

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 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 chairman David Sinclair, 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 on the bulletin board at the Union County Government Offices, 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 David Sinclair was present.
- District 4 Annie Smith was present.
- District 5 Carolyn Rutherford was present via phone (out sick).
- District 6 John Flood was present.

Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for the July 9 council meeting. Chairman Russell asked if there were any corrections to be made and there were none. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to approve the minutes as written, councilman Flood seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell presented a service award to Jerry Farr-Detention Center for 5 years of service, and Erin Stokes-Detention Center for 5 years of service.

Chairman Russell called for any Board Appointments or Removals. There were two applications sent to Councilmembers. Chairman Russell recommended James Parris to the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Councilman Flood made a motion to appoint James Parris, Vice chair Sinclair seconded, there were no questions or discussions so Chairman Russell called for a vote and it carried unanimously. Councilwoman Smith recommended Blake Wilson to the serve on Phillippi Fire Department Board; Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to accept and Councilman Bright seconded the motion. Chairman Russell asked if there were any questions, there were none. He called for a vote which carried unanimously.

Councilman Russell moved on to the next item on the agenda. Union County Sheriff's Office was awarded a grant from the Department of Public Safety to cover salary, fringes, and equipment for 4 School Resource Officers for the 2024-2025 school year. This is a 100% reimbursable grant with no County match. The County has received this grant for many years and it is a great source of support for the Sheriff's Office. Councilman Bright made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve acceptance of the grant. Councilman Flood seconded the motion. Chairman Russell asked if there were any questions, there were none. He called for a vote which carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution to adopt the multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Chairman Russell stated that Council had approved the plan at the July 9 Council Meeting, but the State Emergency Management Division wanted the plan adopted as a Resolution. There is no change to the document that Council was provided at the July 9 Council Meeting. Chairman Russell called for a motion, Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for any questions, there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote which carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the Second Reading of the Ordinance to transfer the Buffalo Mill Property from Union County to the City of Union. Chairman Russell stated that he had conversations with our Council of Government and the Environmental Contractors that have completed Phase 1 and 2 and have been working on the property to determine what is needing to be done. Ground well penetration studies are being done as well as a seismic study to determine the size and depth of debris that will need to be removed from the property. This will be the final step in determining the course of action to clean the property up. Chairman Russell stated that a Public Hearing will be needed with members of COG, the contractors, City Council, and County Council and that he was aiming to hold the hearing on the last week September. The hearing would be held at the Buffalo Fire Department Facility. Contractors and COG would be present to provide information and answer questions to members of both Councils and the public. Chairman Russell called for a motion. Vice chair Sinclair made the motion to dispense with referring to committee and approve acceptance of the Second Reading of the Buffalo Mill Property Ordinance. Councilman Flood seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for questions, there were none. He called for a vote, which carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell recognized elected officials present, Treasurer Debbie Robertson and Sheriff Bailey. Sheriff Bailey announced that the Explorer Program was currently hosting an information session until 7:00 P.M. The program was going well and they hope to have more students join this school year. Sheriff Bailey also announced that the Sheriff's Office gave away 750 bookbags at the Union County Fairgrounds and sent the school's the remainder to give to students who did not have them. The event had a great turnout and the Sheriff thanked the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office for providing a helicopter that allowed people to have their picture made with it. Councilman Flood thanked the Sheriff and his staff for hosting and working the event that day. Chairman Russell also announced that the Jamboree hosted by Union County was another event that, through joint efforts of the Sheriff's Office, City Police, EMS, and others, went well and without any problems. Teams from 7 different schools were in attendance.

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 stated that the document contains reports from July 1 2023-June 30 2024, with the exception of reports from elected officials which he hopes to have soon.

Councilman Flood stated that regarding the Buffalo Mill property, the County would not be able to afford the necessary work needed restore the property. Due to chemical contamination, the County would need to apply for grants to clean the property but the County has exceeded the time limit to obtain those grants. Councilman Flood stated that transferring the property to the City of Union is a requirement to restore it. Chairman Russell agreed, stating that the clean up process may cost in the millions. Once the City is given ownership, they would be able to apply for a Federal Grant from the Brownsfield Grant Program. Chairman Russell stated the Community of Buffalo would be involved in deciding what replaces the mill. By restoring it into a green property, after five years, the City and Buffalo community will have the ability to transform the property into what best benefits them without any penalty.

There were no committee reports.

Chairman Russell requested an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Councilperson Smith made a motion to enter executive session and Vice chair Sinclair seconded. The motion carried unanimous. Council entered executive session at 5:50 P.M.

At 6:06 P.M. Councilman Flood made a motion to exit executive session, Vice chair Sinclair seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Russell announced that council was out of executive session at and that there had been no action taken during the executive session.

Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to adjourn, Councilwoman Smith seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 P.M.

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

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council