MINUTES
UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026 AT 5:30 P.M
103 WEST MAIN STREET UNION, SC

Present: Chairman Phillip Russell, II, Councilman Danny Bright, Councilman John Glenn, Vice chair David Sinclair, Councilmember Annie Smith, Councilmember Carolyn Rutherford, 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 emailed to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, Daniel Prince at WBCU Radio Station, Anna Brown 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.

Following a public hearing on the 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance the regular monthly meeting of council was opened by Chairman Russell at 5:38 PM. Councilman Danny Bright gave the invocation and Vice chair David 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.
District 6 John Flood was absent.

Chairman Russell requested a motion to amend the agenda to include a Meansville Riley Water Company presentation. Councilman Bright made a motion to amend the agenda, Vice chair Sinclair seconded. All members voted in favor, and the vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Chairman Russell requested approval of the minutes for the council meeting held May 12, 2026. Councilman Glenn made a motion to adopt the minutes as written, Councilperson Rutherford seconded. All members were in favor; the motion carried by unanimous vote.

Chairman Russell presented a Service Award to Harold Whitney Smith in the Magistrate's Office.

Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal guidance on a personnel matter relative to boards and commissions, Councilman Glenn seconded. The motion carried with all members voting in favor. Council entered Executive Session at 5:41PM.

Council came out of Executive Session at 5:56PM. Chairman Russell announced that the Executive Session was closed with no action taken. Councilperson Smith made a motion to exit

Executive Session, Councilman Bright seconded. The vote by council to close the session was unanimous. Regular session resumed at 5:56PM.

The next item on the agenda was to consider Board Appointments and/or Removals. Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to remove Les Gibson from the Buffalo Fire District Board, Councilperson Smith seconded. The motion carried with all members voting in favor of the removal.
Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to appoint Mark Cathcart to serve on the Buffalo Fire District Board, Councilman Glenn seconded. The motion carried with all members voting in favor of the appointment.
Based on a request by the Upstate Workforce Investment Board, Chairman Russell requested a motion to reappoint Jay Coffer to serve on the Upstate Workforce Investment Board as the Union seat. Mr. Coffer currently serves as a technical education representative on the board. His current term expires on June 30, 2026. Councilman Bright made a motion to reappoint Jay Coffer, Vice chair Sinclair seconded. All members voted in favor of the reappointment and the motion carried.

Chairman Russell called for any committee reports. Chairman Russell noted that there was a Finance and Administration Committee meeting held on May 19 and that the Chairman of the Finance Committee, John Flood, was not present. Council Vice chair Sinclair, made a motion to move the FY 26-27 Budget Ordinance to Council for 3rd and Final Reading, Councilperson Smith seconded. Councilman Glenn asked if there was anything removed from the Budget concerning the library. Chairman Russell stated that there was not anything removed, but the ordinance had been changed to allow the library board to request a CPI increase if they wished and that council could take the request into consideration during the process of setting the Tax Levy Resolution, as it does for the fire departments. There were no other questions or discussion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting in favor of presenting the budget ordinance for final reading.

There were two presenters on the agenda. Chairman Russell explained that each would be allowed three minutes to address council and called on the first presenter, Missy Kirby Wilkes. Mrs. Wilkes presentation is being typed as presented in an effort to capture her full presentation. ***Mrs. Kirby-Wilkes stated, "My name is Missy Kirby Wilkes and by now you all know how much I love Union County. Thank you, Council, Mr. Supervisor, for 3 minutes of your time. I am a beekeeper; I protect the hives. In a beehive, every single little bee matters to the health of the whole family. If one part of the hive is hurting, the other bees stand up to defend their home. This is exactly why I am standing here now. To defend our home and look at where our taxpayer money is going and not going. Budgets are more than numbers. It tells us what we value. Line-item number one, Parks and Recreation. $852, 000 on paper looks like a massive win to the community; not as big when you realize it's going to Timken Sports Complex to keep the lights burning and the grass cut at one location in town. This is where the games are played, not where the kids practice every day. Those teams practice daily at other parks with high grass, broken swings and completely starved for funding because the money is being funneled into one place to make the leadership look good on paper. Buffalo, Monarch, South Hills, Santuc, Kelton are a few but especially Lukesville who receives no funding with a data center going in their backyard. The money is there in ordinance 412, but the choice is being***

made to spend it on the showpieces and corporate data centers while the neighborhoods get left in the dark, like our neighbors in Spartanburg. Why are you are rushing to give this data center and our power and our peace for a 49-megawatt industrial project, when you don't even have the power to keep the grass cut? Take better care of our children, the elderly and everybody in between first. Our health matters every day, not just on game day. Can we pause, hit the brakes, and pass a moratorium and land ordinance until the public gets real transparency?
This is the ultimate example of upside-down priorities. I should know because I've been standing on my head lately trying to figure all of this out. Ordinance 412 reveals major contradictions in how the county operates. Corporate over Community and Centralization over rural fairness. Union County's own website says we are a place for hunting, fishing, boating, camping, rivers, lakes and outdoor recreation. If that's who we are, then shouldn't the budget reflect that? For more than two decades, we've talked about economic development, but how much attention have we given to the assets God already gave us? 21 years have passed since Union County tried to do anything with its natural resources. A healthy hive doesn't neglect 20 cells to polish one. One small change each day. Be the change. Thank you for your time and for working for all of us."

Chairman Russell thanked Mrs. Wilkes and introduced Patrick Jackson, CEO and Manager of Meansville Riley Water Co.
Mr. Jackson thanked Council for the assistance in receiving grant funds. The company has nearly completed the $10 million project and they could not have done it without Council. Council's. Mr. Jackson also stated he wanted to thank the Sheriff's Office for aiding in traffic control on Hwy 49 where the project has taken place. [Mr. Jackson was referring to the County serving as the pass-through agent for a SCIP grant for Meansville Riley Road Water Company]

Chairman Russell gave 3rd and Final Reading of Ordinance 412 adopting the Operating and Capital Budgets of Union County for the Fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. Chairman Russell noted that this will include a 4.8 milage reduction for Union County citizens. Councilman Glenn made a motion to dispense with referring to committee and adopt the Ordinance, Councilperson Rutherford seconded. There were no questions or discussion. The motion carried unanimously with all members voting in favor of adopting the budget.

Chairman Russell recognized elected officials. Treasurer Debbie Robertson stated that her office is still working to set up processing of DMV late fees. They are waiting on the software to be completed. Clerk of Court Stephanie Kitchens stated that she was excited that the Clerks Office was a part of the SC Humanities Festival. She noted that the dome of the Courthouse was almost complete. In the office, there have been a few glitches in their systems and they apologize for the inconvenience.

Chairman Russell gave a brief update on projects in Union County that are listed in his Supervisor's Report. The Report will be attached to the minutes.

Councilperson Rutherford expressed that she had received photos from someone regarding the Union County Stadium appearance during the Union County High School Graduation Ceremony. Chairman Russell stated that he had not heard of any issues but asked that Councilperson

Rutherford relay those photos to him. He stated that there was a crew that spent a lot of time cleaning the Stadium in preparation for Graduation. Councilman Glenn asked if there was an update on the Gateway signs that still need lighting. Chairman Russell stated that they are working to get electricity to the signs, as they will not be able to be solar powered.

Vice chair Sinclair made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilperson Rutherford seconded. All members voted in favor of adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15PM.

Phillip G. Russell, II, Chairman
Union County Council

Kindra W. Horne, Clerk to Council

June 16, 2026

Supervisor's Report:

Staff will be working on fiscal year end information, that will be reported in July.
Below are some of our project Statuses:

Projects:

New Animal Shelter

- Construction contract is pending signatures
- Construction will begin within 45 days of contract being signed.

Sell / Donation of Property

- 501 Flat Drive: Working on agreement with Broker
- Chrysler Building: will wait until Union County is out of the building

Buffalo Mill Pond improvements



Buffalo Mill Property and Langley Dry Cleaner Building

- Both the City and County have been awarded their CBDG funds.

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- Union County has reviewed and approved the RFP for Demolition plans from the COG for the dry cleaner building. These are pending posting for public advertisement for bid.
- Union County is working toward taking possession of the building presently

Wallace Thompson Hospital Property

- Attorneys are performing research of all the property's deeds.
- Attorneys are reviewing a Letter of intent to purchase the Hospital for advertised asking price

Veteran's Administration Office

- Have officially moved into their new facility
- NEW ADDRESS - 319 W. South Street, Union SC, 29379, Suite B

Maintenance Shop Proposal

Current Activities:

- Electrical and painting, interior finishes

John Hart Road Recycling Center:

- Pending fencing
- Office building set in place
- Electrical service from REA







Timken Sports Complex – Multi-use Sports facility

- Bond Underwriter selected
- Engineers and Architects are completing plans to get us to a point where the project can go to bid

County Court House Facility

- Copper dome is being installed presently – over 90% complete
- Waiting on electrical and mechanical engineers' evaluation and proposals of needed repairs and costs.
- Found terrazzo flooring under the carpeting in the Court House hallway and lobby is exposed.
    - Seeking available contractors to scrap, sand, patch, and polish the floor.

Cross Keys Community Park

- Pending:
    - Clean out behind the bleachers of the ball park
    - Hospital staff will be painting the lines on the basketball Court







Lockhart Town Park

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- Union County School District gifted all playground equipment from the Lockhart Schools, to Union County, for relocation to the Lockhart town park.
- Playground equipment at Lockhart Schools has been disassembled, and staff are working on plans to install and reassemble in the Lockhart Park

Gateway / Electronic Signs

- Gateway signs pending installation
  - Carlisle area has highway permit approved, work has started.
  - Seeking an alternate location in West Springs

County Clean up days – Spring period: (April, May, and June)

- 4.02 tons of trash picked up in the areas of Monarch, Buffalo, and Lockhart

Alcohol and Drug Abuse:

- State and Union County staff continue to work towards the State of South Carolina placing Union County A&D into SC Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (BHDD)