

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting - February 12, 2019 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

Attendees: Mayor Lanier Rhodes, Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott
Council Members: Sally Boswell, Wayne Brown, Dawn Clifton, Mary Mundy,
John Rhodes; Attorney Joe Reitman and City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present and Mayor Rhodes called for approval of the minutes from the January 8, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Brown to approve the minutes from the January 8th council meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to accept the Agenda for the meeting as presented; seconded by Council Member Clifton.

Legal Matters/Unfinished Business: Attorney Reitman updated the council on the Tri-County Consolidation discussion that he had with Mr. Tolleson with MGAG, and reviewed concerns that he had with the potential Authority option that was being considered. Attorney Reitman and Greensboro's Attorney Adam Nelson will be meeting this week to discuss the two options that each of them have proposed. An update will be presented at the next meeting.

Council Member Rhodes entered the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

DDA Matters: Chairwoman Jill Rhodes reported that a wall has been constructed in the Theater to divide the foyer from the auditorium. DDA purchased materials and an individual through community service performed the labor. Mrs. Rhodes reported that the Firefly Trail committee is participating in two events in March: The Big Event on 3/16/2019 near Lake Oconee, and Ticket to Ride in Union Point on 3/23/2019. Volunteers are encouraged to assist with these events. The committee continues to work on land acquisitions for the Union Point one mile section and Mrs. Rhodes has asked Attorney Joe Reitman to assist with legalities pertaining to the property on Hwy 77/Carlton Ave.

Police Matters: Chief Cash gave an update of recent activity the Police Department has been handling over the past several weeks. He gave a summary of a recent shooting that took the life of a young lady in Elliot Circle and another incident involving juveniles and adults involved in setting trashcans on fire in Union Point. Chief Cash noted that he would like to consider hiring a part-time officer to assist on weekends and as needed to reduce the current overtime hours. Mayor Rhodes asked that Chief Cash discuss this further with the City Clerk and bring back a proposal with detailed cost when he had a comparison cost. A license has been received for the Animal Control Shelter and several dogs have been in and out of the shelter over the last three weeks. One officer did encounter a bite and was checked out at the hospital. Council Member Boswell reported that she had talked with the Clerk in regards to rabies shots for the officers. The vaccine is not mandated, but recommended. After reviewing the cost of the three part vaccine and the benefit that it would actually have, Chief Cash decided not to get them at this time and treat the bites when

or if they happened. Chief noted that the Friends of the Humane Society would be hosting a reduced cost spade and neuter day on Feb 26th for the residents at the former Dollar General parking lot on Lamb Avenue.

Clerk's report: Becky Cronic reported that she had attended the Clerk's Training required for Municipal Clerk Certification and received 15 credit hours towards the certification. She will attend more classes as they are scheduled. The Clerk presented a summary of expenses and revenue for the first quarter of 2019. A more detailed report will be presented at a future meeting. The Council was asked to sign a letter to The Farmers Bank giving the Clerk and Mayor the approval to close the former SPLOST checking account as advised by the auditors. A new checking account has been opened for the current SPLOST funds. No letter was needed to open the account.

The Clerk recommended a 3% raise for employees who are eligible. Those who have not been employed a full year are not eligible for the increase. A motion was made by Council Member Bowell to approve a 3% raise for eligible employees of the City of Union Point; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion unanimously passed.

The Clerk reported that both the fuel cost for vehicles and the internet/phone lines expenses are being reviewed for savings. A "Take Home Car" policy is being considered as an option for the Police Department by the Clerk to assist with fuel cost savings. The Clerk asked for input from the Council and will await feedback before submitting a draft to consider. Phone and internet lines are being analyzed by Brian Jewel with L & B Computers. The Clerk will submit cost saving options in this area upon meeting with Mr. Jewel in the weeks ahead.

Clerk Cronic recently applied for a grant on behalf of the City of Union Point through the Doppelt Family Fund. This \$15,000 is a non-matching grant and all funds if awarded will go towards the matching funds Union Point is raising for the completion of the DNR Grant for the Firefly Trail.

New Business: Council Member Rhodes gave a presentation on his vision for a neighborhood park that he would like the Mayor and Council's support on. The current ball park in Union Point is not located in an area that is easily accessible for kids. He recommended that the property owned by the City of Union Point on Barnes Street be the potential site. The vision is to create a basketball court and future playground for children in the neighborhood. Non-matching grants are being looked into by a volunteer who writes grants and he has several volunteers who are on board to support this the efforts if the City approves the use of the property. Cost of the outdoor equipment (basketball goals, benches, fence, playground, etc.) were all discussed and estimated cost is \$10,000 plus. This project would be developed in phases. Council Member Rhodes asked for permission by the Council and Mayor to support the efforts to move forward with cleaning up the lot for this project. After discussion on this project Mayor Rhodes thanked Council Member Rhodes for the presentation. A motion was made by Council Member Brown to allow Council Member Rhodes to move forward with working with volunteers to clean up the lot owned by the City on Barnes Street for the potential neighborhood outdoor park; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve a Proclamation naming February 22, 2019 as Arbor Day for the City of Union Point and authorizing the City Clerk to post the Proclamation in the newspaper by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Clifton.

Mayor Rhodes reported that the City of Union Point received notification from the Georgia Public Service Commission that Union Point's Gas System had successfully passed the inspection that was performed in October 2018. Mayor Rhodes recognized David Stephens, Public Works Director and Denise Channell, Compliance Administrator for their efforts in this department.

Committee Reports: Council Member Clifton reported on behalf of the Cemetery Committee that the Public Works employees have been cutting back the shrubs at Greenlawn Cemetery. Due to overgrowth, it will take several months now that they are cut back for the shrubs to look their best.

Council Member Brown reported on behalf of the Equipment Committee that he was working with each department gathering an inventory of equipment so that the City can better maintain what we have and visit what may need replacing.

Public Comments: Jill Rhodes commented that she hoped that the Council would support the efforts of the neighborhood park. Melanie Cash also encouraged the support of the park due to the site being near the Housing Authority and that there is no playground, or area for the children to safely play in that location of Union Point. Chief Cash commented that the Union Point Gym is available to be used however it may not be the best facility for kids 12 and under to play. He also shared that it would benefit the city to look at cost to add security (fencing, etc.) for safety measures. Council Member Mundy commented that at some point it would be beneficial to look at adding a walking trail to the current ball park area. Resident Jan Brazier thanked the Council, Mayor, and DDA for their efforts in being positive and how she sees them making a difference Union Point.

Being no further business a motion was made by Council Member Boswell to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Motion passed.

Mayor Rhodes ended the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date