

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – December 13, 2022 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

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

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the December 13, 2022, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with a prayer. A quorum was present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve the agenda for the December 13, 2022, meeting. Seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Mundy to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

DDA Update: Becky Cronic reported that representatives from the Fox Theatre Institute would be in Union Point on January 13th to visit the Union Theatre. This visit is in conjunction with the grant that was recently awarded to the DDA and in reference to renovations that will be taking place in the rear of the building. Completion of the project is slated for June 2023.

Clerk's Report: Becky Cronic gave an overview of upcoming city closings due to the holidays. She also reported that the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission will be facilitating meetings related to the 5-year Comprehensive Plan required for the city. Four to five volunteers are requested to serve on a committee related to the plan which must be implemented by October 2023. More details to follow.

Old Business:

The City of Union Point is required to have a Public Defender for Municipal Court. The current defender's contract will expire December 31st. The city received one quote from a Public Defender in Greensboro after City Clerk Cronic had contacted several potential defenders as candidates for public defender. Clerk of Court, Yolanda Callaway, gave an overview of municipal court and shared details on the need for a Public Defender. **A motion was made** by Council Member Boswell to approve LaToya Hutchinson as the new Public Defender for Union Point Municipal Court. Seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. A brief discussion on the \$150 rate for completed services was had. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Flock Safety Camera representative notified Clerk Cronic and shared that the installation process would begin upon completion of permitting from GDOT. Two cameras will be installed in Union Point. One along Lamb Avenue focusing on in and outbound traffic coming into Union Point, or leaving Union Point towards Greensboro; the second camera will be located on Hwy 77 South capturing traffic headed into or leaving Union Point.

Mayor Rhodes updated the Council on the recent Local Option Sales Tax renewal with the county and other cities. Each city will continue to receive LOST on an annual basis. New percentages were agreed upon for the next 10 years.

Assistant Fire Chief Will Wright reported briefly on the grant opportunity he continues to work on for a new fire truck. He will keep the council advised if anything is needed from the city. Grant details are still in the preliminary stages.

New Business:

Clerk Cronic presented a request from Cable East (a fiber optic cable company working in the area) asking that the city consider a short-term lease of the baseball fields, or another alternative site where they could temporarily store equipment. After some discussion, Council Member Rhodes suggested asking one of the industries on Universal Drive if they may have space before moving forward. The clerk will pass this information along to Cable East.

A new mapping system is needed for the gas lines throughout Tri-County’s jurisdiction. Tri-County Natural Gas Authority recommends that the entire gas Authority transition into GIS mapping services. Each city will have to cover the cost of the GIS system for their coverage area. **A motion was made** by Council Member Scott to approve Keck & Wood to revise the current paper map system into a GIS system at a cost of \$16,000. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

Council Member Scott **made a motion** that the Council give the employees of the city an additional week’s pay as an incentive during the month of December. Council Member Boswell seconded the motion. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Department Reports:

Council Member Mundy reported that the Christmas Tree lighting service and the Christmas Parade were well attended. There was great participation in the parade and a large crowd attended. Mayor Rhodes thanked Council Members Mundy and Rhodes for their efforts to coordinate and organize the 2022 parade.

Other: Mayor Rhodes introduced the new construction manager for Greene County Habitat for Humanity, Pat Cozman. Mr. Cozman is overseeing a couple of Habitat homes that are under construction in the city and wanted to become more familiar with the city therefore attended the meeting.

Public Comment: None.

There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date