

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008 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, the Union County Development Board, Mr. Darrell Wade, Ms. Ann Canada, 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 December 12, 2007, the special meetings of County Council held on December 4, 2007 and December 5, 2007, and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented service award certificates and gift cards for Pete Diamaduros for 5 years of dedicated service, for Thomas White for 5 years of dedicated service, for Kenneth Knox for 5 years of dedicated service, for James Johnson for 10 years of dedicated service, for Sarah Hopkins for 10 years of dedicated service, and to Stephanie Kitchens for 10 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Mr. Mike Petrie with the Union County Tourism Commission stated they had attended the Performance Racing Industry Show (PRI) from December 6th-8th in Orlando, Florida. It is the largest after market trade show in the world and covers one million square feet with sixteen hundred vendors. Forty five thousand people went through there in three days. PRI had representatives from small businesses as well as large manufactures such as General Motors, Ford and Chrysler Corporation. The Union

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County Tourism booth was set up jointly with Team Aruba. PRI officials came by the booth and were pleased at the representation for Union County. Team Aruba announced that their United States base is located in South Carolina. There are two more professional racing teams that are interested in locating to Union County. Their goal in going to Orlando was to increase tourism in Union County. They talked to hundreds of people about our historic sites, recreation opportunities, and motor sports facilities. There were inquires about relocating to Union County due to the mild climate, low taxes, low housing costs, low cost and availability of industrial sites, and lack of labor unions. He did not know that Timken, Michelin and Clemson University have motor sports programs. In looking ahead to next year, the PRI Show would be a good opportunity to recruit industry. He was surprised that people do not know where Union County is located. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated we have to become a destination off the beaten path and it would be a large team effort.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to consider vacancies on the Airport Commission and Fair Board.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to advertise the vacancies.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated they had talked about the need to replace the trucks for animal control and E-911 and the county's pool van. They had received price quotes and the low bid for a Ford F-150 was \$15,593.00 plus tax of \$589.00 plus \$7,899.00 for the truck cover for the animal control vehicle. There would be the cost to purchase two F-150 trucks plus one with a cover and the Chevrolet mid-sized van. They are all flex fuel vehicles. He requested that if Council approved the low bids then he would ask that Council allow him to move forward with financing for the three vehicles.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to purchase the three vehicles and seek financing options.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he met with the Secretary of Commerce on December 20th. They rode throughout the County and looked at projects going on. The grant for \$1,250,000 was awarded to go toward a new tech school to be located on Highway 176 across from Standard Textile. The initial design will be changed and the building they are funding will be called the Quickjobs Development Center. It will all be part of the advanced technology campus. We are waiting for formal notification from EDA for one million dollars. We have a commitment for \$350,000 that Representative Mike Anthony got on our behalf. We should begin civil engineering and development in the near future.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that as part of our partnership in the Industrial Park and with Council's approval he would need to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Union concerning the spec building. The County would dedicate the tax revenue off that building to go toward repayment of the City's \$1,825,000 until it is paid off. After that time it would all revert back to tax revenue for the County and other entities involved. They will get 5% but 1% will go to Spartanburg County for the multi-

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county park agreement. Timken in their press release estimated a six million dollar investment in that building along with the creation of thirty jobs.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports but there were none. He suggested they hold a Finance Committee meeting prior to the next regular Council meeting on February 13th.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for Council to review and approve a financial report for the Rescue Squad.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the financial report as presented.

Randall Hanvey: 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 4:55 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman  
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council