

Union Point City Council Minutes
DRAFT - Monthly Meeting – April 9, 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, John Rhodes, William Harris, Jr **Absent:** Teneisha Pinkney **Others:** City Clerk Becky Cronic, Attorney Joe Reitman

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the April 9, 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 Boswell to approve the agenda for the April 9, 2024, meeting. 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 March 12, 2024, council meeting. Seconded by Council Member Harris. Opportunity for discussion. The motion unanimously passed.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman reported that the property at 4760 Lamb Avenue remained in non-compliance. The owners have not followed through with the court order therefore the City can legally get the building painted and to a level of compliance and place a lien upon the property. The lien will include the cost of labor and materials, and the fees the city has incurred for code enforcement and legal fees for court. There was further discussion on the legalities and unfortunate waiting period involved with cases of this type. If the building is not sold by the owner in a timely manner, the city can sell it at a tax sale. The city is seeking a carpenter to begin work on the building. Attorney Reitman reported that the remaining funds in the 2013 Bonds the City of Union Point has through the Greene County Development Authority have been sitting in the bank for nine years drawing interest. The bonds were for the Tri-County Natural Gas project that began in 2013 to run gas to the Lake Oconee Area for the hospital. The city was unaware that if the funds drew interest at a higher rate (and they have) that they would have to pay the interest drawn back to the IRS. A consultant will be assisting the City of Union Point and the City of Greensboro, who also have bonds for this project, with an analysis of the funds to ensure that we are not penalized for this matter.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update: Jill Rhodes, DDA Chair, reported on the recent Birthday Celebration and Ticket 2 Ride event on March 23rd. The event was well attended with seventy-two bikers participating in the ticket to ride event leaving from Union Point, and about thirty-five runners participated in the Sock Trot race that afternoon. The city has received good feedback from the community on the event and a special thank you was extended to all the volunteers and city workers who made the event possible. Mrs. Rhodes reported that one of the downtown buildings had recently sold and the owner will be contacting the city with plans for the property. Mrs. Rhodes shared that the former gas station on Lamb Ave next to City Hall is getting a new facade and that the owner continues to seek a tenant for the building.

Introduction - Candidate for Tax Commissioner: Celeste Thurmond introduced herself to the Mayor and Council and shared her desire to run for tax commissioner.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic reported that she had secured registration for four individuals to attend the GMA Conference in June. This annual conference is hosted by the Georgia Municipal Association where valuable information and updates are shared with cities in Georgia. Mrs. Cronic reported that City Hall staff would insert notifications in the utility bills and send a press release to the newspaper to notify residents that there would be no clean-up week for Union Point this year. Council Members were asked to please contact Becky if they see any properties who need to be notified if they place items out on the street and are in non-compliance with the change this year. Notifications will also be posted regarding the flushing of the water lines and the sediment that may be noticed in the lines over the next few weeks. The Clerk will be ordering business cards for any Council Members who would like them. Please advise if you would like some within the week.

Old Business:

Becky Cronic reported that she had received two different quotes who could provide text notifications to City customers for emergencies or updates. Costs for this service will be less than \$250 per month.

New Business:

Kevin Jackson, owner of Jackson's Bar-be-que, requested a malt beverage license to sell beer at the restaurant. Mr. Jackson will be serving the alcoholic beverages on site and is aware of all the ordinances related to the permit. The final steps of the application process and background check information will be complete later this week. A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve a malt beverage license for Jackson's Bar-be-que pending the final approval of the application process by the City Clerk. Motion seconded by Council Member Mundy. There was a brief discussion about liquor by the drink for restaurants. This option is allowed however, Jackson's will be serving beer and or wine for this year. The motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports: Chief/Officer Will Wright gave a report on the Union Point Fire Department and Animal Control. Chief Wright continues to work on improvements and any upgrades possible to reduce the ISO rating to a three. The rating is currently at a four. However, the lower the rating, the better savings on insurance the residents and businesses in this district receive. David Stephens was unable to be at the meeting. Council Member Harris asked if the public works would please add cutting the sides of the ditches on North Rhodes Street to their duties since some of the residents are not keeping them maintained. The men will also begin maintaining the cemeteries again this year due to an additional public works employee.

Public Comment: Becky Cronic thanked everyone who had a part in the recent Birthday Celebration and Ticket 2 Ride event on March 23rd. Good feedback has been received and it was a successful event.

There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting at 7:05 pm by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Harris. The motion unanimously passed.

Council Member Rhodes closed the meeting with prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date