

Union Point City Council Meeting
DRAFT: Minutes from June 10, 2025 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

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

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the June 10, 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 Scott to approve the agenda for the June 10, 2025, meeting with minor changes. Seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2025, meeting with minor corrections. Seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Hearings 1 & 2 – Mayor Rhodes opened the first Public Hearing to hear a request for a conditional use application for a mobile home to be located at parcel number 122-0-000-120 on Crawfordville Road. Yvonne Greenway representing Bureau Veritas as Zoning Representative, presented the application and summary report of the application. Bureau Veritas recommended that the parcel is feasible for a mobile home and the space meets the requirements. The mobile home will have to be inspected by BV before being moved into Union Point to ensure it meets the requirements on the checklist for an approved home. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone was present to speak in favor of the request. George Citron, applicant, spoke in favor of the application. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone wanted to speak against the proposed permit application. No one spoke against the proposal. The public hearing for the conditional use application was closed. **A motion was made** by Council Member Harris to approve the application for a conditional use for a mobile home under the conditions that the mobile home is inspected and meets all criteria. Council Member Mundy seconded the motion. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Rhodes opened the second Public Hearing to hear a variance request for a front setback at 1041 Country Club Circle where the property is zoned R-1A Single Family Residential. Yvonne Greenway presented the application request and summary for a 90-foot variance setback. It was recommended by Bureau Veritas (BV) that the setback be 60-feet to meet all codes. There is a city sewer line that runs through the property and a minimum of 10 ft ROW is required to meet code. The property meets all other requirements, and BV recommends that the city approve this application request and allows the applicant to build a home on this parcel. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the application. Rodney Walker, applicant, spoke in favor of the application. He would like the variance of 90 feet; however, he will work with 60 feet if not granted. This will be the second home Mr. Walker has built in the city, and he is familiar with the procedures and working with BV. No one else spoke in favor of the application. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone would like to speak against the application. No one was present to speak against the application. Mayor Rhodes closed the hearing.

A motion was made by Council Member Pinkney to approve the application request for the variance, and to allow Mr. Walker to build a home in Country Club Circle. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: – Attorney Reitman was not in attendance. Becky Cronic gave a summary of two code enforcement cases that are ongoing in municipal court. Attorney Reitman hopes to have the cases finalized by July 1, 2025.

Request for Sale of Distilled Spirits – Businessman Surinder Singh proposed to establish a package store in Union Point. Mayor Rhodes informed Mr. Singh that Union Point does not currently have the authority to sell distilled spirits. The council would need to discuss this option, and then the request would have to be put to a referendum to be voted on by the citizens later this year. Mr. Singh understood and will follow up at a later date to find out if the council will pursue the opportunity to sell distilled spirits.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update: Jill Rhodes, DDA Chair, reported that the DDA continues to work on enhancing downtown. New banners are being considered for the downtown light posts, and the history museum was open four days during the month of May. Over the four days that the museum was opened in conjunction with Historic Preservation Month, about 12 visitors stopped by to visit. The city recently had the sidewalks pressure washed, and this added a nice clean look to the downtown. Jan Brazier updated the Mayor and Council on the Garden Club Community Center on Hart Avenue. Fundraising efforts are underway for upgrades to the center. A BBQ chicken luncheon will be held on July 19th and tickets are available to those who are interested in purchasing one.

Jill Rhodes assisted the city in gathering signage information and presented a mock-up for the Industrial Park entrances. The cost of the two signs is \$6,400 which includes installation. **A motion** was made by Council Member Pinkney to approve the purchase of Industrial Park signs for \$6,400 and have the clerk review and approve a proof before installation. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave a report and reported that the new flagpole and flag have been installed at the Fire Station. Mrs. Cronic also reported on the \$2.7 million dollar TAP Grant that was recently awarded to the City of Union Point. This is a GDOT project and will be administered by GDOT. This grant will enable the final connection of the Firefly Trail to downtown Union Point. The project will be a total of four phases and completion is anticipated to be in 2028.

Old Business:

Mayor Rhodes reviewed the details of the newly proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Fire Protection with Greene County. Due to funding resources that are unknown for the future, and after careful consideration, the council decided to consolidate their resources and volunteer fire department with the county. **A motion was** made by Council Member Scott to enter an IGA for the consolidation of fire protection services between Greene County and the City of Union Point beginning October 1, 2025. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Council Member Harris asked Fire Chief Wright for his thoughts on the changes with the IGA. Chief Wright stated that he would follow the lead of the council and would work with the county as needed. Motion unanimously passed. Mayor Rhodes reported that Alliance Corrugated and Display, LLC, were no longer interested in renting the gymnasium. The city will continue to look at opportunities to use the building or rental options. Becky Cronic presented a memo of understanding (MOU) from the Greene County Library for the Story Walk along the Firefly Trail. A representative from the library and the City/Firefly Trail will meet in early July to confirm the location to install the story walk panels. **A motion was** made by Council Member Pinkney to approve the MOU between the Greene County Library and the City of Union Point for the Story Walk Project along the Firefly Trail. Motion was seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

The second reading of two required policies for the Union Point Fire Department SOP regarding juvenile fire setters, and hose and hydrant testing were reviewed and approved by the council. **A motion was** made by Council Member Rhodes to approve the required juvenile fire setter policy, and the hose and hydrant testing policy for the Union Point Fire Department's SOP. Motion was seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

New Business:

The items listed as new business on the agenda were moved up in the order of business.

Department Reports:

Animal Control Officer Wright gave a report on the month of April's activity. Animals continue to be dropped off in the city and neglected, therefore, the city takes them into custody. Most of them are transitioned into the Humane Societies in the area. Very few tickets are written as these are stray animals that no one claims.

Fire Chief Will Wright reported that policies pertaining to hydrant and hose testing, and the policy pertaining to juvenile fire setter intervention that were approved will be added into the Fire Department's Standard Operating Procedures. Chief Wright verbally stated his resignation as Fire Chief as of July 1, 2025. Mayor Rhodes did not accept the verbal

resignation and both Mayor and several Council Members asked that he reconsider his decision and present a letter of resignation in writing if he still wanted to do so. Chief Wright reported that he would get a letter in writing and extend the resignation date for a few weeks.

Public Comment:

George Cintron commented on the mobile home conditional use permit and thanked the city for supporting the request.

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

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date