

CITY OF UNION
Regular Business Meeting
August 3, 2020

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on August 3, 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 Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Bryan Miller, Commissioner Eric Dulaney and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner John Mefford was absent.

Also present:

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

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the July 6 Meeting Minutes. Engineer Burke requested minor edits to the section regarding the city building parking lot to reflect the changes made due to the sewer line damage and drainage rocks. Commissioner Ramage moved to approve the minutes with these changes. Commissioner Dulaney seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Financial Reports

Commissioner Miller presented the financial report. He noted no major expenditures this month, and that the city had finished the last year in the black financially.

Commissioner Ramage moved to approve the July expenditures and bills. Commissioner Miller seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Citizen Comments

Joe Grimoldi from Grafton Court was in attendance but had no comments for the group.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Solomon held a brief discussion about the importance of meeting safely in person and asked anyone with concerns to speak up about in-person meetings as opposed to virtual. The group agreed to keep meeting in-person as long as allowed by the state.

The Mayor also noted the creation of a new no-knock list for the City of Union. The list had not been updated for several years and was out of date. Director Hinkle has created a spreadsheet that city staff will update and keep current. In order to keep the list accurate and up-to-date, as well as manageable by city staff, the City

will require citizens to re-register for the list each year in October, to coincide with tax time. City staff will put a reminder on the tax bill to start to register for the list. The current members will remain on the list until October 2021, when yearly re-registration will be required. This will allow for people who move away to be removed from the list and keep an accurate registration of those who wish to participate.

Economic Development

Commissioner Ramage noted that the recommendations for the design of the Mt. Zion corridor had been received by the Urban Forestry Commission late last week, and he hoped to bring those to the EDC at either the July or August meeting. The EDC did a review of some potential bench designs and other pieces to compliment the Mt. Zion and US 42 corridor, and Ramage and Administrator Plummer were working on a proposal for a bench program to bring forth to the EDC for consideration at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ramage and Administrator Plummer presented a proposal for a Small Business Grant Program for the City of Union. This program, which will be funded by monies allocated to the state of Kentucky through the CARES Act, will provide up to a \$5,000 grant to small businesses located in Union who have expenses related to mandated closures due to the COVID pandemic. The program is currently accepting applications for expenses like utilities, rent/mortgage, wages (not covered by the PPP program) and other expenses for PPE to help aid local businesses in staying open and covering these expenses. Commissioner Ramage moved to accept the Small Business Grant Program as proposed by Administrator Plummer. Commissioner Miller seconded. **Motion Approved, 4-0.**

Public Works Report

Commissioner Dulaney noted that asphalt work will begin from Gunpowder Road to Old Union Road in the next two weeks, as the final grade is added to the Mt. Zion Project. As part of this repaving program, the area of US42 from Rice Pike to Cool Springs will also be repaved.

He noted that there has been a lot of dirt moved and other utility work at both the Richwood and Mt. Zion interchange projects and progress moves forward on those.

City Engineer Burke noted that the final as-built drawings for the Gunpowder and Clarkston bridges had been received by the state and the engineers had removed the weight restrictions and approved both bridges as repaired and safe. He also updated on the 2020 Street Repair program. Phase A of the program will begin in August, while Phase C has been completed. Phase B, the curb and gutter work will begin shortly as well.

Commissioner Dulaney noted that the Snow Removal contract with Ground Systems was up, but that the contract had an option for a two-year renewal. After discussion noting that there had been no significant problems with the services from Ground Systems, and that residents commended the removal of ice and snow in the city, Commissioner Dulaney moved to exercise the two-year renewal option for the Ground Systems contract. Commissioner Miller seconded. **Motion Approved, 4-0.**

City Administrator Report

Administrator Plummer reported on the progress of the 2020 Census in Boone County. He noted that the City of Union has the highest percentage of completion, 83.6 percent, in all of the county and one of the highest percentages of participation in Northern Kentucky and across the state. He commended Director Hinkle on her efforts in promoting the completion of the Census in the city and her participation on the Complete Count Committee on behalf of the city. Director Hinkle commented that the Census would be sending out enumerators who would assist citizens in completing their census starting next week, and these would be face-to-face interactions. Workers will be wearing masks and practicing safe social distancing and other COVID precautions. She noted that these workers are exempt from both required soliciting permits and no-knock lists as Census participation is required by Federal Law. She asked commissioners to assure citizens that participation is important for local funding and to assist where possible in addressing concerns about the Census process.

Communications/Office Operations Report

Director Hinkle presented names for each of the four sections of “old” Mt. Zion that will have to be renamed once the Mt. Zion Road project is complete. The public submitted more than 30 names for consideration of the roadways, and the Communications Committee reviewed these names and narrowed the group to nine names for consideration:

For Section 1 (near Hathaway Road)

Corner Court (this area is almost the center of Boone County geographically and the four corners of “Old” union are located near this intersection)

Barlow Boulevard (in honor of long-time Union residents Randy and Linda Barlow. The Barlow Farm encompassed this area of the city when first settled.)

Ferguson Street (in honor of former BC Judge and Union resident Bruce Ferguson)

For Section 2 (between Old Union Road and US42)

Union School Road (land in this area was donated by a Union resident to consolidate the local one-room schools after the Civil War. The idea was to bring unity to the community with the construction of the first consolidated school in this area.)

Union Church Road (in honor of Union Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches in Boone County. This has been done in other areas of the county including Hopeful Church Road, Richwood Church Road and Big Bone Church Road)

For Section 3 (between US 42 and approximately Indian Hill Drive)

Noe Avenue (Both of the names for this section honor Mary Belle Bristow Noe. Mrs. Noe and her husband George owned a store in Union for many years. Mrs. Noe was a life-long member of the community and held in high esteem. Several variants of the names were suggested for section 3, but these names will create the least confusion with other similar road names in the county).

Bristow Road or Bristow Drive (see above. Her home, next to the city building, set on a portion of the original family farm).

For Section 4 (between Wetherington and Hempstead)

Tommy Lewis Road or Tommy Lewis Avenue (Tommy Lewis was one of Union's few African-American land owners, and this section is in the same area as his original land holdings.)

Bandits Boulevard (in honor of the Union Adopt-A-Unit, The Bandits. This is similar to the designation of Regenades Way in Florence for their Adopt-A-Unit).

After discussion, the following names were selected, based on vote of each section. The vote was 4-0 for each of the winning names. For section 1-Corner Court; Section 2-Union School Road; Section 3-Bristow Drive; Section 4-Bandits Boulevard. The winning names will be sent to Boone County for notification of the proper authorities once KYTC has completed the transfer of the assets. Citizens will also be notified by Boone County and the city. The city will plan some type of event to formally announce the new names, pending transfers and with COVID considerations in place.

City Attorney Report

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

Resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-11-- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY CITY COMMISSION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF A CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND ("CRF") APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF INCURRED EXPENSE IN CRF FUNDS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ("DLG"); AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS WHICH ARE DEEMED NECESSARY BY DLG TO REIMBURSE THE CITY; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED CORRESPONDENT FOR REUMBURSEMENT. Commissioner Ramage moved to accept Resolution 2020-11. Commissioner Miller seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Ordinances

none

Municipal Orders

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2020-10 – A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT OF BAKER BUSINESS & TAX SOLUTIONS, PLLC AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT. Commissioner Miller moved to accept Municipal Order 2020-10. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2020-11--A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE AGREEMENT OF DUKE ENERGY FOR LED LIGHTING INSTALLATION SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT. Commissioner Ramage moved to accept Municipal Order 2020-11. Commissioner Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2020-12--A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE TERMS OF THE KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES INSURANCES SERVICES GENERAL PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INSURANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. Commissioner Miller moved to accept Municipal Order 2020-12. Commissioner Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Announcements

The City of Union offices will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. As this would be the normally scheduled business meeting date, Tuesday, September 1 was selected as the September Special Meeting date. The next meeting of the commission will be Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm and is planned to be in-person at the City Building, unless otherwise mandated by state or health authorities.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Larry Solomon, Mayor

Christy Everman, City Clerk