

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – September 14, 2021 – 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, John Rhodes **Absent:** Dawn Clifton **Others:** Attorney Reitman & City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the September 14th meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

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

A motion was made by Council Member Scott to accept the minutes presented from the August 10, 2021, council meeting; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman reported that he is searching for a judge to hear the case slated for October 11th regarding 810 Dolvin Avenue. He will be reaching out to Michael Gailey in Putnam County this week. Judge Kopp will not be able to hear the case due to a conflict. Attorney Reitman will keep the Mayor and City Clerk abreast of any further action needed on this matter. Property owners have until Monday, September 20th to comply with court orders on the old school located on Witcher Street. Code Enforcement will follow-up and report back on compliance.

DDA: Sherley Selman reported that the Junction Jog 5K Race will take place on September 25th. She will work with the City Public Works Director prior to the event on getting road barricades for any residential road closures. Jill Rhodes also reported that the ***Ticket to Ride*** event for Firefly, Inc. is on October 9th and that several volunteers are working on this event with the Firefly Trail Inc. team from Athens. The event is a Trail wide event with stops along the way between Athens and Union Point. The Union Point event will be held at the Theatre downtown and DDA will offer concessions during the event. There will also be music onsite to add to the festivities.

Speed Bump Concern – Pat Heath was unable to attend the meeting to address the Council. The speed bump concern between Hart and Carlton on Veazey Street will be addressed.

Sheriff's Office Report: Sheriff Harrison gave a quarterly report on behalf of his office and the law enforcement activity in Union Point. Officers will be performing drug related searches in the weeks ahead in and around the Union Point area to try to eliminate concerns related to drug trafficking in the area. There is also great concern with various calls to Elliot Circle and the surrounding neighborhood that needs to be addressed. The council supported the Sheriff's actions to address these areas to the best of his ability. Sheriff Harrison reported that he and his staff had removed all items from the evidence room at the former police department and will no longer need the office space for officers. Several firearms (5 total) are in his possession that belong to the city due to these items being surplus and the city not having the ability to sell them as surplus items due to ATF requirements. The firearms will remain with the SO until he can sell them and turn the funds over to the city as a legal transfer. Sheriff Harrison noted that the noise ordinance addresses that noises that are disturbing the peace should cease from 11 p.m. until 6 a.m.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic reported that the painting of the Four Room Schoolhouse has been completed. Proposed budgets were distributed to the council for the 2022 year for review. Information on the proposed millage rate was also distributed to the council. A copy of the "*ARPA Ideas for Cities*" was distributed to the council for review. This information is related to the restricted funds that have been received and may be used for specific line items that may have been related to COVID and loss of economic resources during 2020. Funds must be expended by December 2024. She also noted that Chamber Annual meeting will be held on September 24th and tickets are available.

Old Business:

The 2022 Draft Budgets are available at City Hall for the public to review. A Public Hearing will be scheduled and advertised for October.

Becky Cronin reported that the cost to remove decals on the 2016 City Police car is \$150. Public Works will remove inside law enforcement equipment and get additional assistance with it, if needed. It was recommended at the last council meeting that the car stay with the city due to bids on GovDeals not meeting requested bid amount. The car will be transferred to a city vehicle for employees to use as needed when traveling.

New Business: A one day alcohol sales permit for non-profit agencies was requested for an upcoming event by Firefly Trail Inc. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to approve a one-day permit to sell alcohol for the non-profit agency Firefly Trail, Inc. for an October 9th event being held in downtown Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously carried.

Viasat Satellite Gateway Proposal - Ledcor Technical Services submitted a proposal to the Mayor and Council to lease a small parcel of property near the Wastewater Plant for Viasat Satellite Dish. This company is interested in offering the community reliable internet. Attorney Reitman will review the proposal and update the City Clerk with proposed revisions. The company is offering \$450 per month on the rental that will increase in yearly increments.

Department Reports: Council Member Mundy shared that after numerous discussions with community groups, she would recommend that the city not host the parade this December. The council supported the recommendation. David Stephens reported that the gravel parking area near the Firefly Trail has been sprayed for weeds and that the grass in the city continues to be keeping the employees busy.

Public Comments: none

Other: Council Member Boswell shared concern about the changes that are taking place with the Greene County School System and the relocation of Greene County Primary School. Plans of the new school to be located on Meadowcrest Road, Greensboro, are being shared with the public this week. The council expressed concern of losing the school and were asked to talk with their school board member representative about the changes.

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

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date