

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting –August 13, 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 6:00 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 July 9, 2019 council meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A **motion** was made by Council Member Boswell to accept the Agenda for the meeting as presented; seconded by Council Member Brown. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman gave a brief update on Tri-County Consolidation proposal process. No final agreement has been made on the consolidation. The property on Watson Avenue that is being purchased by Habitat for Humanity from the City is being surveyed by Cowherd Land Surveying in order to complete the quiet title search. Cowherd had the most cost effective rate at \$500. Attorney Reitman commented on the option to revert back to Greene County to handle elections for the City of Union Point and suggested to be sure to be cautious of the annual fees when considering this option.

Downtown Development Authority Matters: Treasurer Joyce Heffner gave the financial report for DDA and the Firefly Trail accounts. Chairman Jill Rhodes reported on behalf of DDA. Mrs. Rhodes gave a brief review of current and upcoming events and reported that Patsy Ballard and Jeff Hough are new members of the Local Action Committee for the Firefly Trail project. The fountain re-bricking and repairs are underway and will be completed as soon as possible. Murals that were painted by the UGA art school are also complete.

Police Matters: Chief Cash reported that he has not obtained the cost of the monument to be placed in the City Park in memory of Officer Rowry who was killed while on duty 40 years ago. He will update next month. Chief reported that two properties under Code Enforcement have until September 8th to be removed by the owners. After that date, the City has the authority to demolish the properties. (806 Crawfordville Road and 101 North Rhodes Street). Chief Cash shared that due to sending out a letter to property owners on Hunter Street in regards to grass needing to be cut, this one property and two others have now been donated to Habitat for Humanity since a new Habitat Home is being constructed next to the properties that were cited.

Clerk's report: Clerk Becky Cronic distributed a report to the Council. A representative from GMA will be meeting with the pension committee, Mayor Rhodes, and Wendell Mathews with Tri-County to discuss the Cost Study on the "30 and Out" retirement option.

An update on the Firefly Trail was given and the City will be negotiating with potential engineers to move forward with the engineering and design proposal for the project. The Local Action Committee and DDA have almost raised their match for the project and will surpass it after the concert on August 16th. Deadline to meet matching funds for grant is December 31, 2019. Funds needed to complete project will be continuous until completion of Trail.

Old/Unfinished Business: Mayor Pro-Tem Scott shared a second quote on carpet for the council meeting room with the council members prior to the meeting. The lowest bid was from Dalton Carpet. There was a unanimous vote via email to allow Dalton Carpet to install carpet ASAP and preferably prior to the August 13th meeting. However, the earliest will be August 15th due to scheduling.

New Business: The Butler Family of Union Point requested that the City of Union Point consider a Proclamation for “Domo’s Day” in memory of their daughter Dominique Butler for August 18th. **A motion was made** by Wayne Brown to proclaim August 18th as Domo’s Day on behalf of the City of Union Point; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed with Council Members Brown, Boswell, Rhodes, Scott, and Mundy in favor and Council Member Clifton opposed.

A motion was made by Wayne Brown to allow businesses who are interested in promoting their business to do so through the utility bills at a rate of \$100 per month with the business providing the insert with “paid for by business name” noted on the insert and folded ready to be inserted into the bills. Motion seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Clerk Cronic reported that there will be a Public Hearing to hear a request for a conditional use permit at the September 10th Council Meeting at 6 p.m.

Mayor Rhodes stated that he would be contacting the council with dates to discuss budget needs over the next few weeks. A called work session will be held prior to recommending the 2020 FY Budget.

Committee Reports: Council Member Wayne Brown requested that the Council vote on the lower bid that was submitted at last month’s meeting for maintaining the grounds at the cemeteries in Union Point. **A motion was made** by Wayne Brown to accept the bid from *4 Seasons Lawn Care* for annual maintenance of the Wisteria and Greenlawn Cemeteries. Motion seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Council Members Brown, Clifton, and Mundy voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Boswell, Rhodes, and Scott were opposed. Due to the tie, Mayor Rhodes voted against the motion. Motion failed.

Public Comments: Jill Rhodes commented and encouraged the City to move forward with negotiations on the engineering proposal as soon as possible for the Firefly Model Mile. Mayor Rhodes commented on the vote against outsourcing the cemetery lawn maintenance and encouraged Council Member Brown to look into revisiting the rate for seasonal assistance. He also asked Public Works Director David Stephens to look at cost of additional part time help as alternative.

Attorney Reitman noted that he would be delayed at the September council meeting due to a previous appointment.

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

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date