

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE UNION COUNTY COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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, 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

Joey English: Made a motion to dispense with reading of the minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Union County Council held on October 10, 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 to Sheila Hunnicutt for 10 years of dedicated service, and to Kenneth Riddle for 20 years of dedicated service to Union County.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated there was one vacancy on the Union County Tourism Commission and Council received one application from Casey Connell.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to appoint Mr. Casey Connell to serve on the Union County Tourism Commission as the representative for District 2.

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

The Union County Historical Society made a presentation to Council and President Ray Robbins introduced other members that were present. He stated that last September they celebrated the third anniversary of the reopening of the Museum and last October they

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celebrated the first anniversary of the purchase of the Cross Keys House which was a large financial investment. Ms. Ola Jean Kelly as Museum Executive Director gave Council an update on the Union County Museum. She said the meeting room is in constant use. They are averaging 200 visitors a month and are considering getting the equipment necessary for audio tours at the Museum. Ms. Sara Parker stated they held open house at the Cross Keys House after maintenance and repairs. They researched the history and genealogy of the property. They will be holding fund raisers and researching for grants. Col. William Whitener presented a visualization of what the historical trail and historical corridor for Union County would look like. He presented the set of prints created by Betsy Skipper to Council. He went over the fund raising efforts and contributions. He thanked Council for their help with the historical markers and their financial support.

Mr. Bob Love, Cathy Dunleavy, and Ann Fesperman went over the Union Community Economic Indicators Report. They went through a survey process using forty volunteers to collect the data to identify and examine key social and human service issues that affect the county. The report covers education, health, family, economics, environment and recreation. Their goal is to print 2500 copies of the 48 page report. Ms. Ann Fesperman stated the information in the report could be used in applying for grants. The report cost \$7,000.00. Milliken has committed \$2,000.00 and they hope Timken will provide \$2,000.00. The City has committed \$1,000.00 to the project which would leave them short by \$2,000.00. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh recommended using Economic Development Funds for the \$2,000.00 needed.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to provide the \$2,000.00 as recommended.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh asked Ann Fesperman to give Council an update on the Workforce and Small Business Center. Ms. Fesperman stated they currently have four staff members in the facility as workforce specialists. They are looking for a business services representative to work fulltime with the businesses in the community, provide supervision of that site and work with the small business start up. They are about to pay for fast track growth for small businesses who want to grow. This is a ten week program once a month which they cover the cost for. They already have fifteen businesses signed up and they will be using State funds for that project. If there is enough interest they will offer another one in the future. They are going to have a fast tract program for people who want to start a business. That normally would cost \$500.00 per person but because of funds from the State it is only costing \$150.00 per person. They will be working on a marketing campaign. Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh stated he had met with USDA who has some one percent funds up to a million dollars that we could possibly tap into to create our own revolving loan fund and suggested they explore those funds.

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance to develop a jointly owned and operated Business Park in conjunction with Spartanburg County and to authorize a written agreement with Spartanburg County to provide for the manner by which expenses and revenues from such park will be allocated, and to authorize a negotiated user fee in lieu of ad valorem taxation.

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Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to the business park and user fee for the Michelin Project as stated.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh presented for second reading an ordinance to amend that certain agreement for the development of a joint county industrial and business park between Union County and Spartanburg County dated August 21, 2006 to include the NURRC, LLC Project.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept second reading of the ordinance pertaining to the NURRC, LLC Project.

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

Chairman Donnie Betenbaugh called for any committee reports.

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to negotiate with Southern Strategy Group to define the terms of the contract.

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

Dora Martin: Made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Committee on County Administration and Finance to advertise the County's Road Ordinance in order to make the rules of the ordinance available to the citizens and people trying to establish subdivisions.

Joan Little: 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.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Donnie R. Betenbaugh, Chairman
Union County Council

Linda G. Jolly, Clerk to Council