

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009 AT 5:30 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, Councilwoman Kacie Petrie, 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, Mrs. Anne Brock with Clemson Extension, and Mr. James Kollock.

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

Kacie Petrie, District 6 – Present

Tommy Ford: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on January 14, 2009 and to adopt the minutes as written.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there was a vacancy on the Catawba Regional Council of Governments which County Council had asked to be advertised again since there were certain qualifications which Catawba Regional Council of Governments had furnished to the County. The vacancy was advertised with the required qualifications being included in the advertisement. There had previously been four applicants for the position before the County was advised of the requirements. Those applicants were notified what the requirements were and asked to reapply if they still qualified. There were three applicants after the position was advertised the second time. Those applicants were Mr. Doug Johnson, Mr. Roger Wade, and Mr. Torrance Inman.

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to interview the applicants.

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

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Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there were two vacancies on the Union County Stadium Commission which had been advertised. Mr. Freddie Gault was the only applicant which would still leave one vacancy. There was a second applicant which came in after the deadline.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to appoint Mr. Freddie Gault to serve on the Stadium Commission.

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

Randall Hanvey: Made a motion to advertise the second vacancy on the Stadium Commission.

Dora Martin: Seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Kacie Petrie stated she would have no objection to the second applicant since they were the only other person to show any interest in the position. Mr. Betenbaugh stated he did not bring the applicant's letter with him but would include it with any others that may come in.

The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Mrs. Nancy Rosenwald as Director of Carnegie Library and Mrs. Suzanne Byrd as Chair of the Library Board informed Council they had been named the Best Small Library in America. It is a great distinction for Union County to be recognized nationally for their innovation and imagination. Ms. Jenny Alexander with the Library Board stated that what sets them apart is their commitment to customer service, honing in on Union County's historical significance, implementation of new technology, and commitment to their children's programs. Mr. Thad Strom as their Treasurer stated that due to a reduction in State Aid they would see a deficit of \$80,000 in the fiscal year 2008-2009. They requested the Council approve an additional 2 mils of tax for the Library and the County assume the maintenance costs of the Library which is approximately \$38,000 a year as the building is owned by the County.

Mr. Ray Robbins and Mrs. Ola Jean Kelly appeared before Council to give an update from the Union County Historical Society. Mr. Ray Robbins as President of the Historical Society gave a brief background on each of their twelve board members and recognized the board members present at the meeting. He stated they have a strong team working toward the common cause of preserving the rich heritage of Union County and utilizing this heritage to make a significant impact on the future of the County and its citizens. Last September they celebrated the fourth anniversary of the reopening of the Union County Museum. Shortly after the purchase of the Cross Keys House they established a \$50,000 endowment to fund the routine maintenance of the house. They launched a campaign to raise \$100,000 for the restoration. They have received donations of \$67,000 and are within \$1,000 of receiving a \$20,000 matching grant from the Union Rotary Club. They took the proceeds from the sale of the Means House and applied it to the restoration funds. Mrs. Ola Jean Kelly as Director of the Union County Museum provided to Council a copy of the brochure for the Museum. They had been contacted by the Welcome Centers and asked for copies of their brochure but they had to be commercially done. They received a donation to have them printed. Every month a tour group from California brings a group to see the Cross Keys House. She is working with Tourism Director Auvis Cole to include the Padgett's Creek Baptist Church and cemetery. Mr. Cole is talking with them about

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coming to the Dawkins place to have lunch. She has talked to the merchants on Main Street who have agreed to offer them discounts. Last year they had 2,873 registered visitors for the Museum. At the end of April they will be doing another reenactment of the visit of President Jefferson Davis at the Cross Keys House.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he had an invoice from Upstate Alliance and a request from Bonham Fire Department which he referred to the Committee on County Administration and Finance. The Planning and Development Committee needs to consider the information received pertaining to establishing a planning commission. He stated he talked to Catawba Regional Council of Governments who offered to assist with a comprehensive plan for planning and land use. They also need to discuss the building inspector. The Committee on Public Works, Roads, and Bridges and County Property needs to consider a request from Southside Fire Department for one acre of land at the corner of Airport Road and Sardis Road for a new fire department.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh informed Council that the U. S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration had issued a grant offer in the amount of \$190,271 for the reimbursement on the land purchased for the airport expansion.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports but Councilman Joey English stated the Road Committee was not ready to make a report at this time.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated Council needed to review and approve the financial statement for the Union County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to approve the financial statement for the Union County Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

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

Joan Little: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council