

Union Point City Council Minutes
Draft - Monthly Meeting – April 12, 2022 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

Attendees: Mayor Lanier Rhodes **Council Members:** Sally Boswell, Mary Mundy, Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott, William Harris, Jr., Teneisha Pinkney, John Rhodes
Others: City Clerk Becky Cronic **Absent:** Attorney Joe Reitman

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the April 12, 2022, meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was present.

Council Member Boswell made a motion to approve the agenda for the April meeting; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Council Member Rhodes made a motion to accept the minutes presented from the March 8, 2022, council meeting; seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman was unable to attend the meeting.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) – Jill Rhodes gave a brief update on the DDA. She noted that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) would host a special opening of the downtown museum in May to coincide with National Historic Preservation Month. More details to come. The HPC met to re-establish the historic district boundary lines and will be presenting the newly recommended boundaries to the council this summer. She also noted that the historic home known as Hawthorn Heights was under contract and the new owner is scheduled to close within two weeks.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic reported that she would be attending the last class she needed for clerk's accreditation in early June. She also noted that she has registered two council members, the mayor, and herself for the June GMA Convention that is slated for June 24-27th. Council Member Rhodes and Harris are scheduled to attend this year's convention. Mrs. Cronic distributed a flyer for the Citywide Clean-Up. The city will pick-up items from residents and businesses beginning May 23rd.

Old Business:

A final copy of the Viasat Satellite proposal was presented to the Attorney and Council for review. After careful review by Attorney Reitman prior to the meeting, he recommended that the Council consider the proposal. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to approve the Viasat lease agreement which allows Viasat to lease space in the City of Union Point for \$800 a month for three years that will allow the satellite company a site where they could install equipment to offer internet capabilities to individuals within reach of the site. The lease will renew automatically and expire October 31, 2026 with options to renew. Motion was seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Viasat will begin paying rent April 2022 and the service will not be available to customers for approximately a year. Motion carried 5 to 1 with Council Member Scott opposing.

A copy of An Ordinance to allow the City of Union Point to participate in the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Life and Health Program Association's for its employees was presented to the Council prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Council Member Scott to approve an Ordinance allowing for the City of Union Point to participate in the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Life and Health Program for 2022. Motion seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A proposal to outsource the lawn maintenance at the historic Wisteria Cemetery had been discussed in previous meetings. Two written estimates were presented, and two other lawncare services had been contacted however declined the opportunity to give an estimate. A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to accept the estimate by Outdoor Unlimited for \$750 per cutting a will include maintenance and upkeep as needed. Motion seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. It was noted that the City would outsource this cemetery for a year and reconsider if needed. This would allow the Public Works Department more time to focus on other properties during the cutting season and that. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports: Clerk Cronin shared that the City's Five-Year Comprehensive Plan will end in 2023. A new plan is required every five years. She asked that the Council be thinking of areas of concern that the city needs to focus on for the next five years and that a work session would be scheduled for later this summer to discuss the next steps. Council Member Boswell shared that she had a concern about the housing needs within the city. This is an area that may need to be addressed sooner than later.

Public Comments:

Terry Lawler, a member of the Northeast Georgia Regional Development Commission, shared information regarding the Comprehensive Plan. He also asked that the council consider allowing him to leave informative cards related to TSPLOST in the lobby at City Hall. This is an important item on the ballot for the May 24th election and will impact the resources for infrastructure in the county and all municipalities within Greene County.

Dee Lindsey, one of Union Point's representative on the County Commission and the Greene County Development Authority Board shared concerns related to the five-year plan related to schools and economic development.

Council Member Harris shared concerns related to Public Works and standing water during rainy days near the Housing Authority.

The mayor thanked all of them for sharing their concerns.

There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date