

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting –July 09, 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, Sally Boswell, Mary Mundy
Attorney Joe Reitman and City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present. Mayor Rhodes called for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. **A motion** was made by Council Member Clifton to approve the minutes with minor corrections from the June 11, 2019 council meeting; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A **motion** was made by Mayor Pro Tem Scott to accept the Agenda for the meeting as presented; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman stated that he has been in contact with Rusi Patel with Georgia Cities/ Municipal Gas Authority concerning Tri-County's consolidation. He shared Patel's legal concerns about turning over gas system, and provided a draft legal opinion of mayor and council review, setting forth issues of turning over gas system. More details will be forthcoming after Tri-County's next board meeting and the Cities of Union Point and Greensboro have a chance to discuss potential financial implications. Attorney Reitman reported that the property on Watson Avenue that is being purchased by Habitat for Humanity from the City needs to be surveyed to complete the process of the quiet title search, per Georgia law. No original survey is on file at courthouse. Clerk and Attorney Reitman will get further details on the option for cost effective surveying and report back at the next meeting if not prior to the meeting. The abandoned property located between Carlton Avenue and Hwy 77 North that the City deeded to the Downtown Development Authority has been recorded at the Greene County Courthouse. This section of property is now available for the Firefly Project. Attorney Reitman confirmed that the BOE is still awaiting drawings of the Firefly Trail Model Mile before moving forward with the easement agreement for the property in front of the school on Hwy 77 North. Attorney Reitman had a brief discussion of the water plant project with council.

Council Member Mundy entered the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority Matters: Chairman Jill Rhodes reported on behalf of DDA. The DDA representatives present at the meeting recognized Melanie Cash, who has recently moved, for her service. **A motion was made** by Council Member Dawn Clifton to accept Melanie Cash's resignation from the Union Point Downtown Development Authority; seconded by Council Member Brown. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried unanimously. **A motion was made** by Mayor Pro Tem Scott to approve Union Point resident Brad Ballard to the DDA to fill one open slot on the board. Seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Rhodes shared that DDA will be hosting a community yard sale and evening for the kids in Union Point on July 20th at the ball park. Plans to move forward with revitalizing the Union Point fountain and park area are in the works for the near future.

Police Matters: Chief Cash reported that he would like for the City to place a monument in memory of Officer Rowry who was killed while on duty 40 years ago this year near the fountain once the Downtown Development Authority work begins on the park area. Chief reported that the properties related to Code Enforcement were still awaiting court results. No new updates at this time.

Clerk's report: Clerk Becky Cronic distributed a report to the Council. The Clerk also noted that the HVAC unit on the right side of the 4-Room School House had been replaced. Chris Dyches replaced the old unit with a 5-ton unit for \$5860. A Cost Study from GMA has been completed in regards to the retirement options the City's plan currently has.

A "30 and Out" (based on number of years worked and not age) option would increase the premium by a little over \$12,000 per month. GMA representative will come down to discuss this option and share what changes would be made if the City chose to change the current plan. Clerk Cronic recommended increasing the Municipal Court Clerk's compensation to \$510 per month after reviewing the duties and hearing the request from Clerk Yolanda Callaway in June. **A motion was made** by Council Member Mundy to revise the consultant agreement with Yolanda Callaway, Municipal Court Clerk, to include compensation of \$500 per month and to include documentation of dates and hours worked on the monthly invoice. Motion was seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried with Council Members Boswell, Brown, Rhodes, Scott, and Mundy in favor; Council Member Clifton abstained.

Old/Unfinished Business: Mayor Pro Tem Scott shared a quote on carpet for the council meeting room. This will eliminate much of the noise in the room during meetings due to the acoustics in the room. A second quote will be obtained and the item was tabled until the next meeting.

New Business: Mayor Rhodes called on Sherri Johnson who was on the agenda to share information about Hurt Street. Mrs. Johnson was not at the meeting at the time. Mayor Rhodes called on Willie Milline with Excell Adult Day Care to share with the Council on a potential new facility in Union Point. Mr. Milline and co-worker Lillie Hill informed the Mayor and Council they had a contract on the former Dollar General building on Lamb Avenue. Zoning questions and concerns have been answered by Bureau Veritas and plans to move forward with locating the Adult Day Care to Union Point are underway. The center will be open five days a week. They are moving from Greensboro to this new location. Mayor Rhodes again asked if Sherri Johnson was present. She was not, however Mayor Rhodes shared that she was concerned about the road that is partially maintained by the City and then turns into private property.

Committee Reports: Council Member Wayne Brown reported from the **Equipment Committee**. He shared two quotes on maintaining the cemetery for information with the Mayor and Council to compare the cost with what the Public Works Department is currently paying. This option of outsourcing the lawn maintenance would potentially free up the Public Works employees to handle other duties in Union Point.

Council Member Brown asked that the City consider adding an additional car to the city's fleet for First Responders (FR). He stated that FR Will Wright has been to over 150 FR calls with EMS since December and uses his personal vehicle and gets compensated for the call, but no reimbursement for gas. Clerk Cronic reported that no other municipalities offer a car for First Responders and clarified that the FR do not get compensated for the calls when only First Responders are called out to assist EMS. There are about 6 volunteer First Responders on the UP Fire Department. The City compensates the Union Point Volunteer Fire Department for fire calls only. **A motion was made** by Council Member Brown to allow the City Council to look into adding a vehicle for first responders. Motion failed due to lack of a second to the motion.

Cemetery Committee: Council Member Dawn Clifton reported that the cemetery was in good shape and the Public Works were keeping the grass cut the best they could along with maintaining the other properties and duties.

Health Officer: Council Member Boswell reported that she is reaching out to Dr. Bo Cheves to assist with physicals for several new Union Point Volunteer Firemen who need them to complete their training requirements.

Facilities: Council Member Rhodes reported that one of the grants submitted for the Barnes Street Park had to be re-submitted. No further updates on the other grant applications for the basketball court/park.

Public Comments: Jill Rhodes commented that due the Four Room School House where the Council Meets being in the historic district, any maintenance done to the outside of the building would require going before Historic Preservation (HP) Commission, but the carpet that is being considered for the room would not be something that HP would have to approve. Dee Lhowe commented on the cemetery and noted that if the City ever considered outsourcing the maintenance, to please ensure that the workers are very careful in maintaining the areas around the headstones, etc., as well as the larger areas of the cemetery.

Jill Rhodes commented that a group who painted murals in Greensboro came and looked several buildings in Union Point and they are interested in painting some in Union Point as well.

Council Member Clifton commented that there is also a cemetery on O’Rear Rd that is in the City limits and needs attention.

Jeff Cronic, Assistant Fire Chief, shared concerns about the First Responder car and stated that if the City were to consider this option, the vehicle should be parked at the Fire Station/Public Safety building for use by those who may be available if they are not working when a call comes in. He shared his thoughts and experience as a First Responder and that he feels they should work as a team; to have just one responder utilizing a vehicle would not be fair to the others. Other cities within the county have First Responders and do not provide vehicles.

Melanie Cash commented on the physicals that were mentioned and shared thought on the insurance provider covering costs of physicals.

Council Member Boswell asked if the City would continue maintaining the Watson Avenue property until the sale is complete with Habitat for Humanity. Mayor Rhodes confirmed that it would be maintained by the City until sale is final.

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

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date