

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – May 11, 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:** Wayne Brown, Dawn Clifton
Others: City Clerk Becky Cronin and Attorney Joe Reitman

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the May 11th meeting to order at 6:00 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 May meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to accept the minutes presented from the April 13, 2021 council meeting; seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman reviewed a Code Enforcement issue with the property on Witcher Street known as the Old Preschool. Due to non-compliance and continued attempts to get the property owner to bring the property into compliance, Attorney Reitman recommended that a notice of contempt of court be sent via Certified Mail. A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to file a contempt of court to the owners of the property on Witcher Street (Old Preschool) on behalf of the City of Union Point for non-compliance; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Council Member Scott asked what the value of the property was. Council Member Rhodes asked if the owner does not bring the property into compliance, what the City would do with it. Attorney Reitman stated that this is a contempt of court and this letter will hopefully get a response that the owner(s) will act before it goes to court. The motion unanimously passed.

DDA: Mayor Rhodes shared a report submitted on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority. The relocation of the museum to the downtown building is almost complete. Several more items are to be placed in the building and volunteers are scheduled to open it a couple of days each week to the public. More details on dates and times will be forthcoming. The renovations in the entrance of the Historic Theatre are almost complete. Upon completion of this phase of renovations, the building could be rented/used for meetings or small gatherings.

Georgia Trust has reached out to assist with preservation needs for Historic Hawthorne Heights located on Carlton Avenue. City representatives are working with the entity to obtain further details related to the property.

Mayor Rhodes reported that the previously mentioned **firefly** mural had been painted on the old water tank on Carlton Avenue parallel to the train tracks. This mural was a part of the initial plan to enhance the Firefly Trail and it allows for visitors/residents to take their picture in front of the design. In addition, the physical design of the extended portion of the Firefly Trail is being developed by W&A Associates with in-kind funding. One option for the path to follow is to develop the trail on the bank along the train tracks on Carlton Ave. It is being proposed that a tunnel be cut through the water tank to allow the trail to not be too close to the train tracks. CSX ROW will not allow the trail to be within 50 feet of the tracks.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave a summary of the Firefly Trail progress and shared that the BOE and City are discussing entering a memo of understanding in relation to utilities needed to water the Butterfly Garden that was planted along the trail in front of Greene County Primary School. Mayor Pro-Tem Scott also reported that he had been working on this project as well. Mrs. Cronic also reported that the Housing Authority would be working with an engineer on addressing site needs related to drainage issues at Elliott Circle and would include cleaning and clearing pipes and ditches in that area.

Old Business: The groundbreaking for the construction of the Water Plant will be held on May 26th at 10 a.m. All council members are encouraged to attend. Reception sponsored by EMI (engineering firm) will follow at the Fire Station Training Room.

It was noted that the paving of Alexander Street, Parham Drive, a portion of Barnes Street, and a small section of Crawfordville Road had been completed with the LMIG Project funds and 30% City Match.

Becky Cronic reported that she had received two bids on the painting of the 4 Room Schoolhouse. After a brief discussion of the two bids, it was recommended that more bids be received. Mayor Rhodes asked that this item be tabled until the Clerk could get additional bids.

Council Member Mundy did not have an update on the petition for speed bumps on Newsome Street. Item was tabled until next month.

New Business: A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Greene County, the City of Woodville, and Oglethorpe County for joint services, for the provision of services, or for the joint or separate use of facilities or equipment which must deal with activities, services, or facilities which the contracting Parties are authorized by law to undertake or provide; and to provide for parks and recreation facilities; whereas the Cities and the County desire to cooperate to construct a new public recreation trail known as an extension to the Firefly Trail. Motion seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Union Point's interest in this IGA is for the ability to receive matching funding to build a bridge over Rhodes Street to attach the downtown section of the Model Mile. Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted that the GMA Annual Convention would be held August 6-10 in Savannah. Designated attendees from Union Point will be determined in the next few weeks.

Mayor Rhodes and Clerk Cronic reported that a workshop would be held for the council in June for preparing the next fiscal year's budget. The City will be receiving funds from Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds (American Recovery Act) in the coming weeks. Mayor Rhodes asked that the department heads and Clerk to be thinking of infrastructure improvement needs that meet the requirements related to the funds. A Press Release was distributed to the council members with details and information pertaining to the Recovery Funds.

Department Reports: David Stephens included a Utility report within the council packets. Mayor Rhodes recognized David for 34 years of service with the City. David also noted that Water Plant construction was moving along well. Will Wright gave a report on activity within the Animal Control Department. He reminded everyone to call City Hall during the week (8am/5pm) for animal control calls and 911 if it is a true emergency and on weekends. Weekends are strictly for vicious animal control needs as Will Wright works on an as needed basis.

Public Comments: Council Member Boswell stated that there are people in the neighborhood not following the noise ordinance and asked that the council consider addressing the hours for loud music/noise to cease.

A motion was made to exit regular session and enter executive session by Council Member Scott to address personnel; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed. A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to exit executive session and re-enter regular session; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried unanimously. 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