

REGULAR MEETING OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL: December 11, 2018

The City Council of Union Point met in regular session on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 6:00 P.M., in the Four-Room School Building at 211 Veazey Street with Mayor Rhodes presiding. The members present were Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott, Sally Boswell, Dawn Clifton, Mary Mundy, John Rhodes and Wayne Brown.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rhodes at 6:05 p.m. Mayor Rhodes opened the meeting with a prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. A quorum was present.

Mayor Rhodes called for approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting which was held on November 13, 2018. A motion was made by Council Member Clifton and seconded by Council Member Mundy to approve the minutes from November 13, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the December 11th meeting by Mayor Pro-Tem Scott; seconded by Council Member Boswell. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rosie Crawford representing S & W Electronics at 4891 Lamb Avenue addressed the Council regarding Ordinance #19 pertaining to the section related to storage of products outside of a business. Mayor Rhodes addressed Ms. Crawford's concern that due to complaints of appliances positioned close to the road, Code Enforcement was called to address this issue. Chief Cash shared that S&W is now in compliance. Ms. Crawford stated that she felt as though their business was being targeted by Code Enforcement due to letters they had received and visits by Chief Cash and a Bureau Veritas representative who is currently assisting with Code Enforcement. Council Member John Rhodes addressed Ms. Crawford as to why she thought S&W was being targeted. She noted that other businesses had products and or items stored outside of their businesses and she had not noticed any changes in the other properties that also had product outside. Council Member Rhodes addressed Ms. Crawford that no one business was being targeted. Efforts are being made to clean-up the town and others are being addressed. Council Member Boswell asked Ms. Crawford if the representative from Bureau Veritas was respectful when he visited the business. Ms. Crawford reported that he did give them a warning, but did not say he was disrespectful. Mayor Rhodes thanked Ms. Crawford for sharing her concerns.

Attorney Joe Reitman advised that he had seen the recent email from Scott Tolleson in reference to the partnership with the Tri-County Gas consolidation. Attorney Peter Floyd with the Municipal Gas Association will be available at the January meeting with further information and to answer any questions on the Tri-County Gas consolidation proposal. Attorney Reitman informed the council of the Gas Bond validation and bond financing documentation that was discussed and approved for the Gas Department several months ago (MGAG). Attorney Reitman presented the documentation to Mayor Rhodes for his signature and to the Clerk for Attest. Attorney Reitman will process the documentation for the validation and bond issuance prior to December 31, 2018.

Union Point DDA Chair Jill Rhodes reported that the parade on December 8th was cancelled due to the weather. The Christmas workshop and visit with Santa in the Sibley Avenue building proceeded as planned and was a success. Mrs. Rhodes reported that The Firefly Trail committee is moving forward with acquiring the property acquisition along Carlton Ave and Hwy 77 N. and would keep the council informed on the process. The Firefly Trail event previously scheduled for early spring has been cancelled and the committee is revisiting what type of event would be a better fit to raise funds. Representatives from the Firefly Trail will have a booth at the Lake Oconee Area Builders Association Home Show near Lake Oconee in March to assist in promoting the Trail. The Ticket to Ride event will also take place in late March and the activities will be relocated back to the Old Theatre instead of being held at the Union Point ball fields where it was held in 2018.

Mrs. Rhodes reported that the DDA is still working on upgrades to the Theatre. The next phase when funding is available, is the completion of an attractive wall that will divide the foyer from the main auditorium in the theatre. Council Member Brown asked Mrs. Rhodes about the budget for the Downtown Development Authority for 2019. A final budget has not been set as the DDA and City Clerk have not met to discuss further needs at this time.

Council Member Mary Mundy applauded those who attended the event on December 8th despite the weather and thanked all who worked tirelessly on the event.

Police Matters: Chief of Police Robert Cash recommended a policy for the Animal Control shelter to include a \$40 impound fee to house animals at the Animal Control facility. Chief also recommended that the City of Union Point contract with Durham Vet Clinic to provide care for the animals as needed. Mayor Rhodes entertained a motion to approve the fees. A motion was made by Council Member Dawn Clifton to adopt a \$40 impound fee for housing animals at the Animal Shelter, and to allow Durham Vet Clinic to provide care for the animals on an as needed basis. Motion was seconded by Council Member Wayne Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Exhibit A – Section 50-33 Marijuana (Union Point) Code. The first reading of this code was presented at the November 2018 council meeting with the second reading by Attorney Joe Reitman at the December 11th meeting. A motion to approve the revised Chapter 50 “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” Code Amendment was made by Council Member Dawn Clifton and seconded by Council Member John Rhodes. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Cash reported that one of the officers hit a deer in the Dodge Charger damaging the headlight and front panel. This is the same car that continues to need maintenance and add to the cost of repairs. Chief recommended that the council consider allowing this car to be sold at auction for scrap as opposed to repairing it. A motion was made by Council Member Wayne Brown to allow the Chief to strip the car for parts needed and proceed with selling it for scrap. Council Member Mary Mundy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Magistrate Court Intergovernmental Agreement: Union Point is waiting to hear if Greensboro and Greene County will be entering the agreement before signing the agreement. Judge Ogletree will be back in touch with Chief Cash when a decision is made from the other two entities.

Attorney Reitman gave an overview of changes he had made to the 2018 Ford Taurus Police Car lease as requested at the November meeting. Sections #25 and #26 had been removed from the lease. Council Member Boswell commented that she still had concern about the lease between the company leasing the car and the City of Union Point. Attorney Reitman gave an overview of how this lease program came about. John Rhodes shared his opinion on the lease program. Mayor Rhodes entertained a motion for the lease. A motion was made by Council Member Wayne Brown to allow the City of Union Point to lease a 2018 Ford Taurus for the Police Department from The Public Safety Interceptor Program effective December 11, 2018; seconded by Council Member Mary Mundy. Motion passed 3 to 2 (Council Member Boswell and Mayor Pro-Tem Scott opposing)

Clerk’s Report: Clerk Cronic presented an update on items she had been working on during November. Items needing action are as follows: The Clerk recommended a change in the personnel policy for Christmas holidays changing the half day of Christmas Eve to a full day in addition to Christmas Day. A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to reflect Christmas Eve and Christmas day as holidays for employees of the City of Union Point; motion seconded by Council Member Dawn Clifton. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk Cronin proposed that the employees get an incentive bonus for the Christmas 2018 pay period. A motion was made by Council Member Sally Boswell to adopt the proposal of an additional \$150 incentive for employees who have been employed by the City for less than a year, and a \$250 incentive for those who have been employed over a year or more. Motion seconded by Council Member Mary Mundy. Motion passed 5 to 1 (Council Member Dawn Clifton opposing)

The Clerk reported that she continues to review the financials and would like to implement a 3% cost of living raise for 2019 if funds allow. Clerk Cronin will begin her certification training in February. One hundred hours are required for certification. This training is offered by the Carl Vincent Institute of Government through the University of Georgia.

The Clerk met with the City of Union Point's auditor and continues to work on updating the financials. They advised it would be a slow process after reviewing the current status.

New Business:

Fire Chief Hershey Edwards was present and provided a request to the Mayor and Council for equipment needed by the Fire Department. SPLOST funds are now available for purchasing the equipment. Mayor Rhodes spoke with the County Manager and the City may move forward with the purchases. Council Member Wayne Brown asked the Fire Chief about maintenance on the fire trucks and Chief Edwards will be meeting with him to provide updates in the coming weeks. It was also suggested that once committees are formed that this could be one of the areas where assistance could be offered. Mayor Rhodes entertained a motion to move forward with the SPLOST fund purchase. A motion was made by Council Member Wayne Brown to allow Fire Chief Hershey Edwards to proceed with purchasing the needed equipment totaling at this time just over \$80,000; seconded by Council Member Dawn Clifton. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Attendee Jan Brazier stated her concerns about the revised illegal drug code amendment wanting to make sure those enforcing the law were fair with all individuals. Council Member Dawn Clifton stated that she felt confident that the police would handle each incident properly. Mayor Rhodes asked for any other comments. Public Works Director David Stephens stated that the Lift Station had been repaired due to a tree falling over the weekend and that he was marking other trees that are potential dangers to the station.

There were no further comments. Mayor Rhodes thanked the Council for their support and entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Council Member Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Boswell. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with prayer.

Mayor _____

Clerk & Treasurer _____

Date _____

Date _____