

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009 AT 5:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Vice Chair 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.

Vice Chair Dora Martin called the meeting to order and 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

Joey English: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on September 8, 2009, the special meeting of County Council held on August 26, 2009 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Vice Chair Dora Martin presented service award certificates and gift cards to Wayne Burgess for 5 years of dedicated service, to Cleve Brannon for 5 years of dedicated service, to Wanda Fore for 5 years of dedicated service, to Raymond Valles for 5 years of dedicated service, to David R. Vinson for 5 years of dedicated service, to William E. Goodwin for 5 years of dedicated service, to Donna Owings for 10 years of dedicated service, to Melisa Patterson for 10 years of dedicated service and to Shannon Deaton for 15 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Vice Chair Dora Martin stated there is one vacancy on the Carnegie Library Board. Mrs. Stephanie Kitchens resigned from her position on the Board leaving an unexpired term which had been advertised. Mrs. Susanne Gunter, Ms. Deborah A. Greene and Ms. Ruby Jones had applied to fill the vacancy.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to appoint Mrs. Susanne Gunter to serve on the Carnegie Library Board to fill the unexpired term.

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Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chair Dora Martin stated that the person being recommended for appointment to the Board for Kelly-Kelton Fire Department had withdrawn their name. The fire department would need to find another person and make a new recommendation.

Mr. Michael Taylor appeared before Council concerning a number of issues and was instructed by the Vice Chair that he would be allotted five minutes to make his presentation. Mr. Taylor asked who is exempt from drug testing, who gets drug tested and who is over the drug testing. He stated the Goldmine Road and Cedar Springs Road are substandard. A lot of people now are using Cedar Springs Road because of Highway 176. The bridge on Goldmine Road has been out he guessed about seven to eight years. He said he had been to the Supervisor's Office three different times in the last six months to find out when it would be finished and he had been put off every time. He said he had been told by Lisa Ward with the County Road Maintenance Department that there was a welder that would be out there doing some work and after that they would be able to proceed. If you put concrete on that bridge it will have to be jack hammered off because the welding work is substandard. The concrete will bust all to pieces when they put it on there. He would like to see the bridge taken care of real quick since it has been out too long. He said he saw county vehicles going into convenience stores, banks and grocery stores. Mr. Taylor stated the Sheriff's vehicles are all over the place speeding and wanted to know if they have radar in their cars. Sheriff David Taylor stated he has two vehicles equipped with radar. Mr. Michael Taylor said he was under the understanding the Sheriff's department took care of the bad guy and criminals and not doing traffic control. He said he saw three deputies on September 30th on Highway 9 in Kelton. One State trooper was trying to direct traffic and one of the deputies in uniform was standing there with his hands folded. He understood the Sheriff was not supposed to take care of traffic and that was up to the State troopers. If they are not going to fool with traffic then they need to move along and go get the bad guys. There were two deputies in uniform in a SUV that were not doing anything but looking. He saw the guy with a radar in his car pass his house going to Jonesville on the day of the parade in car S4 driving 60 to 65 miles per hour all the way to Jonesville. He stopped at Aunt Ms then went to the other convenience store in the middle of Jonesville speeding all the way around. The speed limit is 35 and the guy is doing 40 to 45 miles per hour. He said if the deputies catch him doing that they will give him a ticket. Mr. Taylor stated he did not believe they were set up to do traffic control. Sheriff David Taylor stated he could come to his office with his concerns. Mr. Michael Taylor stated he thought it should be done on a public forum and there was too much behind closed doors stuff going on. He wanted to know what an arrest and conviction costs and felt it was pretty expensive for both. He asked the Sheriff if he was going to be hiring any relatives. Mr. Taylor wanted to know the insurance costs for the county. There are a lot of obese people working for the county which has to cost more on the insurance. There are smokers working for the county which probably costs us more. These costs need to be brought down as they are not helping the taxpayers. Vice Chair Dora Martin thanked him for his concerns. She referred the questions pertaining to drug testing to the Personnel Committee. She referred his questions pertaining to obesity and smokers to the Committee that deals with public health. She asked the committee that deals with law enforcement to

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work with the Sheriff to answer the questions he had pertaining to the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Michael Taylor told Council he had asked for a copy of the agenda but did not receive one.

Vice Chair Dora Martin called for any comments from the department heads but there were none.

Vice Chair Dora Martin presented for third and final reading an ordinance pertaining to alarms and false alarms in the county which would establish charges for false alarms. There would be no charge for the first and second false alarm, \$50.00 for the third, fourth and fifth false alarm, \$75.00 for the sixth and seventh false alarm, \$100.00 for the eighth and ninth false alarm, and \$150.00 for the tenth and each false alarm thereafter within a calendar year.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance pertaining to alarms and false alarms as stated.

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

Vice Chair Dora Martin presented for third and final reading an ordinance authorizing an amendment to that certain multi-county park agreement, dated July 11, 1994, as subsequently amended, governing a multi-county business/industrial park by and between Union County, South Carolina, and Spartanburg County, South Carolina, to authorize the expansion of the boundaries of the park; and other matters thereto related. This request was being made by Merit Leasing LLC.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adopt the ordinance to authorize the expansion of the boundaries of the multi-county park as stated.

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

Vice Chair Dora Martin introduced an ordinance authorizing the execution and delivery of a fee in lieu of tax agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina and Sloan Construction Company, Inc. with respect to certain economic development property, whereby such property will be subject to certain payments in lieu of taxes; and other matters related thereto.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance pertaining to a fee in lieu of tax agreement for Sloan Construction Company, Inc. as stated.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chair Dora Martin presented a resolution authorizing the execution and delivery of an inducement and millage rate agreement by and between Union County, South Carolina, and Sloan Construction Company, Inc., whereby, under certain conditions, Union County will execute a fee in lieu of tax agreement with Sloan Construction Company, Inc. with respect to an industrial project in the county, whereby the project would be subject to certain fees-in-lieu-of-taxes, and providing for related matters.

Kacie Petrie: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution authorizing an inducement and millage rate agreement for Sloan Construction Company, Inc. as stated.

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

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Vice Chair Dora Martin called for any committee reports.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to allow the Solicitor's Office to establish the Worthless Check Unit in Union County effective July 1, 2009.

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

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to turn control of 911 Communications and Emergency Services over to the Sheriff's Office.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The motion carried with four (4) Council Members voting in favor of the motion and one (1) Council Member (Kacie Petrie) opposing.

Vice Chair Dora Martin asked if there was any other business but there was none.

Vice Chair Dora Martin presented an audit from the Union Hospital District for Council to review and approve.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to approve the audit for the Union Hospital District.

Kacie Petrie: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

State House Representative Mike Anthony stated that all the members of the Union Delegation were present to make sure everyone understood the process to move forward concerning the Clerk of Court and County Supervisor's position. The appointment must be an elector of the county and must be a resident. He provided email addresses for the Governor's Office for anyone that wished to be considered for appointment as County Supervisor and as Clerk of Court. Some people had already emailed or mailed their resumes for consideration to the Governor's Office. They were there to support County Council and passed out the information. Senator Harvey Peeler stated they want to restore faith and confidence in the Union County government. They wanted to clear up any questions about what can and cannot happen. There are two vacancies which are the Clerk or Court due to his resignation and the Supervisor due to his suspension by the Governor because of federal charges being brought against him. The Governor has the responsibility of naming someone in his stead which is the Governor's prerogative. He will listen to the public, to the Delegation and to the County Council. Senator Creighton Coleman stated the appointment is the Governor's decision and that the Delegation would support that appointment. Senator Shane Martin stated he was there to support everybody and would be glad to help out the Council. Vice Chair Dora Martin thanked the Delegation for being present and for their interest shown.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joan Little: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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Dora T. Martin, Vice Chair
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council