

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on April 11, 2007 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented certificates and gift cards to Billy Gregory for 5 years of dedicated service and to Vicki Nash for 30 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider five (5) upcoming vacancies on the Carnegie Library Board.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies on the Library Board.

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

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Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider an upcoming vacancy on the Union County Development Board.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to advertise the upcoming vacancy on the Development Board.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they had advertised for sale the .21 acre of land in the Buffalo community which was part of the property the county bought when they purchased the mill office. The County received one bid in the amount of \$1,500.00. If that is an acceptable bid for Council then they have to move forward by holding a public hearing. Councilman Joe Lawson asked about a survey and Mr. Betenbaugh said there would need to be a new survey done. The minimum bid included the cost of having the new survey done and the cost the county incurred to purchase the property.

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to accept Mr. Ochiltree's bid and proceed with the public hearing.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh recognized Mrs. Dianne Spencer with the Tourism Commission who stated they met last night and they had a representative come in from Spartanburg Tourism. They are working on ways of promoting Union County. Team Aruba came in and made a presentation. The Commission is making slow progress. Mr. Betenbaugh stated he had met with Travel Host magazine last week and would be meeting next week to discuss some opportunities they have for Union County. Mrs. Spencer stated they have a lot to put together working toward their mission statement.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the executor of the Estate for Virginia Lunsford approached him to see if the County was interested in purchasing the house they own behind the Courthouse. The house is located on 109 Skyland Drive and they would sell it for \$18,500.00. Councilman Joe Lawson asked what the appraisal was on the property and Mr. Betenbaugh said the Tax Assessor's Office has it appraised at \$16,100.00.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to get the appraisal and move forward with purchase of the property.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to set a date for the final budget meeting. Council agreed to meet on Wednesday, May 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that he noticed there were some employees present from Public Works and stated that Council would need to go into executive session later in the meeting to discuss contractual and personnel matters. They would be discussing personnel matters pertaining to Public Works and the Solicitor's Office and contractual matters pertaining to the property adjacent to the Airport.

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

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Dora Martin: Made a motion to adopt 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 presented for second reading 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.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the amendment to the ordinance pertaining to the Union County Tourism Commission as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for first reading in title only an ordinance for a Multi-County Park Agreement with the City of Spartanburg.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance pertaining to an ordinance for a Multi-County Park Agreement with the City of Spartanburg to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance.

Tommy Ford: 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.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh requested Council go into Executive Session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

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

The Union County Council went into executive session to discuss contractual and personnel matters.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to close executive session and return the meeting to regular session.

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

The meeting returned to regular session.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that no action was taken in executive session

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council