional and agree to the awarding of the bid. Councilmember John Glenn made a motion to approve, councilmember Smith seconded the motion. There was not discussion or questions. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell read the Ordinance approving a referendum to be placed on the ballot of the November general election that would allow the public to vote on Sunday alcohol sales. Councilmember Annie Smith made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the Ordinance, councilmember Rutherford seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions or discussion. Vice chair Sinclair noted that he had read that 6.6 billion dollars was spent last year on substance abuse and treatment by the government, and that he felt that it was pretty wild, and that he was concerned that the county was only thinking about the amount of revenue that Sunday alcohol sales could make us. Councilmember Rutherford asked if that was for drugs or alcohol, Vice chair Sinclair

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said that the article did not differentiate. There were not other questions. Chairman Russell called for a vote. The motion carried 5/1 with Councilmembers, Bright, Glenn, Smith, Rutherford and Flood in favor of the motion and Vice chair Sinclair opposed.

Chairman Russell introduced the 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance for 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading. He called for a motion to adopt the Ordinance as recommended by the Finance Committee on May 28, 2024. Vice chair David Sinclair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt, councilmember Danny Bright seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. Chairman Russell called for a vote. The motion carried with 5 yes votes. Councilmember Rutherford abstained from voting.

Chairman Russell introduced 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of an Ordinance allowing Santuc Fire District to submit a question for referendum as to whether their fire district should issue a \$500,000 GO Bond. The fire department would like to take out a bond, they are going to ask the voters in the district to approve the bond. If the referendum passes, they can take out a bond to build an addition on their fire department. Councilmember John Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ordinance. Councilmember Flood seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion and Chairman Russell called for a vote. The vote carried unanimously.

There were no comments from elected officials.

Chairman Russell went over his supervisor's report that had been emailed to council.

Chairman Russell requested a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter related to organizational structure. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to enter executive session, councilmember Smith seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the vote carried unanimously to enter executive session at 6:13pm.

At 7:08pm councilmember Smith made a motion to exit executive session, councilmember Rutherford seconded the motion, chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimously. He announced that no action was taken and no votes were held during the session. Councilmember John Glenn made motion to accept the executive session as an information only session, councilmember Rutherford seconded. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Vice chair David Sinclair made a motion to adjourn the meeting, councilmember Smith seconded, the vote carried unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

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

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council