

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 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, Sandra Palmer, and Ms. 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 December 14, 2005 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that there was a vacancy on the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission which had been advertised twice but there were no applicants.

Toney Farr: Made a motion to readvertise the vacancy.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there were two vacancies on the Library Board which had been advertised but there were no applicants.

Joey English: Made a motion to readvertise the vacancies.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he had received a letter from Mr. Steve Fore with Cross Keys Fire Department stating they had held an election for four positions on their Board of Directors. The results of the election would place Mr. Michael Burns, Mr. William Whitmire, Mr. Ruben Gilliam, and Mr. Scott Parkins on the Board.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept Mr. Michael Burns, Mr. William Whitmire, Mr. Ruben Gilliam and Mr. Scott Parkins to serve on the Board of Fire Control for Cross Keys Fire Department.

Toney Farr: Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated the County needed to consider condemnation of property located at 111 S. 4th Street Ext. which is a burned house in Lockhart. They had already gone through the first 90 days notice and the second 90 days procedure for condemnation. Councilman Joe Lawson asked if they had any contact from the owners and Mr. Betenbaugh stated they had not. The mortgage holder is Western United Life Assurance Company who was notified with no response.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to proceed with demolition and place a lien on the property.

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

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Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that during the process of sight selection for Project Sunscreen which is LSP they had some soil borings and surveying work done at a cost of \$28,000.00. He requested permission to pay that out of the Multi County Park funds.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to pay the \$28,000.00 from Multi County Park funds as requested.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance to create a Union County Tourism Commission; to provide for the composition, construction, structure, organization, powers, duties, and functions of the Union County Tourism Commission; to provide the duties, responsibilities and terms of office of commission members; to provide for the election of officers of the commission and employment of personnel for the commission; and to provide for other matters relating thereto.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance to create a Union County Tourism Commission as presented.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an amendment to the ordinance pertaining to appointments to Boards and Commissions to be based upon attendance.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to accept second reading of the amendment to the ordinance pertaining to appointments to Boards and Commission as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading of an amendment to the Union County Personnel Policy to include a statement pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act for reasonable accommodations and redefining the statement pertaining to equal employment and nondiscrimination.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to accept second reading of the amendment to the Personnel Policy as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh suggested that if there were any other changes that needed to be made to the Personnel Policy they would need to be considered prior to third reading.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented an ordinance in title only a land transfer to LSP.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance for a land transfer for LSP as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented an ordinance in title only for a Fee-in-Lieu Agreement with LSP.

Toney Farr: Made a motion to dispense with referring the ordinance to a committee and to accept first reading of the ordinance for a Fee-in-Lieu Agreement with LSP.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he had placed on the agenda a resolution for an Incentive Inducement Agreement for Project Sunscreen or LSP. That would have to be delayed because they do not have the defined number of acres which would be an important part of that resolution.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh introduced a resolution designating January of 2006 as School Board Recognition Month and encourages all citizens to publicly and privately thank the school board members for their dedicated service to our children.

Joe Lawson: Made a motion to dispense with referring the resolution to a committee and to adopt the resolution designating January of 2006 as School Board Recognition Month.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports. Mr. Tommy Ford stated the Hospital is going through their RFP process for a management organization. They received eight proposals which had been narrowed down to four. They will be meeting with representatives from those four companies during the first week in February. The committee looking at the proposals is made up of the Hospital Board

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members, Councilman Tommy Ford, Councilman Randall Hanvey, and Council Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked the County Attorney for an update on the request for information on unsightly dwellings. County Attorney Sammy Diamaduros stated he had been working with Mr. Tom Martin with the McNair Firm to see if the costs for handling unsightly dwellings and condemnations could be attached to the tax bill and to review our ordinances. They told him they were in order and in good shape but they do not exactly go along with the state. Mr. Martin suggested the county ordinance mirror the state exactly and it could be attached to the tax bill which is less costly than trying to sue and get a judgement. He did not think the way the county places a lien against the property carries any weight at all. The unsightly dwellings are different from the condemnation and demolition. The Council would need to meet and decide if they want to amend the ordinance or leave it as is. Mr. Betenbaugh suggested the Health and Social Services Committee meet to discuss what direction to take and set up a policy on how to select if something is unsightly. Mr. Diamaduros suggested holding a conference call with Mr. Tom Martin to help answer any questions.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated that he along with Phillip Arnold and Ronnie Wade had been meeting with property owners around the airport discussing future goals. The folks they had talked to are good neighbors. They may be coming back to Council to get some assistance to make sure they have the land cleared off properly and helping some of those people out with the assistance they need since they are being very cooperative. They are working up some agreements now which would be brought before Council for approval.

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to adjourn.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council

