

CITY OF UNION
Special Business Meeting
November 17, 2020

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM on October 5, 2020 via Zoom 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 Bryan Miller, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner John Mefford, 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/Treasurer Christy Everman and City Engineer Barry Burke.

Visitors and Guests Wishing to Speak

Mr. Ranier and Mr. Cano, webelos scouts from Pack 32 in Florence were present in the zoom meeting, along with their fathers. Both scouts are working on the Citizen and the Community badge.

Reallocation of City of Union Cares Act Funding to Boone County

Mayor Solomon and Administrator Plummer presented information regarding the potential transfer of CARES Act funding to Boone County.

On May 20th, the Coronavirus Relief Fund was announced by the State of Kentucky. It was a \$300 million allotment to Cities and Counties across Kentucky divvied out on a per capita calculation. The aim is to reimburse local governments for expenses incurred in response to the public health emergency caused by the Coronavirus.

Through this program, Union had access to \$426,000 of reimbursement that we could draw down for the Department of Local Government. Additional guidance from the Treasury Department clarified that emergency personnel pay is a reimbursable expense under this program. This was a large relief to cities and counties with emergency services.

Union has no emergency personnel, so we pursued other avenues to disperse our Coronavirus Relief Funds. Two rounds of small business grants were undertaken, PPE was purchased, and our server/telecommunications abilities were upgraded to allow staff a flexible work schedule. We expect to have over \$300,000 left of possible reimbursement that we cannot draw down.

The deadline to spend the monies is December 31st, 2020. Any unspent portion will transfer back to the state with no guarantee on how it will be spent moving forward.

Recent guidance from the KY Department for Local Government has made it possible to allow another municipality to draw down our excess funds. Matching resolutions by both cooperating municipalities must be passed by November 20th. The legislation here tonight would allow Boone County access to draw down our unused portion of Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Mr. Jeff Earlywine, County Administrator for Boone County, was present to answer and clarify questions regarding how the money would be spent if transferred to Boone County. Earlywine noted that Boone County received \$4.54 million in funding, which has been entirely spent under public safety salary. After a ruling by the federal government on March 1 that all public safety response after that time was related to COVID response, they could spend the funding to supplement the public safety salary expenses and overtime. Earlywine noted that the state of Kentucky had held back about \$40 million dollars from the initial federal allotment to the state of \$300 million. \$10 million of this funding went to the KY Department of Education to purchase hot spots for educational use, and any unused funding that was allocated to cities and counties would be added to the \$40 million held back and then reallocated to areas still in need of funding based on a per capita basis.

Commissioner Mefford asked if any of this funding could be used to cover lost revenue due to taxes and other income that cities and counties were not receiving due to the pandemic. Earlywine noted that the legislation specifically prohibited revenue recovery as an eligible expense and this was not allowed.

Commissioner Miller inquired as to what the county would do if they received this funding. Earlywine explained that the funding would go directly to public safety salary and equipment expenses, as allowed by the legislation. If monies were freed up in the county budget due to this reallocation, then those monies would likely be utilized toward projects to provide access to city water systems in areas of the county still on well-water systems, and to provide internet access to areas of the county where access is not yet available.

City Attorney Report

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

Resolutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-12—RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF UNION TO TRANSFER \$303,411.55 OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CFR0 TO BOONE COUNTY FISCAL COURT. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Dulaney and seconded by Commissioner Miller. Roll call vote was conducted by Director Hinkle. Dulaney aye; Mefford nay; Miller nay; Ramage nay; Solomon aye. **Motion failed, 3-2.**

Ordinances

none

Municipal Orders

none

Announcements

The next Commission meeting will be Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Ramage. **Motion approved 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Larry Solomon, Mayor

Christy Everman, City Clerk