

**Union Point City Council Minutes**  
**Monthly Meeting – March 14, 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., Teneisha Pinkney, Jim Scott, John Rhodes **Others:** City Clerk Becky Cronic, Attorney Joe Reitman

Mayor Lanier Rhodes called the March 14, 2023, 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 March 14, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Council Member Mundy. Opportunity for discussion. Motion unanimously passed.

**A motion was made** by Council Member Scott to approve the minutes with minor changes from the February 14, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Council Member Rhodes. Opportunity for discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes called on Hal Chitwood with Planning and Zoning to give a summary report on the request to be heard during the Public Hearing for a conditional use variance for a building at 614 Sibley Avenue in downtown. The contractor, Russ Meyer, is requesting that the council consider a variance be approved to allow a combination of residential and business be allowed on the first floor within the same building rather than only in buildings with two stories as the current ordinance reads. Mayor Rhodes opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone who was present wanted to speak for the request. Jill Rhodes spoke in favor of the use on behalf of the Downtown Development Authority. Russ Meyer spoke in favor of the use and shared his concept with the council. Mayor Rhodes asked if anyone present wanted to speak against the use. No one was present to speak against. Mayor Rhodes closed the Public Hearing.

**A motion was made by** Council Member Rhodes to approve the variance of Ordinance Sec. 7.2 C-2 general commercial district/residential dwellings allowing for a residential dwelling to be located within a downtown building on the ground floor behind a storefront business. Motion seconded by Council Member Boswell. Opportunity for discussion. Council Member Harris expressed concern of the request that it may create a negative atmosphere. Motion passed five in favor and one against.

**Legal Matters:** Attorney Reitman did not have any legal matters to report.

**Planning and Zoning:** Hal Chitwood with Bureau Veritas gave an update on recent activity with building permits and zoning requests. He reported that Union Point is poised for growth and he would be sharing details on proposed ordinances to handle Air B&B's that are on the horizon.

**Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Update:** Jill Rhodes gave a report on DDA and shared that the Annual Firefly Ticket to ride event will take place on March 25<sup>th</sup> and Union Point DDA has agreed to allow the Union Theater to serve as a registration site and SAG stop location for the event. Volunteers will be assisting with the event. Mrs. Rhodes reported that restoration is underway in the back of the theater utilizing the funding from the Fox Theatre Institute grant funds. Jan Brazier reported that the DDA is continuing to work with the Garden Club on beautification projects at the Firefly Trailhead along Carlton Avenue.

**Clerk's Report:** Becky Cronic reported that the Flock Safety cameras are in full use and several agencies have utilized them in searching for vehicles. Data reports from the camera are available to those interested. Mrs. Cronic reported that the GMA Convention will be held June 23-27 in Savannah. In addition to the Mayor and City Clerk, the two Council Member delegates for this year are Mary Mundy and Jim Scott.

**Old Business:** The five year comprehensive planning committee for Union Point will meet on March 30<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Union Point City Hall Conference Room. This meeting is open to the public.

**New Business:** Mayor Rhodes reported that in past years, clean-up week had been held in May. There was discussion whether to move the clean-up week to April. A motion was made by Council Member Pinkney to have the City Clean-Up pick-up to begin May 22<sup>nd</sup> with residents putting items out for pick-up the week prior. Motion seconded by Council Member Scott. Opportunity for discussion. Mayor Rhodes noted to stress that the clean-up is not to include household items or tires. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Rhodes reported that cosmetic upgrades will be underway at the fire station in the coming weeks. SPLOST funds are being utilized to install new doors and windows, and to paint the building.

Mayor Rhodes thanked Beth Hunt for the recent donation of an historic table to the City of Union Point. The table was used in the early 1900's in a store in downtown Union Point. The table will be used in the Four Room School House or in the Museum.

**Department Reports:**

Animal Control Officer Will Wright gave a brief report on recent activity at the dog-pound.

Fire Chief Wright reported that the fire department will be working on ISO requirements over the next few months. This training assists with keeping insurance rates at a lower rate for residents in the Union Point district.

**Public Comment:** Makel Dunn commented on the clean-up day/week and encouraged the City to consider a recycle center or City disposal for year-round purposes. Jan Brazier commented on water needs for the garden at the Firefly Trailhead.

There being no further business **a motion was made to adjourn** the meeting at 7:20 p.m. by Council Member Boswell; seconded by Council Member Mundy. Motion unanimously carried.

Mayor Rhodes closed the meeting with a prayer.

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Mayor

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City Clerk

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Date