

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – December 14, 2021 – 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, John Rhodes & Dawn Clifton **Others:** Attorney Joe Reitman and City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the December 14th meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Mayor Rhodes opened a Public Hearing to hear a request for a variance from Habitat for Humanity on a current front yard setback on the corner lot at 1141 Country Club Lane. Hal Chitwood, building official, presented the report and request on the variance. All documents and applications were provided by Habitat as required and the City's ordinance does state a variance may be allowed. Dave Delich with Habitat spoke in favor of the variance. No one spoke against the request. The Public Hearing was closed. A motion to approve the variance request was made by Council Member Mundy; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve the agenda for the December 14th meeting; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Mundy to accept the minutes presented from the November 9, 2021, council meeting; seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman shared that he had not heard any updates from Ledcor Technical Services regarding the proposed renting of city property next to the Verizon Tower for an internet satellite. Attorney Reitman reported that the court ordered the owner of the former Pre-School on Witcher Street clean-up all remaining debris to be in compliance with the city's ordinances. A copy of the court order is on file at City Hall.

DDA: Jill Rhodes reported that the downtown tree lighting was well attended, and she thanked Council Member Mary Mundy for her efforts in making sure the event was a success with music, Santa, and refreshments. Mrs. Rhodes requested that the City Council consider appointing Tara Coile as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission. This candidate will replace Marty Dowdy who is unable to serve on the commission. **A motion was made** by Council Member Clifton to approve Tara Coile as a representative on the Historic Preservation Commission for Union Point. Seconded by Council Member Clifton. Opportunity for discussion. Tara is an active volunteer in the community and is a UGA graduate with B.A. in Anthropology. Motion unanimously passed.

Ministry Update - Yong Sung Lee owner of the former Methodist Campground property on Crawfordville Road, and Dr. Kem representing the current Korean Ministry on this property gave an overview of their plans for this retreat center. This site currently serves as a center for worship twice a month. Mr. Lee has owned the property for 8 years. Building Official Hal Chitwood will be meeting with them to assist them with compliance issues that they currently do not meet. Mr. Lee and Dr. Kem shared that they would like to have the retreat center operational by mid-June 2022.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave a report and noted the holiday closings and upcoming employee luncheon. New council member training through the Carl Vincent Institute has been confirmed and the two new council members are scheduled to attend in late February.

Old Business:

Scott Tolleson with MGAG reviewed the Tri-County Authority Agreement. This agreement will finalize the consolidation process to create the new Tri-County Gas Authority. An operational guide will be forthcoming. **A motion was made** by Council Member Clifton to enter an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Greensboro and Tri-County Natural Gas for the consolidation and establishment of Tri-County Natural Gas Authority. Seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. An original of the agreement will be signed by all three entities prior to the end of December. Motion unanimously passed.

ARPA Funds: The clerk presented a list of infrastructure improvement options and upgrades for the City’s meter reading system as ideas for expending funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to expend \$227,900 on an enhanced radio read meter reading system and allocate \$50,000 of the funds for the extension of the Firefly Trail infrastructure. Motion was seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

New Business:

Clerk Cronin noted that Governor Brian Kemp announced in September 2021 that a Public Safety Supplement Grant would be available to all cities and counties in Georgia and available to applicants prior to December 31, 2021. **A motion was made** by Council Member Clifton to approve a Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to apply for and receive the Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responder supplement grant from the State of Georgia on behalf of the eligible employees and volunteers of the City of Union Point, GA. Seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. It was noted that \$300 would be given per eligible Volunteer Fireman. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adopt the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan by Council Member Mundy; seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made Council Member Boswell to approve malt beverage license renewals for BP Market, The Point Market, Inc., Union Point Grocery & Deli, and Short Stop in Union Point; seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Department Reports: Clerk Cronin reported that the city had a total of 271 Fire and First Responder calls in 2021.

Public Comments: None.

Other: Mayor Rhodes called for a motion to enter Executive Session. **A motion was made** by Council Member Clifton to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Motion unanimously passed. A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to exit Executive Session and re-enter regular session. Seconded by Council Member Clifton. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve a 3% raise for all eligible employees for FY2022 and give each employee who had been employed over a year an additional week’s pay incentive for Christmas; those employed less than a year would receive \$250. Motion seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Rhodes thanked Council Member Clifton for her four years of service to the City of Union Point as tonight was her last meeting. Two new members will be installed at the January 11th meeting.

There being no further business Council Member Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Council Member Clifton. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date