

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh, Vice Chairperson Dora Martin, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Joey English, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros and Clerk to Council Linda G. Jolly

Absent: None

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 to the members of the Union County Council, the County Attorney, WBCU Radio Station, the Union Daily Times, Spartanburg Herald Journal, the Union County Development Board, Mr. Darrell Wade, Ms. Ann Canada, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, and Mr. James Kollock.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called the meeting to order. Chaplain Dora Martin gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk to Council gave the Roll Call with the following results:

Joan Little, District 1 – Present

Dora T. Martin, District 2 – Present

Tommy E. Ford, District 3 – Present

Joey D. English, District 4 – Present

Randall Hanvey, District 5 – Present

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on March 10, 2009 and to adopt the minutes as written.

Dora Martin: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented service awards for Esther Starnes for 15 years of dedicated service and for Cynthia Crocker for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there was a vacancy on the Board for Catawba Regional Council of Governments which had been advertised and the applicants interviewed. The applicants were Mr. Doug Johnson, Mr. Roger Wade, and Mr. Torrance Inman. Mr. Betenbaugh opened the floor for nominations.

Councilwoman Dora Martin nominated Doug Johnson.

Councilman Tommy Ford nominated Roger Wade.

The nominations were closed and voted on in the order they were received.

Councilwoman Dora Martin, Councilwoman Joan Little, Councilman Joey English and Councilman Randall Hanvey voted in favor of Doug Johnson.

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Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there was one vacancy on the Union County Stadium Commission which had been advertised and the applicants had been interviewed. There were three applicants who are Michael (Bird) T. Lancaster, Marcus Jay Ford, and David Maness. Councilman Tommy Ford stated he would abstain. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh opened the floor for nominations

Councilwoman Dora Martin nominated Michael Lancaster.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie nominated Jay Ford.

The nominations were closed and voted on in the order they were received.

Councilwoman Dora Martin and Councilman Randall Hanvey voted in favor of Michael Lancaster.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, Councilwoman Joan Little and Councilman Joey English voted in favor of Jay Ford.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there were four vacancies on the Union County Tourism Commission due to term expirations which had been advertised. The only application was from Michelle Young.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to appoint Michelle Young to serve another term on the Tourism Commission and to advertise the remaining three vacancies.

Dora Martin: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there were two vacancies on the Library Board due to the resignation of Suzanne Byrd and Julia Krasinski.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to advertise the two positions on the Library Board.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh recognized Mr. William B. Whitney who stated he is looking for volunteers for the US Census to participate on a Complete Count Committee for Union County. The results of the census which is done every ten years effects monies from both the State and Federal level for funding for roads and schools. It is important to get an accurate count for the US Census and asked the County Council to appoint 10 to 15 people to serve on a Complete Count Committee for Union County to come up with ideas to get people to complete the census forms. He proposed getting the churches and educational institutions involved to encourage people to be counted in the new census. The Committee appointments need to be made as soon as possible.

Dr. Fred Barker appeared before Council to discuss HealthQuest as a healthcare initiative non profit organization which intends to work with Wallace Thomson Hospital, the Union County Healthcare Foundation and our community. HealthQuest is intended to save lives and improve healthcare for residents of Union County. He proposed using the churches and hairdressers to get the word out to the public to participate in their first project called Good Samaritan's HealthQuest to get people to get screening tests done to identify problems at their earliest stages.

Mr. Paul Davis who is Chairman of the Board for Red Cross requested \$2,500 from County Council to assist the next twenty disaster victims in Union County. He gave

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Council statistics on the number of families who had been helped and the amount of money provided. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the request would be considered during the upcoming budget process.

Mr. David Fant appeared before Council to discuss County Council procedures and asked the status of his request that Council include public comments on their agenda. He also asked about the Council meetings being filmed by Channel 14, about applying for a mortgage to finance the Carlisle fire house, about Catawba Regional COG requirements for citizen-at-large members, about a joint municipal-county planning commission and a joint municipal-county planning and zoning department. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked the Clerk to Council to provide each Council Member with a copy of the questions presented by Mr. Fant.

Mr. Glenn Sparks appeared before Council to address his concerns for humane treatment of animals. He introduced a doctor with Triangle Veterinary Clinic who stated the animals being rescued or adopted out at the animal shelter need to be spayed and neutered to keep surplus population of animals down. Mr. Sparks wanted to know if the county was in compliance with humane policies and procedures. He wanted to see the animal shelter operated as a safe haven for the humane treatment of animals providing quality care in a safe, comfortable and healthy environment. He stated some Boy Scouts and church youth groups had contacted him wanting to get involved. He asked what needed to be done about raising funds for a new shelter since they had their charter. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that if they have their charter then they can proceed with raising funds and provided them with a waiver form for volunteers who wished to participate. He said he understood Robert Small had drawings for a proposed facility and Mr. Small stated that he did not have drawings but could get them done. Mr. Sparks said that Robert Small had indicated that it could be done through contractors and raising a little money so that it would not cost the taxpayers anything. There was discussion about having the shelter open more hours by providing volunteers for dropping off animals and for adoption of animals, about recordkeeping, about posting schedules for euthanizing animals, and about being proactive by advertising to get the word out for spaying and neutering programs. Mr. Donnie Horne expressed his appreciation of any positive action taken toward the protection of animals and returning animals to their owners. Jennifer Robinson stated something needs to be done about the treatment of the animals at the shelter. Mr. Sparks stated the conditions at the animal shelter are deplorable.

Council Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh under his update stated they had an application form for volunteers for the animal shelter.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance to provide for certain amendments to industrial and business park agreements between Union County and Spartanburg County in connection with the distribution of fee in lieu of tax revenues within the respective counties, and other matters related thereto.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to certain amendments to industrial and business park agreements as stated.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance to adopt the annual Union County Budget for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance to adopt the annual Union County Budget for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Dora Martin: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh introduced an ordinance to provide that reassessment of all property in Union County subject to ad valorem property tax be postponed for one property tax year to be implemented in December, 2011.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to approve first reading of the ordinance to postpone reassessment for one property tax year.

Tommy Ford: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any other business but there was none.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joey English: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council