

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – June 11, 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: Wayne Brown, Dawn Clifton, John Rhodes, Mary Mundy
Absent: Sally Boswell
Attorney Joe Reitman and City Clerk Becky Cronic

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

It was noted that a quorum was present. Mayor Rhodes called for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. **A motion** was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2019 council meeting; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Motion unanimously passed.

A **motion** was made by Council Member Mundy to accept the Agenda for the meeting as presented; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman updated the Council on the Watson Avenue property that was sold by the City to Greene County Habitat for Humanity. A quiet title needs to be processed to clear the title on the property before closing on the sale. This process must be completed by a Special Master Attorney and Attorney Reitman recommended Attorney Dick Schmidt for this process. **A motion was made** by Council Member Clifton to allow Attorney Reitman to proceed with the quiet title process with Attorney Dick Schmidt as Special Master for the completion of the title work; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Attorney Reitman reported that all three attorneys (Union Point, Greensboro, & Tri-County) for the Tri-County Gas consolidation are reviewing the newly drafted agreement. No new details to report at this time.

Attorney Reitman reported that he and City Clerk Cronic met with W & A Associates in regards to the engineering proposal for the Firefly Trail project. Several questions and answers are still outstanding and we will continue to communicate with the firm to get a clear understanding of the agreement they are proposing for the Trail project. In regards to the Firefly Trail, the property on Hwy 77 & Carlton Ave will be recorded at the Greene County Courthouse in the Union Point Downtown Development Authority's name upon completion of a PT61 being prepared by Attorney Reitman's office.

Bureau Veritas - Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Representatives Juan Irwin (Code Enforcement) and Hal Chitwood (Planning & Zoning) gave an overview of their role with the City of Union Point since contracting with them last summer. Mr. Irwin gave a report on the primary code enforcement cases that he is working on with the Chief of Police and the City of Union Point. He stated that Bureau Veritas (BV) is not allowed to enter the backyards of homes when making inspections due to the current contract. This hinders them from fully completing an inspection and may be something the City would like to revisit with BV. Council Member Brown asked for an update on three buildings on Lamb Avenue that he had been working on. Mr. Irwin is communicating with all three property owners or renters and will be following up with them on any areas not in compliance with the City of Union Point's ordinances. Mr. Chitwood reported that sixteen (16) construction related permits were issued in 2018, and twenty (20) construction related permits have been issued in 2019. He will also be proposing new request forms that currently do not exist to coincide with zoning ordinances. Mr. Chitwood noted that Bureau Veritas had enjoyed working with the front office staff at the City Hall and would continue to work for the City under the terms in the agreement.

Downtown Development Authority Matters: Chairman Jill Rhodes reported on behalf of DDA. The DDA will be hosting a community yard sale and evening for the kids in Union Point on July 20th at the ball park. The Historic Preservation Committee recently met and will be finalizing all requirements to be in compliance with the Certified Local Government status within the next few months. Training from the Historic Preservation Division is all that remains to be completed for the committee members.

Police Matters: Chief Cash presented an updated contract between the City of Union Point's Animal Control and the City of Woodville. Once reviewed by the City of Woodville and all questions have been answered, both Union Point and Woodville Councils will need to adopt the contract.

Chief Cash reported that the property at 101 South Rhodes Street still remains out of compliance with Union Point's code. A potential option was discussed with the owners to have the Union Point Volunteer Fire Department burn the uninhabitable structure on the site; however the land would remain in the owner's name. After discussion the Council agreed that this matter should be handled through court.

Chief Cash presented a Police Car Policy that had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. One revision he presented that is included within the policy was to amend the Section VIII (Take Home Car) to reflect living within 35 aeronautical miles from the City limits as opposed to living within 25 miles that was adopted in May 2019. **A motion was made** by Council Member Brown to amend Section VIII of the Take Home Car policy to reflect living within 35 aeronautical miles as the distance an officer lives from Union Point to be allowed to take home police vehicles; motion seconded by Council Member Clifton. After discussion and clarification of the definition of *aeronautical miles*, **a motion was made by** Council Member Brown to amend his previous motion to state to amend Section VIII of the Take Home Car policy to reflect living within 35 miles as the crow flies or within a radius of 35 miles as the distance an officer must live to take home police vehicles. Motion seconded by Council Member Clifton. Motion carried 3 to 2 with Mayor Pro-Tem Scott and Council Member Rhodes opposing.

Clerk's report: Clerk Becky Cronic distributed a report to the Council. Highlights from the report included three new appointments to the Union Point Housing Authority Board. New Commissioners on the Authority are Emma Mapp, Angela Warren, and Joyce Heffner. The Clerk also noted that the HVAC unit on the right side of the 4-Room School House needs to be replaced. Quotes are being requested for the new unit.

New Business: Yolanda Callaway, Municipal Court Clerk introduced herself to the Council and presented an overview of her duties as part time Clerk of Court. Following the overview and answering several questions from the Council, she reported that she would submit a report to each member before the July meeting with details on her hours, process of handling tickets, court procedures, etc., and justification of the request for an increase in compensation. Council Member Brown made a motion to move forward with increasing her compensation from \$400 per month to \$600 per month; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Motion failed 2 to 3 with Council Members Mundy, Rhodes and Mayor Pro-Tem Scott opposing.

Mayor Rhodes asked if any Department Committees had a report. Mayor Pro-Tem Scott reported that he would have proposal on carpet for the Council Meeting Room at the July meeting. Council Member Clifton shared concern of Public Works needing to be more detailed with grass and weeding in City limits.

Public Comments: Jill Rhodes asked that the City please consider the property at the corner of South Rhodes Street and Carlton Avenue carefully as this property is a major concern with the development of the Firefly Trail.

A motion was made by Council Member Mundy and seconded by Council Member Rhodes to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes ended the meeting and Council Member Rhodes closed with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date