

CITY OF UNION
Regular Business Meeting
July 6, 2020

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM on July 6, 2020 by Mayor Larry Solomon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Solomon led all attendees in the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call

A quorum was present and a roll call was taken: Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Bryan Miller, Commissioner Eric Dulaney and Mayor Larry Solomon.

Also present:

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.; City Administrator-David Plummer; City Communications and Operations Director-Melissa Hinkle, City Clerk Christy Everman and City Engineer Barry Burke.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the June 1 Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ramage moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Financial Reports

Commissioner Miller presented the financial report. He noted the city did well this year, and came in under budget again. He noted the fireworks bill was paid this last month.

Commissioner Mefford noted the difference in federal interest rates, which have reduced the earnings on the city accounts to virtually zero. Other noted expenses were the payments for the lighting and parking lot work at the City Building and Whispering Trail cul-de-sac improvements. A check for SECO Electric in the amount of \$9,985 for the lighting work at the city building is being held for payment due to sewer damage caused by the contractor during construction. Currently the sewer and bathroom system at the building is inoperable, but is scheduled for repair this week. Once completed to satisfaction and all expenses are recouped by the city, then the payment to SECO will be made.

Commissioner Ramage moved to approve the May expenditures and bills. Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Citizen Comments

Reverend Lisa Stenner from Union Presbyterian Church was in attendance in support of Resolution 2020-10. No other citizens were in attendance.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Solomon updated that work has begun on a new floor in the old liquor store at Kroger at the cost of nearly \$500,000, and that should be completed by the end of the month so the building can finally be rented. The repaving of the old Kroger parking lot should also be completed by the end of the month.

The Mayor and Administrator Plummer also attended the Judge and 3 Mayors meeting this month. A discussion of Air B-N-B/Short Term rentals was held, and the City of Florence is working on legislation to manage and regulate this new industry to the area. Boone County and the City of Union plan to follow their lead in legislating this industry to ensure safe rental locations and proper health and safety codes for these types of businesses. The Mayor also noted that TANK is providing free rider service during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Construction is continuing on the Turfway, Mineola Pike and Donaldson Road projects on the northern side of the county, in addition to the projects near Union on Mt. Zion and the interstate.

The mayor also noted that Boone County will receive an allocation of nearly \$300 million dollars as part of the CARES act passed by the US Congress. The City of Union has access to up to \$430,000 dollars of this fund, based on per capita population. Administrator Plummer is researching ways to keep that money here, and is working on a plan to offer grants to local businesses. He hopes to present that plan in August to the commission.

Economic Development

Commissioner Ramage noted that there was no meeting in June. He has sent a document with garbage can, bench and banner options to the EDC group that they will review at the July meeting to bring forth recommendations. He also noted that Sugarfire BBQ has closed permanently, due in part to the pandemic.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Dulaney noted that progress on Mt. Zion has been delayed again. In the Northern portion of the project, there is a water line that is too high and must be relocated, but the work can not be completed until the remainder of the line is relocated for the I71/75 double diamond interchange project. In the Southern portion of the project, a landslide issue along Hathaway road must be addressed for work to be completed there. This work will add approximately \$375,000 to the final cost, and funding had been delayed out of Frankfort, due to the pandemic and budget issues. This funding has now been approved, and the work has been released to the contractor for remediation.

Engineer Burke updated on the 2020 street repairs program. Curb and gutter repairs will begin in the next two weeks, weather permitting. He has held pre-construction meetings with the other two contractors, and they are moving forward with their work. He also noted there will be no savings realized on the portion of the project near Braxton Road, as there is a flooding issue along both sides of the property that was anticipated for savings, and work must be done in two separate sections of the right of way, negating the potential for savings to the city.

Burke also reviewed the issue with SECO Electric and the damage to the City Building Sewer System. He also noted the need for liquated damages to the city for the costs of portalet rentals and other expenses due to this damage. In addition, he noted that additional work needs to be done along the rock bed portion of the Southeast corner of the lot to ensure proper storm drainage, and there are still directional arrows and other traffic guidance markers to be painted for the lot.

City Administrator Report

Administrator Plummer presented documentation on the proposal for the LED Retrofit plan by Duke Energy. He and Commissioner Miller have met with representatives of Duke, and two options were presented, to replace 48 roadway lights with LED (Proposal A) and 243 pole and LED ballast street lights (Proposal B). These proposals could generate a savings of more than \$5,000 per month to the city, once completed and paid off. The total cost would be \$483,509 to replace if paid in full, or \$603,180 if financed over five years with Duke. Commissioner Miller and Mayor Solomon spoke in support of these proposals, noting that the public relations from going more “green” and energy-efficient would also be good for the City, in addition to the cost savings. There is no definite plan to start this project, and no contracts have been signed. City Attorney Voss will draft legislation in support of this plan to present at either the August or September meeting for commission approval.

Communications/Office Operations Report

Director Hinkle informed the commission that the final two Food Truck Summer Series events, set for July 22 and August 5 are being cancelled. Under the current Kentucky guidelines, and with the reduction of Boone County Parks availability under the pandemic guidelines, Union Park is unavailable to host the events, and they must be cancelled. She has food trucks that are interested in serving some of the individual subdivisions in the area, and will try to connect them with HOA or citizen representatives to arrange service to those areas. Due to liability issues, Attorney Voss recommended against the City planning these events for the HOA or subdivisions.

The Union Celebrates America fireworks celebration was held Friday, June 26 at 10 p.m. As discussed earlier, many attended the events through a socially-distanced method at St. Timothy’s, the Ryle High complex, Union Presbyterian Church and other locations throughout the city. Feedback on the show was generally positive, with many citizens thanking the city for a “sense of normalcy” during the pandemic by hosting the show. Specific Commissioner viewing...

- Commissioner Mefford noted he watched UCA fireworks from Ryle High School and was able to see them well.
- Commissioner Ramage was able to see them by moving to a different location than his home, and Commissioner Dulaney was able to see them in Indian Hill.
- Engineer Burke also noted the show was very visible in the Harmony subdivision.
- Administrator Plummer and family as well as Mayor Solomon saw them from the City Office Building and were well visible.

City Attorney Report

Legislation: Ordinances/Municipal Orders/ Resolutions (prepared by Attorney Greg D. Voss)

Resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-10-- A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY’S RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK AND DIRECTING CITY PERSONNEL TO USE AVAILABLE TOOLS TO ASSIST IN THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES ACROSS KEY INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, INCLUDING HEALTH, EDUCATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, THE ENVIRONMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY; AND TO PROMOTE EQUITY WITHIN THE CITY AND IN THE DELIVERY OF CITY SERVICES.

Discussion was held with Reverend Lisa Stenner coming forward to voice support and update the city of Union Presbyterian’s efforts to improve racial equity and racial issue discussion in the city. Commissioner Miller asked if this would affect any of the city personnel policies regarding dress code or ability to complete work as required by the job descriptions. Attorney Voss explained that due to the recent Supreme Court rulings, more protected classes had been added to employment groups, and that the city personnel policy already addressed these issues outside of the ruling and regulations. He went on to state that given the recent racial discussion in America, many communities were adopting similar resolutions as the “right thing to do”.

Commissioner Mefford moved to accept Resolution 2020-10. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Ordinances

none

Municipal Orders

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2020-08 – A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT OF EVERETTE “JUNIOR” PARTIN TO PROVIDE GRAVE DIGGING SERVICES TO THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT. Commissioner Ramage moved to accept Municipal Order 2020-08. Commissioner Mefford seconded. **Motion approved 5-0.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2020-09--A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING KAREN O’SULLIVAN TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS. Commissioner Mefford moved to accept Municipal Order 2020-09. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved 5-0.** Ms. O’Sullivan was sworn in as a member of the board by Mayor Larry K. Solomon.

Announcements

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, August 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm and is planned to be in-person at the City Building, unless otherwise mandated by state or health authorities.

The Economic Development Committee will meet July 15 at 6 p.m. at the Union City Building. The public is invited to attend.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Ramage. **Motion approved 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Larry Solomon, Mayor

Christy Everman, City Clerk