

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2006 AT 4:30 P.M.
GRAND JURY ROOM AT THE UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Present: Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh, Vice Chairperson Dora Martin, Councilman Toney Farr, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Joey English, Councilman Randall Hanvey, Councilman Joe Lawson, 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, WSPA-TV, WIS News, Allen Hutto with MHISC, Mr. Ethan Burroughs with Wachovia Bank, the Union County Development Board, Mr. J. B. Stepp, Mr. Scott Frost, Wallace Thomson Hospital, Mr. John Cadena with SCANA Corp., Ms. Ann Fesperman with the Upstate Workforce Investment Board, Mr. Darrell Wade, Ms. Ann Canada, Ms. Annie E. Wessinger with Capital Consultants, Ms. Sandra Palmer and Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension.

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:

Toney L. Farr, 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
Joe G. Lawson, District 6 – Present

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting held on April 12, 2006 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented a service award certificate and gift certificate to Ms. Jency Ham for 5 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider appointments to the Union County Tourism Commission. There were two vacancies for one year terms. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh opened the floor for nominations.

Councilman Joe Lawson nominated Mr. Mike Gault

Councilman Tommy Ford nominated Mr. Jeff Lawson.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to bring the nominations to a close.

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

Councilman Joe Lawson, Councilman Toney Farr, Councilwoman Dora Martin, Councilman Joey English and Councilman Randall Hanvey voted in favor of appointing Mr. Mike Gault to serve on the Tourism Commission.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider the second appointment to the Tourism Commission and opened the floor for nominations.

Councilwoman Dora Martin nominated Ms. Dianne Spencer.

Toney Farr: Made a motion the nominations come to a close.

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

Mr. Mike Gault and Ms. Dianne Spencer were the two appointees to the Union County Tourism Commission for one year terms.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked if the other applicants who were not appointed could serve as ex-officio members of the Tourism Commission.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion that the applicants that were not selected as members of the Tourism

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Commission be allowed to serve as ex-officio members for one year.

Dora Martin: Seconded the motion.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh clarified that the ex-officio members would have no voting power but would be able to give input and participate.

The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented the Priority Capital Improvements list for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) for Union County. One of the primary purposes of the update is to keep the region eligible for EDA funding. Mr. Betenbaugh asked Council if they had reviewed the list and if they wished to make any additions or deletions. He stated Council would need to hold a special meeting next week to consider bid documents for the LSP project if they wished to delay any action on the list until then. Councilman Joe Lawson suggested the matter be carried over until then to allow Council more time to look over the list.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that Charter Communications had offered a settlement of \$11,524.00 in response to the audit done by Telecommunications Consulting Association (TCA) for underpayment of franchise fees. This was less than the amount originally filed for as underpayment of franchise fees. Charter Communications said the Statute of Limitations only allows the County to go back for the past three years.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to accept the settlement offer from Charter Communications in the amount of \$11,524.00.

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

Mr. Fred Soule as CEO for Wallace Thomson Hospital stated he had some good news. Even though Dr. Martin who is a radiologist at the hospital will be leaving in June there will be a radiologist to replace him coming in July. They are looking at recruiting a new general surgeon, obstetrician, doctor in family practice, and a doctor in internal medicine. The Hospital is using ten recruiting firms which offer a good network to help bring in some new physicians. Mr. Soule said he was encouraged that the new board members were working hard to catch up so that a decision could be made concerning the management issue.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading the ordinance to adopt the annual Union County Budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the Union County Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 2006-2007.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports but there were none at this time.

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn.

Joe Lawson: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council

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