

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – July 9, 2024 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

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

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the July 09, 2024, 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 July 09, 2024, meeting. Seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve the minutes from the June 11, 2024, council meeting. Seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

Public Hearing: Mayor Rhodes opened the Public Hearing to hear a request to re-zone 4.79 acres located at 500 Sibley Avenue from the current M-1 District (Light Industrial) to C-1 District (Neighborhood Commercial). Mayor Rhodes asked Yvonne Greenway, Building/Zoning Representative, to present the application and summary of the request to the council. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone would like to speak in favor of the request. Bobby Bullard and Marty McClure (applicants) both spoke in favor of the request. The gentlemen requested that the council approve the application as they are investing in this project to spur the growth in Union Point and become a part of the community. Mr. McClure stated that he plans to keep the historic office building that was formerly Chipman-Union offices in place and renovate them and build townhomes on the grounds where some of the former warehouses and buildings stood. Jill Rhodes spoke in favor of the request as the Downtown Development Authority supports growth downtown and felt that this will open many doors for future economic development. The applicants answered questions that the Council members had and the applicants would be updating them with more details in the weeks to come. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone would like to speak in opposition to the request. No one present at the meeting spoke in opposition to the request. Mayor Rhodes closed the public hearing.

Mayor Rhodes reviewed the summary that was presented to the council and called for a motion to deny or accept the application. A motion was made by Council Member Mundy to approve the proposed rezoning request for the parcel at 500 Sibley Avenue to be rezoned to a C-1 District from an M-1 District. The motion was seconded by Council Member Pinkney. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

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

Greene County Development Authority: The term for one of Union Point's representatives on the Greene County Development Authority expired June 30, 2024. Dee Lindsey served as the city's representative for this four year term. After discussion, Mayor Rhodes entertained reappointing Mr. Lindsey. A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to reappoint Dee Lindsey to the Greene County Development Authority for the 2024-2028 term. Motion was seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. It was noted that someone else may have an interest in serving in this role, however there is no limit on how many terms you may serve, and Mr. Lindsey shared that he would be glad to continue to serve if the council approved. The motion unanimously passed.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update: Jill Rhodes, DDA Chair, reported that the Authority is working on rendering of signage for the entry ways into Union Point. She reported that the DDA will present draft drawings of signs that they would like to recommend. She encouraged the Council to please budget for the signage in the 2025 year. Estimates are around \$15,000 per sign. Two of them for the main corridor will be needed (Lamb Avenue). She will be getting further information on DOT enhanced signs for the Hwy 44 and Hwy 77 corridors. It was also noted that an Industrial Park sign was needed for the industries. DDA will share more details to follow next month.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave an update on the Historic Resources Survey Report which is required for the City of Union Point to be a Certified Local Government. The report is being finalized by Landmark Consultants and will be paid for with a matching grant which the city was awarded in 2022. The survey should be finalized by September 30th.

Old Business: Jim Scott reported that the electrical outlets had all been checked and GA Power had turned off any power sources that were of safety concerns at the ball fields. Further work is needed at the concession stand building and he will try to get an estimate of the costs for the needs in the next few weeks.

New Business:

Becky Cronic reported that a new retail business (Whistle Shoppe) will be locating on Sibley Avenue and plans to open in September. This store is located between The Point Market and the Museum (DDA Building) and will be a vintage/antique variety shoppe. Becky also reported that a work session would be scheduled for the 2025 budget in late July.

Department Reports: David Stephens reported that a new truck had been purchased for the Water Plant and thanked the Council for allowing his departments to purchase the two trucks this year that have been needed for some time. He also reported that with future growth, there will be the need to purchase another water tank to serve the customers in Union Point.

Will Wright reported on both Animal Control and the Fire Department. He reported that Animal Control continues to get numerous calls related to strays, dogs running at large, and aggressive dogs. He continues to enforce the ordinances that are in place. He is working with the clerk on budget needs for next year and will continue to seek ways to work with the volunteer organizations to keep the dog pound "free of animals". He shared that the Fire Department would like to have a boot drive to raise additional funds for the purchase of event uniforms. A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to allow the Fire Department to host a boot drive on July 13th. Seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Bill Callaway commented on growth in Union Point and was pleased that the Penfield Recovery home had opened on Lamb Avenue. This is located in the former Pawn Shop at the intersection of Lamb Avenue and Industrial Blvd.

The mayor asked if there was a need for an executive session. There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting at 7:10 pm by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Pinkney. The motion unanimously passed.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date