

Union Point City Council Meeting
Minutes from January 14, 2025 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

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

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the January 14, 2025, 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 Boswell to approve the agenda for the January 14, 2025, meeting. Seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve the minutes from the December 2024, council meeting with minor changes. Seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Hearing: Mayor Rhodes opened the Public Hearing to hear a request for a variance related to setback requirements for an accessory carport at 615 Woodland Court. Hal Chitwood, Building and Zoning Official, presented a summary of the request and details on the requirements. The recommendation from Mr. Chitwood is to approve the variance request. He reported that a concrete slab was in place from many years past in the same location where the property owners are locating the carport. The slab is in good condition and is usable. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the request. Christine Dale (owner) spoke in favor of the request and shared that they were new to the community and would appreciate the approval. Bill Callaway, neighbor, also spoke in favor of the request. Mayor Rhodes asked if there was anyone who would like to speak against the request. No one present. Mayor Rhodes closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Harris to grant approval for the variance request at 615 Woodland Court. Motion was seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Attorney Reitman had no legal matters to discuss.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update: Jill Rhodes, DDA Chair, reported that the entry way signs are installed. Mrs. Rhodes reported that the DDA recently had a planning meeting to set priorities for this year. One of the items on the list is "unique fact projects". One of the projects to be highlighted will be the Ogeechee River headwaters. We believe this will draw people to the community and in turn will increase our pedestrian traffic and impact the local economy. Attorney Reitman shared that Hancock County has a team of volunteers who already have an organization who are working on the Ogeechee River importance and may be willing to partner with Union Point. More details will follow in the weeks ahead of other projects and DDA involvement.

Clerk's Report – Becky Cronic reported that the 2024 taxes were sent in December and are due February 17, 2025. Becky distributed copies of the 2021 Audit reports and reported that the 2022 Audit will soon be underway.

Old Business: **A motion was made** by Council Member Pinkney to approve the Water and Sewer Budgets that were presented in December for Fiscal Year 2025. Motion seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Clerk Cronic reported that the enterprise funds do not require balanced budgets, however, a budget had not been approved as of October 1, 2024. Motion unanimously passed. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to approve the renewal of IGA with Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Greene County Commissioners for Law Enforcement as presented for the next four years beginning February 1, 2025. Motion was seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Clerk Cronic noted that a copy of the IGA is included with the minutes and that the noteworthy change was that the hours per month decreased to 18 hours per week rather than 24 hours per week to align with the general budget. Motion unanimously passed.

New Business:

Becky Cronic reported that five Malt Beverage Licenses requested renewals for 2025. Union Point Grocery and Deli, Short Stop, BP Market, The Point Market, and Jackson's BBQ. **A motion was made by** Council Member Pinkney to renew the malt beverage licenses for five customers in Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports:

Will Wright reported that the Fire Department will be audited by the Insurance Commissioner (ISO) in the coming weeks, and he has been striving to have everything in compliance with standards and safety. He also reported that there would be hydrant testing taking place in March and a notice with the exact date would be mailed with the utility bills.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business or need for Executive Session, the meeting was adjourned. **Motion to adjourn** by Council Member Boswell. Seconded by Council Member Harris. Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date