

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – July 13, 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, Dawn Clifton **Others:** Attorney Reitman & City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the June 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 Mundy to approve the revised agenda for the July meeting; seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion: It was noted that a speed bump petition was removed from the agenda items. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to accept the minutes presented from the June 8, 2021, council meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman presented the first reading of the proposed amended ordinance referring to Chapter 50-11 "Use of sidewalks: Prohibition against unlicensed vehicles on public roadway". **A motion** was made by Council Member Mundy to approve the amended ordinance Chapter 50-11 pertaining to prohibition against unlicensed vehicles on public roadways after the second reading on August 10, 2021; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously. A resolution was presented related to the sale of surplus property that was approved last month. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to approve a Resolution confirming the sale of surplus vehicles voted on at the June 8, 2021 Council Meeting and confirming the dates July 30th – August 13th, 2021 for the sale on *GovDeals.com*. Seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed. Attorney Reitman also reported that a summons to appear in Court had been issued to the property owners of the old school located on Witcher Street related to non-compliance. If no improvements are made, they are to appear in municipal court on August 9, 2021.

DDA: Jill Rhodes reported on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority. Mrs. Rhodes reported that the DDA will be applying for a non-matching grant through the FOX Theater Institute for the Historic Theater. A representative from NEGRC will be writing the grant. Grant recipients will be awarded to those applying this fall. DDA has taken on the responsibility of the Butterfly Garden that was planted by volunteers in memory of former historian Joel McRay. The garden will be relocated in the near future from the current location which is in front of the GC Primary School to a location closer to the downtown area upon approval of the City Council and Mayor. **A motion was made** by Council Member Clifton to relocate the "Butterfly Garden" in memory of Joel McRay to the area closer to the current entrance to the Firefly Trail on Carlton Avenue. Motion seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Jill Rhodes also serves on the Historic Preservation Commission and presented candidate Marty Dowdy as a potential member to serve on the Commission. The Commission must have five members and Joan Carpenter recently resigned due to her health. A motion was made by Council Member Clifton to appoint local business owner Marty Dowdy to the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic reported that the City of Union Point would be receiving \$353,758 from the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the state (COVID related). These funds are restricted and may be used for water infrastructure or other specific areas required by the state. There will be a second budget meeting the end of July. Clerk Cronic will confirm date next week.

Old Business: **A motion was made** to approve the second reading of the Historic Preservation Notice Ordinance by Council Member Rhodes. Motion seconded by Council Member Boswell. Motion unanimously passed.

New Business

Mayor Rhodes opened the floor to a Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m. The purpose of the hearing was for the re-zoning proposal of Parcel U09-0-000-53-A from R1 to C2. Mayor Rhodes asked for those in favor of the proposal to please speak to the council. Hal Chitwood, Building Official for Union Point spoke in favor of the re-zoning. He stated that this was an administrative issue and that a portion of the property was already zoned C2 and that this re-zone request was to properly conform this property. The property owner will be adding additional commercial storage buildings onto the property and the City needs to have the parcels properly zoned. Mr. Chitwood also stated that there was an oversight and he did not have the owner’s authorized signature on the application although he had spoken to him. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone was in attendance opposed to the re-zone. No one was present. The hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Rhodes asked for a motion to approve or deny the re-zoning proposal. Attorney Reitman advised that due to not having the parcel owner’s signature on the application that it was best to table the item until the August meeting.

Becky Cronic presented two estimates on enlarging the City Hall’s front office/lobby customer service window. **A motion was made** by Council Member Rhodes to accept an estimate from Harris Renovations in the amount of \$4,325; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports: Hal Chitwood gave a summary on Code Enforcement and building permits. He and his staff continue to be in Union Point on a weekly basis. He recommended that the City consider enforcing the “blight tax” for those property owners who remain in non-compliance for various reasons. Scott Tolleson with both the Greene County Development Authority and MGAG gave a summary report. Mr. Tolleson shared that Sam Young, Greene County Economic Development Director was retiring in September. The County will be seeking a replacement for Mr. Young. Mr. Tolleson reported that MGAG continued to work with the Tri-County Natural Gas Authority consolidation and he hoped that the team would have a proposed organizational chart and outline for the newly established Authority within the next two to three weeks.

Public Comments: Makel Dunn, Union Point citizen, asked that the City revisit their ways of purchasing permits and requested that the website be more user friendly when obtaining permits. Mr. Chitwood addressed the Council and Mr. Dunn and shared the process of obtaining a permit. Due to certain documentation required, the process may take several days. Mayor Rhodes thanked Mr. Dunn and asked the Clerk and Mr. Chitwood to look at the website to see what options were available.

Mayor Rhodes asked Council Member Boswell to give a Greene County health report on behalf of the Greene County Health Board Administration. It was noted that Greene County is 46% vaccinated for COVID. The vaccine is not mandatory at this time.

A one page overview of the tasks accomplished by the current administration was presented by the City Clerk. Qualifying for candidates for the November election is August 16-20th

There being no further business Council Member Boswell 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