

Union Point City Council Minutes
Monthly Meeting – January 12, 2021 – 6 p.m.
Four Room School House – 211 Veazey Street, Union Point, GA

Attendees: Mayor Lanier Rhodes **Council Members:** Dawn Clifton, Sally Boswell, Wayne Brown, Mary Mundy, Mayor Pro-Tem Jimmy Scott, John Rhodes **Others:** City Clerk Becky Cronic

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the January 12th meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Rhodes to approve the agenda; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Clifton to accept the minutes presented from the December 8, 2020 council meeting; seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Matters: Attorney Reitman was not in attendance due to another meeting, however, was available via phone if needed.

DDA: Representative Jill Rhodes reported on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority. Mrs. Rhodes shared that the renovations inside the Sibley Building owned by DDA are now complete and that they are planning to install a light outside at the back entrance of the building. DDA business member Marty Dowdy will be overseeing that project. Plans to move some of the items from the 4-Room Schoolhouse Museum are underway. Moving the items from the museum to the downtown building will allow additional space that has been requested for municipal court at the current location in the 4 Room Schoolhouse. DDA continues to be instrumental in the Firefly Trail progress. Working with the Local Action Committee on planting roses and assisting with any concerns along the Trail.

Old Business: Chip McGaughey, EMI representative overseeing the City Water Plant Facility project was in attendance and gave an update on the status of the project since his last report after bids had been accepted for the project in July 2020. Additional funds in the amount of \$1,623,000 were required to meet the bids that were submitted. The increase in cost of the project was due to the economy and material cost increase from when original costs were submitted to USDA. Original loan amount awarded in 2016 was \$2,173,000. EMI immediately began working on additional options to present to the City on how to meet the funding needs. EMI met with USDA and the City applied for additional funds. Rhonda Burnett representing USDA also attended the Council meeting via conference call due to COVID. Additional funds from USDA have been approved (known as part “B” of Water Facility funding). Mrs. Burnett reviewed the letter of conditions for the additional loan in the amount of \$817,000 and other forms that will need to be signed on behalf of the City for the closing of the loan and grant in the amount of \$806,000,000 that will be awarded.

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Scott to increase the City of Union Point’s water rate by 3% to cover the cost of the USDA Part “B” loan in the amount of \$817,000 for the new Water Plant Facility. Motion seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Several questions were asked by Council Members to Mr. McGaughey about the rate increase amount and if 3% was enough. Council Member Brown asked if it needed to be 5 or 6%. Council Member Clifton asked if this increase would cover all remaining costs of the project where no more water rate increases would be implemented. After discussion, a vote was called for the approval of the motion. Council Members Boswell, Clifton, Mundy, Rhodes, and Scott voting yes; Council Member Brown voting no. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Clifton to approve the USDA Loan Resolution documents for the USDA Part “B” loan for the City’s Water Plant and allow the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all documentation including but not limited to the Request for Obligation of Funds and the Letter of Intent for Construction required for the loan closing; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve EMI’s recommendation to award the construction bid to **AllSouth Construction** for the Water Plant Project in the amount of \$4,433,868.00 contingent on financing as described herein and to approve up to and not exceed \$6,000 for EMI to negotiate additional funding requirements with USDA to meet bid cost for contractor. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously. **A motion was made to amend** the motion by Council Member Boswell to include the adoption of the Contractor Award Resolution and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all necessary documents for processing the award of the construction bid. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

A motion was made by Council Member Mundy to approve and ratify the administrative approval of the renewal of Malt Beverage Licenses for BP Market, Union Point Grocery and Deli, and Short Stop within the City of Union Point. Seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Boswell to approve qualifying fees for candidates who qualify for Council in the amount of \$36 and \$72 for candidates who qualify for Mayor in the 2021 Election for the next four-year term. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Clifton to approve re-entering the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Greensboro and Greene County for a part-time Magistrate Court position; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously carried.

Department Reports: Council Member Rhodes shared that he will be working with volunteers to complete the future playground area next to the basketball court on Barnes Street. He will advise the volunteers to sign a release for liability purposes since they will be using equipment to cut trees, clear brush, etc. Animal Control Officer Will Wright be unavailable to work due to unforeseen circumstances this week, and it was noted that the Council will look at a back-up for Mr. Wright in case of future emergencies. It was noted that the Fire Department’s new floor was being installed this week. This project is funded with SPLOST funds.

Public Comments: Mayor Rhodes asked that Council Member Boswell update the council and attendees on the availability of the COVID vaccine for Greene County. Council Member Boswell shared that Greene County Health Department would have the vaccine available for First Responders, EMS, and Firemen, and those over 65. This will be available January 19th and be by appointment only.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by Council Member Clifton; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

Mayor

City Clerk

Date