

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – August 9, 2022 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

Attendees: Mayor Lanier Rhodes **Council Members:** Sally Boswell, Mary Mundy, Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott, William Harris, Jr., John Rhodes, and Teneisha Pinkney
Others: City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the August 9, 2022, meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was present.

Council Member Scott made a motion to approve the agenda after adding “Flock Safety Cameras” under New Business for the August meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council Member Rhodes made a motion to accept the minutes presented from the July 12, 2022, council meeting; seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman was not at the meeting.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Jill Rhodes reported that the Lake Oconee Realtors Association had applied for and was awarded a grant for the purpose of creating a new “Butterfly Garden”. This garden to include pavers, a kiosk, and gravel, etc., will be located near the Carlton Avenue and Rhodes Street intersection where the Firefly Trail currently begins. She commended them for their efforts. Mrs. Rhodes reported that Hawthorne Heights had recently been sold and the new owner will begin cleaning up the property. This is a visible property from the downtown area and has been in disrepair for over five years.

Clerk’s Report: Becky Cronic reported that she spoke with the Public Defender’s office. The City needs to create an application for applicants to complete and decide upon compensation for hiring a Public Defender for Municipal Court. (The termination of the contract with the current Public Defender is December 31, 2022). Becky will update as the process moves forward.

Old Business:

Animal Control – Aggressive Dog Ordinance – Will Wright will be sharing further information on the current ordinance. Revisions that were recommended at the July meeting need to be further reviewed due to State laws.

A budget work-session will be held on August 23rd to review the FY2023 budget recommendations. This meeting is open to the public and will be at the Four Room Schoolhouse at 4:30 pm.

New Business:

Mayor Rhodes reported that the bids were opened in early August for the completion of the Firefly Trail in Greene County. There is a shortfall of funds due to the increase in materials/cost. Greene County, Union Point, Maxeys and Woodville will all miss out on this opportunity to use these funds (over 2 million dollars) if the shortfall is not matched. Union Point’s shortfall is \$335,794 (cost of bridge is much more than anticipated). Mayor Rhodes also reported that TSPLOST funds will begin to come in this fall and the City’s portion the first year is estimated to be around \$265,000. Other funds previously budgeted for this project are from ARPA and the general budget fund. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to allow Mayor Rhodes and the City Clerk to proceed with notifying Greene County and other entities that Union Point will fulfill the monetary shortfall needed for their portion of the match to ensure the Firefly Trail Project meets completion. Motion seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. It was noted that there could possibly be a fundraiser or two and that another non-matching grant would be potential income to help off-set the funds needed. Motion unanimously passed.

City Clerk Cronin presented a draft five-year comparison of the millage rate for review. A draft copy of the Ordinance for setting the millage rate was also read. The city will post the official recommendation for the millage rate in the local organ as required by law and the rate will be voted on at the September 13, 2022, meeting.

Flock Safety is a company who contracts with municipalities and businesses for safety devices. The Clerk shared some information about the company and a brief discussion was held to consider the purchase of cameras for one or two intersections in Union Point. The clerk will try to set up a demonstration of the devices with a representative from the company at a future council meeting.

Department Reports: David Stephens continues to seek candidates for two employees.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date