

**CITY OF UNION**  
**Special Business Meeting**  
**October 5, 2020**

**Regular Business**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on October 5, 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 John Mefford, Commissioner Eric Dulaney and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner Bryan Miller was absent for roll call.

**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.

**Discussion of Mask Wearing**

Mayor Solomon asked for opinions on the wearing of masks at the commission meeting, as per the guidelines recommended by the Governor's Office and the Department of Health. Mr. Brian Garner, a candidate for the city commission, spoke on behalf of wearing a mask to protect vulnerable populations, and requesting that masks be required for meeting attendance. Each commissioner individually commented on the issue. At the conclusion of the commentary, Commissioner Mefford moved to require the wearing of a face mask as a requirement to attend City of Union Commission meetings. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved, 3-1 with Commissioner Dulaney voting nay.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the September 21 Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0**

**Visitors and Guests Wishing to Speak**

Mr. Brian Garner, a candidate for the Union City Commission, was in attendance. Mr. Joe Grimoldi of Grafton Court was in attendance. Mr. Grimoldi inquired about the status of SD1 work near Grafton Court. Administrator Plummer advised that this work had been completed and was no longer an issue for stormwater drainage.

**Financial Reports**

Administrator Plummer presented the financial report on Commissioner Miller's behalf. He noted that the city had already received reimbursement from the state for the Covid-19 related expenses incurred during the pandemic, including reimbursement for the first round of the Small Business Grants. Plummer reviewed the

normal expenses, and pointed out the \$3,000 payment to the Boone County Property Valuation Administrator for the annual tax roll creation and property value computer files used to generate Union tax bills.

City Clerk Everman noted that tax bills were mailed last week, and a few citizens had received them in the mail today, which is slower than normal delivery time to citizens. This was attributed to changes in the postal service in recent months by the federal government. The two-percent discount period is good through October 31.

### **Mayor Comments**

Mayor Solomon noted that the commission will discuss the branding issue in November to decide how to move forward with the vision of Union for the long-term. He noted that Boomtown Biscuits and Whiskey, a restaurant located in Covington, will be opening a new location in the former SugarFire location in the Kroger Out lots. Solomon also noted that the city will issue a proclamation recognizing Small Business Saturday at the November meeting to highlight the local businesses in the city.

### **Economic Development**

Commissioner Ramage noted that the bench program is moving forward, and the plan is to look at a spring purchase of benches in bulk to minimize expenses. This program will possibly tie in with the landscaping plan and a tree purchase program along the Mt. Zion corridor at some point, but those discussions were ongoing. He also noted that the Honor Program contract has been sent back to the organizers, and that program will be moving forward soon. Finally, he noted that the EDC will have two positions open in December, and that staff has advertised those positions on the website and social media to solicit interested parties from the community.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Dulaney noted that asphalt work is underway on Mt. Zion, and KYTC is projecting completion for November 15 and a mid-May transfer of assets, including the right of way and lights, to the city. Director Hinkle is working with Senator Schickel's office to arrange for a formal dedication ceremony, and she is awaiting confirmation of a final date to move forward.

Dulaney noted that the street repair program for 2020 has been completed, and only a few corrective items remain to be completed. He also brought forward a parking issue on Braxton Drive, near an apartment complex, located at the end of Braxton but in the city of Florence. The Public Works Committee will review the available options to address the issue and bring forward a suggestion for the issue to the commission. The PWC will also review the parking ordinance to see if this street needs to be included and the ordinance updated to reflect this.

Administrator Plummer presented bid documents for landscaping and turf maintenance services for the city for the next two years seeking approval to go to bid for these services. Commissioner Mefford moved to proceed to bid for landscaping and turf maintenance services for the city. Commissioner Dulaney seconded.

**Motion approved, 4-0.**

### **City Administrator Report**

Administrator Plummer requested to move forward with a second round of small business grants, as more than \$300,000 remains in funding available for the state. He recommended a grant of up to \$10,000 to businesses to reimburse expenses related to closures during the Covid-19 pandemic. Attorney Voss will bring forward legislation in December to approve these grants, and the grant process will begin immediately for this second round.

### **Communications/Office Operations Report**

Director Hinkle asked commission members to approve the official Trick-or-Treat hours for the City of Union from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. These times will be the same as Boone County and the City of Florence and Walton. Commissioner Mefford moved to set the times as recommended. Commissioner Dulaney seconded. **Motion Approved, 4-0.**

Director Hinkle also noted that the 2020 Breakfast with Santa celebration will be cancelled this year. The Kentucky League of Cities, which provides the liability insurance for city events, will not issue any insurance certificates for city-planned events for the remainder of 2020. Given this information, the commission agreed the risk was too great to the city, and to proceed with the cancellation of the event this year.

### **City Attorney Report**

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

#### **Resolutions.**

**none**

#### **Ordinances**

**none**

#### **Municipal Orders**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER 2020-15** – A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS TO ASSIST LOCAL BUSINESSES. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Ramage. **Motion approved 4-0**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2020-16** – A MUNICIPAL ORDER FOR THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO FINALIZE THE PRODUCT ORDER BETWEEN THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AND BLUEGRASS RECREATION SALES AND INSTALLATION, LLC, A KENTUCKY LIMITED LIABILITY CORPORATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MEMORIAL BENCHES. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Mefford. **Motion approved 4-0.**

### **Announcements**

October 21 will be the next Economic Development Committee meeting, and the Public Works Committee meeting will be held the Tuesday prior to November 2. The next Commission meeting will be Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Union City Building.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Mefford. **Motion approved 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Larry Solomon, Mayor**

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**Christy Everman, City Clerk**