

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – February 13, 2024 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

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

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the February 13, 2024, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Scott to approve the agenda after adding Arbor Day Proclamation to new business for the February 13, 2024, 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 January 9, 2024. Seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Hearing: Mayor Rhodes opened the Public Hearing to hear a Conditional Use Request and Variance Request for placing a mobile home at 408 Barnes Street. Makel Dunn spoke in favor of the request. No one else present spoke in favor or against the request. Mayor Rhodes asked Chountelle Hudson with Bureau Veritas to give a summary and report of the request for the Conditional Use Request and Variance. After reviewing the proposed application request, Bureau Veritas recommended not to approve the request due to the site being in the historic district. However, the council would need to vote on the final approval or disapproval. The council had several questions for Bureau Veritas regarding the mobile home location, HPC and setbacks/boundaries. Following the discussion, Mayor Rhodes closed the Hearing and resumed regular session. **A motion was made by** Council Member Boswell to approve the Conditional Use Permit request and allow for the variance needed to locate a single wide mobile home at 408 Barnes Street. Motion seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. It was noted that this lot will be removed from the historic district in the proposed future map due to the parcel no longer having historical significance. The motion unanimously passed.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman reported that the property at 4670 Lamb Avenue is in the lien process and will include all fees pertaining to legal guidance, code enforcement, and the cost that the city incurs to bring it into compliance. The city can move forward with getting the building into compliance based on the court order. The owner has shared with the Clerk that he plans to sell the property. Council Member Boswell posed the question to Attorney Reitman regarding the safety of the building on the corner of Sibley and Fluker that was recently damaged by wind. He reported that if the city had made efforts to block the section off and encourage alternative traffic routes that the city would not be liable for any issues.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave a brief report and noted that the Annual GMA Conference will be held in Savannah in late June. Two council members, the Mayor and Clerk will be registering to attend the event.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update: Jill Rhodes, DDA Chair, reported that plans are being finalized for the March 23rd Ticket 2 Ride and Birthday Celebration event. There will be something for all ages at the event including the Firefly Trail Bike Ride, 5k Sock Trot, Music, Kids Area, Craft vendors and more. The day begins with a 9 am bike ride and ends at 4 pm. Construction continues at the Union Theatre with the ceiling and walls being the focus of this phase.

Old Business: David Stephens reported that the New Water Plant would have a final five day start up as required by EPD beginning March 4th. After the five-day process, EPD will have final review and submit an operational permit upon approval.

New Business:

The Firefly Trail, Inc. board of directors requested a permit to sell beer at the March 23rd Ticket to Ride event being held in Union Point. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to approve the request from Firefly Trail Inc. to sell beer at the event on March 23rd in downtown Union Point. Motion seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes presented a Proclamation for Arbor Day on behalf of the City of Union Point. February 29th is the designated date for 2024. This annual proclamation is a requirement for the City of Union Point to continue to be recognized by the state as a Tree City. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell and seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports: Animal Control Officer Will Wright gave a report on recent activity with Animal Control. He suggested that the city consider having any new residents register their dogs upon moving into the city. This would help identify new animals and assist with returning them to homeowners when and if they were to run at large either accidentally or in general.

Public Comment: No comments.

There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting at 7:15 pm by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Mundy. The motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date