

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007 AT 4:30 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, 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:

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
Joe G. Lawson, 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 March 14, 2007, the special meeting of County Council held on March 28, 2007 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented certificates and gift cards to Robert Garner and Esther Starnes for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider four (4) vacancies on the Tourism Commission. Councilwoman Dora Martin stated there were three applicants who were Mr. Gator Hudson, Mr. Wayne R. Comtois and Ms. Margie Ruff.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to appoint Mr. Gator Hudson, Mr. Wayne R. Comtois and Ms. Margie Ruff to serve on the Union County Tourism Commission.

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

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Mr. Betenbaugh stated this would leave one vacancy on the Tourism Commission and suggested that position be offered to the National Forest Service.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to do that.

Mr. Betenbaugh said he did not know if the Forest Service would want to designate one person and he would check with them to see how they wanted to handle it. Gwen Beavans had been serving as an ex-officio member and Alice Riddle would cover for her when she was unable to attend the meetings.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance setting a franchise fee rate for cable service providers upon expiration or termination of an existing franchise for cable service.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to setting a franchise fee rate for cable service providers as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh introduced in title only an amendment to the ordinance which created the Union County Tourism Commission to require the members to attend seventy-five percent of all meetings during each calendar year.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to dispense with referring the amendment to the ordinance pertaining to the Union County Tourism Commission to require the seventy-five percent attendance to a committee and to accept first reading as stated.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the original ordinance had only required a fifty percent attendance and County Council had intended that all boards, commissions and committees be required to attend seventy-five percent. This would simply correct that discrepancy.

The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Betenbaugh asked if this would apply if a member missed due to sickness. Councilman Joe Lawson stated that had been discussed at the time they implemented the new attendance requirements and it was decided that those circumstances could be taken under advisement by Council.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that Council had been provided with a newsletter from the Manufactured Housing Institute of South Carolina, Inc. (MHISC) which was for information purposes.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh suggested a joint agreement with the City of Union to purchase a building on Main Street.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to authorize the County Supervisor to negotiate the joint purchase of the building on Main Street.

Randall Hanvey: Seconded the motion.

Mr. Betenbaugh stated they could possibly develop the property for an adventure type discovery place for the children in the county.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

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Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented a piece of property located at 622 Flat Drive for possible condemnation. The County had issues with lien holders on the property in the past. The Council could act on condemnation of the property now or wait a year and let it revert to the County through FLC. It was sold at the delinquent tax sale this year. Councilman Joe Lawson asked what advantage there would be in waiting a year. This is the third time this property has come before Council. The house should be torn down and a lien put on it. The County Attorney stated that it is set up now so that the cost is added to the taxes rather than putting a lien on the property.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to go through the necessary process to clean it up.

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

Tax Assessor Bill Randall presented two other properties. One was owned by Clary Woodby on Monroe Street and one by Mr. Burgess on 2nd Street in Ottoray. Mr. Burgess had been given a ninety day extension and is way over that. Arthur State Bank has a lien on one of the properties.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to go through the necessary process to move forward on both properties.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any other comments. Councilman Joe Lawson stated there were other places where the County does not have the necessary ordinances or statutes to do anything with. Mr. Betenbaugh stated they had received an extensive list of unfit dwellings in Lockhart and anticipated an extensive list from Jonesville.

Councilman Randall Hanvey thanked Recreation Director Becky Cobb for doing such a good job on the ball fields. They looked great for the opening ceremony.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the building at the Jonesville Sports Complex was coming along well. The County had rented a trackhoe to do some clearing at the Library, USC-Union and removing several buildings behind the Courthouse. Clearing is being done for the new Timken Sports Complex.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council

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