

MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, 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, 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 chair David Sinclair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for the August 13, 2024 council meeting. Chairman Russell asked if there were any additions or changes to the minutes and there were none. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Russell noted that all members were present despite having not called roll, however, Councilwoman Rutherford was present via phone. Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for the August 27 special meeting. Chairman Russell asked if there were any additions or changes to the minutes and there were none. Councilman Flood made a motion to accept the minutes as written, councilman Glenn seconded. Chairman Russell called for a vote, which carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell presented a service award to Natausha Dendy-Healthy U Behavioral Health Services for 5 years of service.

There were no applications for Board Appointments, and no appointments were made.

Chairman Russell read a Proclamation recognizing Southside Fire Chief Mike Lancaster for 20 years of service as Chief. Chairman Russell stated that Chief Lancaster's term would be ending on November 1, 2024. Chief Lancaster stated that although he would not be Chief, he does not plan to retire from the fire service. He wants to ensure that the next Chief is properly trained and that the fire department and citizens are taken care of.

Chairman Russell moved on to the next item on the agenda which was a presentation of Accreditation credentials to the Union County Sheriff's Office from Chris Watts, Chairman of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Council and Chief of the Rock Hill Police Department. Chief Watts announced that the Sheriff's Office had successfully completed the

accreditation assessment process for the State Accreditation. The Sheriff's Office was unanimously approved by the Accreditation Council, as they met all 302 standards required to receive accreditation. Chief Watts stated that this was a major accomplishment for the Sheriff's Office, which indicates how Sheriff Bailey leads staff. South Carolina has 318 Law Enforcement Agencies; including state agencies, county agencies, municipalities, and tribal agencies. Only 56 SC agencies (18%) are accredited. Out of 46 Sheriff's Offices only 15 (33%) are accredited. Chief Watts stated that the Sheriff's Office and Sheriff Bailey showcased themselves as leaders in South Carolina Law Enforcement. Chief Watts quoted the lead assessor on the Accreditation Council stating, "Under the leadership of Sheriff Jeff Bailey, the deputies and staff of the Union County Sheriff's Office demonstrating their willingness and dedication to adhere to the prescribed standards. Introductions and/or Interviews were conducted with a range of employees and officers. All aspects of this on-site assessment were conducted with the utmost professionalism." Chief Watts recognized the Accreditation Manager, Investigator Brad Woods, for his diligence and dedication. Sheriff Bailey stated that he has never been prouder of his staff and the hard work they have put into this process. Sheriff Bailey thanked Investigator Woods for his efforts in completing the accreditation process.

The next item on the agenda was to consider authorizing the County Supervisor to enter into an agreement to purchase new tasers for the Union County Sheriff's Office and the Union County Detention Center. If approved, a funding source for the agreement would need to be identified. Chairman Russell stated that Sheriff Bailey had presented to Council two months ago, that he had received a grant to fund the first year of the payment process. However, the grant only covered the first year, and the County would be responsible for finding funds for the remainder of the agreement. The tasers that the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center are at their end of life and it is difficult to find replacement parts because of their age. Union County received a four-year, zero interest note from the taser company AXON. This note would provide both the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center with new tasers. There is no impact to this year's budget. The grant will cover the Sheriff's first year and Commissary funds will cover the Detention Center's first year. Commissary funds are restricted funds and can only be used for PPE and other related equipment for the jail. Currently, there is \$92,000 in the commissary fund. Chairman Russell proposed that the County accept the Sheriff's Office grant to pay the down payment in the amount of \$38,058.64. After the first year, payments of \$26,580.42 per year would come from Capital fund for the next four years of the agreement. The Detention Center would make four \$18,458.99 payments over the 4-year period from the commissary funds, following the initial down payment of \$18,458.99, also coming from commissary funds. Documents relating to this agreement were posted on the County website and given to council members. Councilman Flood asked if the payments would total in \$44,000 a year that the County would pay for. Chairman Russell stated that \$18,000 would come from commissary and \$26,000 out of capital, if Council decides to pay from capital funds. Chairman Flood asked if commissary has recurring cost, Chairman Russell stated that we do. Although it is not a large profit, Chairman Russell stated that phone cards, food, etc., make up the profit of the commissary fund. The commissary funding stream is legal and allows for purchases such as equipment like the tasers. Councilman Flood stated that there is almost enough in the account now to pay for the tasers. Chairman Flood made a motion to proceed with Supervisor Russell entering into the agreement and to allow the source of the remainder of payments from the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center be made from capital funds and commissary. Councilwoman Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Russell called for any discussion. Vice-chair Sinclair asked

Sheriff Bailey what the life-expectancy of the new tasers would be. Sheriff Bailey stated that it was between 8-10 years. Chairman Glenn clarified that these tasers allowed for multiple rounds whereas the current ones have to be replaced after one shot. Sheriff Bailey stated that Councilman Glenn was correct. In addition, replacement rounds for the tasers are included in the agreement. Chairman Russell announced that the only difference between the Sheriff's Office tasers and the Detention Center tasers are that the Detention Center's have dry stun capability due to the fact that they are in close quarters. Chairman Russell asked for any other questions, there were none. Chairman Russell called for a vote, which carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was a Resolution to Adopt FY 2024-2025 Tax Levy. The public hearing was held prior to the Council meeting and there were no public comments. Chairman Russell stated that the County's Tax Levy will not be increasing, which means the county operation portion of tax bills will not increase. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to accept the Tax Levy as presented, Councilman Glenn seconded. Chairman Russell called for a vote and the vote carried unanimously.

Chairman Russell recognized elected officials present, Treasurer Debbie Robertson, Sheriff Bailey, and Auditor Brad Valentine. 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 stated that the Jail Addition project is on schedule and they hope to have an open house in December. Chairman Russell announced that the Public Hearing for the Buffalo Mill project is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at the Buffalo Fire Department from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. Environmental engineers will be present to discuss their findings and the process of removal. Regarding the Buffalo Mill project. Chairman Russell stated the Army Core of Engineers permit for Buffalo Mill Pond is still pending due to additional information needed from our engineers. ARC has been notified and has said to continue with the process. Four Union County Gateway signs at \$32,400 should be installed in 3-4 weeks. Goldville (Goshen Hill) Fire Station is under construction. Bonham Ariel truck has been ordered. Chairman Russell stated the joint Maintenance Shop project is moving forward, there will be further meetings to discuss cost. There is a \$4 million budget for the County and the City, the goal is to stay below budget. Plans for the new animal shelter are being drawn up by architects to accommodate over 100 dogs and 30 cats. Staff is also looking into a new location instead of where the current Animal Shelter is located now. The next clean up day is scheduled for October 4 the rally point will be at the Santuc Recycling center at 8:00am.

There were no committee reports.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
September 10, 2024

Councilman Flood asked Chairman Russell to verify the opening and closing time of the Union County Government Office Building. Chairman Russell said that the building opens to the public at 8:30am and closes at 5:00pm. Councilman Flood noted that a resident has reached out to him about the operational hours of the building.

Councilwoman Smith made a motion to adjourn, Councilman Bright seconded and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 P.M.

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

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council