

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting –October 8, 2019 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

Attendees: Mayor Lanier Rhodes

Council Members: Wayne Brown, Dawn Clifton, John Rhodes, Sally Boswell, Mary Mundy and Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott. **Others:** 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.

A motion was made by Council Member Brown to approve the agenda for meeting; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to accept the minutes presented from the September 10, 2019 council meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the called meeting held on September 6, 2019 by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman reported on the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement for Tri-County Natural Gas. Tri-County will meet to discuss further at their quarterly meeting. Attorney Reitman noted that the Water Plant is on track as USDA and EPD are reviewing and will be getting back with the engineer later this month.

Downtown Development Authority Matters: Sherley Selman reported on behalf of DDA in regards to the 5k Race on September 28th. About sixty runners participated in the race. All funds raised will go towards the Fire Fly Trail project. DDA Volunteers have started an after school reading time for children at the Theatre.

Police Matters: Sheriff Donnie Harrison gave an overview of the law enforcement coverage his office will now be providing the City of Union Point due to the elimination of the City's Police Department. The Sheriff's office is working with the City on entering an intergovernmental agreement and will discuss this further after reviewing the number of calls they have from within the City limits. The Sheriff's Office is currently covering Union Point in the same manner they cover other jurisdictions in the County. They are considering four officers to be dedicated to Union Point however an agreement has not been reached. The Union Point Police Station will be utilized as a substation for the Sheriff's Office until agreement has been met. The Mayor asked if anyone had comments from the public in regards to the law enforcement coverage. Several attendees shared concerns with the Sheriff in relation to animal control, response time, and funding.

Clerk's report: Clerk Becky Cronic requested that the Council consider accepting a re-striping bid in the amount of \$10,174 from Mid-State Striping, Inc. for the Department of Transportation SAP project to re-stripe streets and markings for seven streets. This was the lowest bid submitted. **A motion was made** by Council Member Dawn Clifton to approve the bid from Mid-State Striping, Inc. in the amount of \$10,174 to re-stripe and mark seven streets in the city limits of Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously carried.

A copy of Clerk Cronic's monthly report highlighting various general items will be on file with the minutes.

Old/Unfinished Business: Two engineering proposals for the Fire Fly Trail design and engineering plans were submitted to the Mayor and Council for review. W & A Associates had submitted a proposal several months back to the Fire Fly Local Action Committee, to the City, and to the County for this project as the sole engineer. Due to the extent of the project the City of Union Point requested another proposal. P.C. Simonton & Associates submitted a proposal as the second proposal for review. After a brief discussion no action was taken on the proposals.

New Business: A proposed budget for FY2020 was presented to the Council. A copy of the budget will be available at City Hall for review by the public and for comments. It was noted that a public work session was held on September 19th to review and prepare the budget at City Hall. A Public Hearing will be held on October 22nd at 6 p.m. at the 4 Room School House for Public Comment and review. Amendments will be made prior to approving the proposed budget based on comments and recommendations. Mayor Rhodes stated that in looking at the proposed millage rate for 2020, he will be asking the council to consider rolling it back to 8.5 to reduce taxes. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to accept this proposed FY2020 Budget as a first reading of the budget for the City of Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried 5 to 1 with Council Member Brown in opposition.

Committee/Other Department Reports: Clerk Cronin reported on behalf of Fire Chief Edwards in regards to two vehicles that the Fire Department would like to sell as surplus property on Gov. Deals. **A motion was made** by Council Member Rhodes to approve that the 2008 White Crown Victoria Sedan and the 1987 Bucket Fire Truck that are no longer in operation be sold as surplus. Motion seconded by Council Member Brown. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: Jan Brazier asked that the Council carefully review the millage rate but not cut too much as funding is still needed to make improvements needed in Union Point through the Downtown Development Authority and the City as a whole. Jill Rhodes commented on the two engineering firms being considered for the Fire Fly Trail and shared concerns other communities had with one of the firms.

Other: Mary Mundy shared that she would be spearheading the Christmas Parade in December and would meet with the City staff to get details out to the community.

No further business, Attorney Reitman requested Executive Session to discuss threatened litigation. **A motion was made** to exit Regular Session and enter Executive Session by Council Member Clifton; seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to exit Executive Session and enter Regular Session; seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon returning to Regular Session the Council discussed the engineering firm proposals. **A motion was made** by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott to approve P.C. Simonton & Associates' proposal for the design and engineering services for the Fire Fly Trail Project up to \$33,750 subject to successful resolution in removing the limitation of liability in contract. Motion seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made to adjourn regular session at 8:10 p.m. by Council Member Clifton; seconded by Council Member Boswell. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date