

**CITY OF UNION**  
**Economic Development Committee**  
**November 20, 2019**

**Members in attendance:**

**Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner**

**Jeff Bowman**

**John Cole**

**Steve Harper, BCPC Union Representative**

**David Plummer, City Administrator**

**Melissa Hinkle, Communications and Operations Director**

**Bob Jonas, Boone County Planning Commission**

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

**Old Business:** Administrator Plummer updated on the Kroger outlots, noting that Buffalo Wings and Rings is now under construction. Member Bowman inquired about the construction near Longnecks Bar and Grill on Richwood, which is outside of the city limits. Bob Jonas of BCPC said that Hampton Inn is building a new hotel in that area.

**Transportation Update:** Administrator Plummer reported that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is trying to open Mt. Zion road from Gunpowder to Old Union Road by the end of the year, but that is still up in the air as to whether or not the goal will be reached due to weather and other construction delays. City staff will continue to monitor and update as needed.

**Boone County Planning Update:** Mr. Jonas said the Zoning Regulation Update process will begin on December 2 and the updates will be available on the BCPC website for user feedback. He said the new system is very user friendly and allows people to be able to comment on specific sections of the document and see other feedback that has been provided. Administrator Plummer noted that he and the mayor had been invited to a preview session for the new website and that it was much easier to use and find the codes applicable to a specific situation.

**New Business:** Commissioner Ramage led a discussion of possible goals and strategies for the EDC to adopt in 2020. Some of the ideas included:

- Business Mixers, should they continue or not
- Marketing Strategy for any potential development incentives
- Researching a payroll tax for the city
- Reaching out to other boards and organizations in NKY to see where Union can fit in to future plans. Some boards included the Airport Board and Amazon representatives

- A marketing plan for why someone would want to develop in Union (perhaps tied into the GSP Phase 3 report)
- Encouraging sustainable growth in office-type jobs to boost daytime employment within the city. Lack of lunch crowds is hurting the local restaurants within the city currently.
- Joining the NKY Chamber of Commerce again as a city
- Establishing relationships with larger entities like Amazon and related new businesses to Boone County to see if Union can provide space/people for ancillary business development
- Addressing Union image signs and streetscapes, particularly along Old Union Road to encourage development
- Becoming more educated on incentive packages that could potentially be offered for development. Tri-Ed has offered to provide additional training in this area to city personnel.
- Business Retention program

Wednesday, January 22 at 6 p.m. was set for the next meeting date at the Union City Building. There will be no December meeting due to the holiday season. The public is invited to attend.

The Meeting was formally adjourned at 7:21 pm by Commissioner Ramage.