

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – July 12, 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, Attorney Joe Reitman

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the July 12, 2022, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was present.

Council Member Boswell made a motion to approve the agenda for the July meeting; seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council Member Scott made a motion to accept the minutes presented from the June 14, 2022, council meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman advised the council to move forward with securing a Public Defender for the calendar year 2023 due to the Ocmulgee Circuit Public Defender's office terminating the current agreement to handle indigent defense in Municipal Court for Union Point after December 31, 2022. Clerk Cronic will reach out to the Public Defender's office to request a sample application form for the potential public defender candidate to complete. Attorney Reitman reminded the council that prior to adopting the Historic District Overlay boundary, a Public Hearing must be held to hear public comment and or questions about the recommendations.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Jill Rhodes reported that the DDA continues to meet monthly. The DDA is planning its second Union Point "Business After Hours" meeting for later this year. Mrs. Rhodes also added that the Union Point Housing Authority had contracted with Mr. Robert Motley as Interim Director while the Authority seeks a new executive director.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave a brief report and gave an overview of the recent labor force report on behalf of Greene County Economic Development Director David DuBois.

Old Business:

Hal Chitwood with Bureau Veritas gave a presentation of the Historic District Overlay Boundaries within the city and corridors that he and the Union Point Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) had reviewed for consideration. Next steps will be to determine all addresses that this overlay will affect and have HPC recommend the revision of the map boundaries to the council for approval. A Public Hearing would be held before final approval.

A copy of the current Union Point "Aggressive Dog Ordinance/Nuisance Ordinance" was presented. After discussion regarding Public Health Safety concerns, it was recommended that the current ordinance be revised. The revision is to reflect that any dogs deemed aggressive by the Animal Control Officer must be secured in an enclosed fence area when not on a leash with its owner. **A motion was made by** Council Member Rhodes to amend Section 14 of the Union Point Code of Ordinances pertaining to aggressive dogs and restraints of aggressive dogs to adhere to the Public Health Safety needs of the residents of Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Public Defender Agreement - **A motion was made by** Council Member Rhodes to begin the process in finding a new Public Defender for Union Point Municipal Court due to the termination of the current Ocmulgee Circuit Public Defender's Office. Motion seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A copy of the current fines and fees that are in place for Union Point Municipal Court and those related to City ordinances were presented for review. These fines have been in place since 2015. It was recommended that the council review these and consider revising them to be more in-line with Greene County's due to the agreement Union Point currently has with law enforcement with the Greene County Sheriff's Office. No action was taken at this time.

Greene County Family Connection is hosting a Back-to-School Bash on July 30th. The City of Union Point was asked to participate in the event in some manner. Clerk Cronin shared that the city has promotional supplies that we can send to the event and if anyone would like to volunteer to attend the event and distribute the supplies, they were welcome to.

Department Reports: David Stephens answered several questions related to cloudy water in certain areas of the city at various times. Most of the discoloration is due to smaller pipes in these areas and the water not flushing as easily. There was discussion that the city considers replacing the pipes soon or look at alternative options to assist with the discoloration. David reported that his department is seeking candidates for employment and that ads are currently in the local newspaper and on the GDOL website for the position.

Mayor Rhodes reported that due to Public Works currently being short staffed, he had discussed with David about outsourcing Greenlawn Cemetery temporarily. A couple of verbal quotes were received. **A motion was made by Council Member Scott** to approve a quote from Tony Salters to cut the grass and weed-eat Greenlawn Cemetery as needed for \$1,000 until Public Works has staff to fulfill the duty; and to trim the hedge for \$500. Motion seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Public Comment: Tiffany Haynes shared her concerns on the downtown area and the historic district boundary lines that were discussed. She also expressed interest in using the old ballfield for more events for children.

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

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

August 9, 2022

Date