

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – February 11, 2020 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

Attendees: Mayor Lanier Rhodes **Council Members:** Wayne Brown, Dawn Clifton, John Rhodes, Sally Boswell, Mary Mundy and Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott.
Others: City Clerk Becky Cronic and Attorney Joe Reitman

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve the agenda; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to accept the minutes presented from the January 14, 2020 council meeting; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Brown entered the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Mayor Rhodes opened the **Public Hearing** regarding a request for a conditional use permit for a mobile home. Mr. Ed Latham spoke in favor of the request to locate a new doublewide mobile home for his client Paul Fleming who had recently purchased the vacant lot at 307 South Rhodes Street. He stated that all permits and plats had been presented to the zoning department and he had provided all that was requested. No one was present to speak in opposition of the request. After no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

Mayor Rhodes called for a motion in favor or against the request for the conditional use permit. **A motion** was made by Council Member Clifton to approve the permit for a mobile home to be placed on the vacant lot at 307 South Rhodes Street; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed with Council Members Boswell, Rhodes, Scott, Clifton and Mundy in favor; Council Member Brown abstained.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman reported that the real estate closing for Union Point's property on Watson Avenue to Greene County Habitat for Humanity would be held this week. **A motion** was made by Council Member Clifton to allow the Mayor and Clerk to sign closing documents for the transaction of real estate to Greene County Habitat for Humanity. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Downtown Development Authority Matters: Jill Rhodes gave a report on the DDA and stated that the fountain repair in the City Park area is moving along well. Rose bushes have been donated and the DDA will be planting them soon. She also reported that as a part of course work for the Masters of Historic Preservation Program, UGA students recently prepared a Historic Structure Report on the Union Theatre at no charge. This assessment of the Theatre will assist with future guidance as to the rehabilitation of the structure. Jan Brazier reported that the Fire Fly Trail Coordinator John Kisane is seeking volunteers to serve on a team to review and consider amenities for the Model Mile trail that is underway in Union Point.

New Business in Union Point - GA Xtracts – Rob Lee with GA Xtracts gave an overview of the new Industrial Hemp company that will be opening in Union Point. The company will employ individuals for packaging/distributing products, lab positions, sales and office positions and over time they anticipate potentially employing up to 300 people.

Clerk's report – Becky Cronic gave an update on the upcoming GMA Conference that will be held in Savannah in June. She noted that two council members, the Mayor and the City Clerk are slated to attend.

Unfinished business: Clerk Cronic presented the bid that was submitted for the three 2017 Ford Explorer Police Vehicles. The City of Greensboro Police Department submitted the only bid for the vehicles and a representative was present at the meeting. **A motion** was made by Council Member Jim Scott to accept the bid from the City of Greensboro in the amount of \$75,503 for the three 2017 Ford Explorer Police Vehicles; motion seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed with Council Members Boswell, Rhodes, Scott, Clifton and Mundy approving; Council Member Brown abstained.

A motion was made by Council Member Clifton to adopt the GMEBS Retirement Plan through GMA. Seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Attorney Reitman noted that this is a standard plan for municipalities and that no major changes had been made that would affect employees. Motion passed with Council Members Boswell, Rhodes, Scott, Clifton, and Mundy approving; Council Member Brown abstained.

Tri-County Consolidation – Council Member Clifton requested that the Council revisit the Tri-County agreement that was voted upon at the last council meeting regarding consolidation. An Agreement not an Authority was voted on. Scott Tolleson with MGAG gave feedback on this opportunity and addressed the council on the future of an Agreement or an Authority with the Council. **A motion** was made by Council Member Clifton to re-vote on the direction of moving into an Authority as stated by Tri-County's Attorney Christian Henry's proposal. Seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for further discussion. Motion passed with Council Members Rhodes, Scott, Clifton, and Mundy in favor, Council Members Boswell and Brown against. (Noted as requested by Council Member: Council Member Boswell is against due to the wording of the agreement and resolution presented not being in line with each other.)

New Business:

Police Matters: Sheriff Harrison presented an overview of services the Sheriff's Office has provided the City of Union Point since September 30, 2019. He stated that he would summarize the details and share them with each council member. The City Council had previously asked for a higher level of services to be provided since the closure of the Police Department therefore he offered to enter an agreement/plan to allow for off duty officers to schedule 6-8 hour shifts at \$40 an hour on alternating days in peak season and when requested by the City. The City would be invoiced for officers and prepare 1099's for them on an annual basis. **A motion was made** by Council Member Brown to allow the Sheriff's Office to schedule an off-duty officer to work at a rate of \$40 per hour for 6 hours per day two to three days a week and additional days when requested beginning the weekend of February 15 2020; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to proclaim February 25th as Arbor Day in Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion, Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Rhodes reported that Prosecutor Russell Wall had resigned from his position as Municipal Court Prosecutor. **A motion was made** by Council Member Rhodes to appoint the Municipal Court Prosecutor position to Leighton Channell for the City of Union Point; seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Council Members Boswell, Rhodes, Scott, Clifton, and Mundy in favor; Council Member Brown abstained.

Committee/Other Department Reports: David Stephens reported that he had just received another bid for a dump truck and that he was trying to get another one for the backhoe as well. Will update next month. City Clerk noted that the Fire Department would be burning two small structures on Hunter Street for a training on Saturday February 15th.

Will Wright gave an update on Animal Control and tickets that have been issued. New location is set-up at 95 Crawfordville Road, Union Point.

Council Member Clifton is looking into landscaping options for the Greenlawn Cemetery to enhance its appearance.

Public Comments: Jill Rhodes commented on GA Xtracts and thanks Mr. Lee for coming to share about the new company. Someone asked about the 101 South Rhodes Street house that has been in code enforcement status for some time. Attorney Reitman stated that the court date for this parcel had been set for March 9th at 5 p.m. Council Member Clifton shared that several foxes have been seen in the Veazey Street and Thornton Street area.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date