

**CITY OF UNION  
Business Meeting  
March 1, 2021**

**Regular Business**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM on March 1, 2021 by Mayor Larry Solomon via Zoom Teleconference.

**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, Commissioner Brian Garner 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. Also present was BCPC representative for Union-Steve Harper.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the February 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ramage moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0**

**Financial Reports**

Commissioner Ramage presented the monthly financial report and bills to pay. He noted there are still some outstanding bills to come for snow removal for the heavy snows received in the city in the couple of weeks prior, but it should still be within the yearly budget. Commissioner Dulaney asked about the costs of a business card order. It was noted that all business cards had to be replaced due to the change of address from Mt. Zion Road to Bristow Drive.

Ramage next updated Commissioners on 2020 tax collections, with about \$38,000 still outstanding and due, which is less than 2.5% delinquent rate, which is outstanding for the Northern Kentucky area. Of the delinquent amounts, the Eastern Kentucky Cooperative, Duke Energy and Fifth Third Bank have the largest outstanding amounts, but those are expected to be collected shortly. Those bills will be turned over to the City Attorney in April for placement of liens on the properties.

Commissioner Dulaney moved to accept the monthly profit and loss statement and the bills to be paid. Commissioner Ramage seconded the motion. **Motion approved, 5-0.**

### **Visitors and Guests Wishing to Speak**

Claire LePorte, a resident of Hampshire, came forward with two complaints. She complained about the trash left behind by Boone County Recorder delivery which was not solicited by the resident, noting that she had a stack of them left in her drive while she was on vacation. She had called the Recorder to complain, but delivery was not being stopped. Mayor Solomon noted the city would call to ask them to stop, but Attorney Voss noted that there was no legal method to take to make the delivery stop, as the newspaper is protected by the First Amendment under free speech. Other municipalities have encountered this same issue, and no legal remedy has been able to address the problem.

Ms. LePorte also wanted to know why chickens were restricted in 2016 when the nuisance ordinances were passed. She requested the commission revisit the issue, as she has a neighbor who has a coop, and she does not find them to be a nuisance, as they do not cause noise in her area or any issues with smells. Attorney Voss reminded everyone that our ordinances and enforcement are complaint driven, and if there were no complaints, this coop has not been addressed, and is not a problem, until there is a complaint. Livestock is restricted in Boone County, and the Union ordinance is in line with the county regulations. Commissioner Garner volunteered to look into the existing coop and come back to the group with his findings.

### **Mayor Comments**

Mayor Solomon delivered a PowerPoint presentation on various lifestyle and demographic information about the City of Union which he obtained from the Claritas group. This information provides valuable insights into the type of people residing in the city, their ages, income and interests and will be used as a database of information to help guide the economic development, communication and marketing goals of the city. Each commissioner and staff member will receive a binder of the information to keep on hand as a ready reference to assist with promoting the City of Union.

Mayor also updated on two upcoming annexation issues, which will require special meetings in March and April to address. He was not at liberty to provide a great deal of details, due to negotiations regarding the sale and development of the parcels, but more information would be coming soon as plans are available from the Boone County Planning Commission.

Mayor also addressed the issue of virtual and in-person meetings. While positivity rates are falling in Boone County and staff and members are receiving vaccinations, the restrictions on gathering are still in place. He recommended the March special meeting and April regular and planned April special meeting remain virtual. He went onto say that we are upgrading the Commission Meeting room electronic-equipment. If that upgrade is completed for the May meeting we would return to in-person meetings...with masks and social distancing in place. If not, then in-person meetings would resume in June.

### **Economic Development/Boone County Planning Update**

Mayor Solomon updated on a potential development coming to the Farmview property, across from the Kroger Fuel Station on US42 near the Kroger Fulfillment Store. This development plans to have four or five lots of retail at the location, along with a senior residential component. A corner of this property resides with

City of Union boundaries. As a result, the city has a say in how the development affects Farmview Drive and what goes onto one of the retail lots that will be half in the City of Union and the other half within the City of Florence. The project is now being reviewed by the Boone County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Dulaney updated on the Bench Recognition Program, noting that it has been placed on the website. Publicity of the program will take place this spring, and the city hopes to place the first of the ordered benches sometime in the fall. Commissioner Dulaney also presented ideas for entryway signage, with the Commission in favor of a brick and stone style design. They will move forward with the project in the EDC and present some plans and costs in the future.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Garner noted that the 2020 Street Repair Program is complete. He deferred to Commissioner Dulaney for an update on the Sidewalk Maintenance issue, as he had been working on that prior to moving to Economic Development.

Commissioner Dulaney had no update, but he continues to gather information to forward to the City Attorney for legislation to be drafted to establish a formal policy of responsibility for sidewalk issues.

Engineer Burke noted that he has the Capital Improvements Plan for 2021-22, and is recommending six streets for a complete resurface, along with pothole repairs, edge and side drains, and a few sidewalk repairs and catch basin repairs. He is nearly complete in the preparation of the bid documents. Burke inquired about the name change for the four sections of Mt. Zion which will become city streets.

Director Hinkle noted that the name changes were complete, citizens had been notified, and the information had been passed along to emergency services and all relevant government entities by Boone County. The signs have been ordered for the road and were scheduled to be put up by March 1, but those efforts were delayed by the large snowfall events which made Boone County Public Works staff unavailable to complete the work. She anticipates those signs being installed shortly.

Burke also noted that Cincinnati Bell is doing bores under several city streets to install cable upgrades, particularly in the Hampshire/Hempsteade subdivisions.

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

Director Hinkle noted that the address change for the City Building took effect today, with the new address of 1843 Bristow Drive. She has put in a forward with the post office for mail, and new letterhead and business cards have been ordered. Additionally, the website has largely been updated to reflect the change, with only a few forms needing updates to the address information.

Hinkle has partnered with StoryPoint to utilize their circle driveway to distribute Easter Eggs to children in the community, as a COVID-safe option to the annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Easter event will be held on Good Friday, between 3-6 PM, to allow working parents time to get their children to the event. Easter Bunnies will

be on hand, and socially-distanced photo opportunities will be available. StoryPoint will also be providing giveaway items to those who come to the drive through event. Registration for this event is available on the website. In addition, the city will hold a coloring contest for children in three age groups, with prizes for those winners. That contest will run through the week after Easter, due to the Boone County schools spring break, to allow for time to complete the contest.

### **City Administrator Report**

Administrator Plummer updated on an issue with a grave which was mistakenly sold at Rice Cemetery several years ago. He, along with Cemetery Sexton Eddie Johnson and City Attorney Voss, have negotiated an agreement to compensate the original plot owner and have resolved this issue.

Plummer also noted that the Department of Local Government had revised their guidance regarding the Coronavirus Relief program (CARES Act) funding, noting that cities have until March 30 to spend remaining allocations. He recommended moving forward with a phase three of Small Business Grants, with the city having about \$30,000 remaining in funds, to address costs incurred in January/February/March for utilities and rent. Further, he recommended a short application period of two to two-and-a-half weeks for this round. Commissioner Dulaney moved to go forward with a third round of Small Business Grants. Commissioner Mefford seconded. **Motion approved, 5-0.**

### **City Attorney Report**

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

#### **Resolutions.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-07**—A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND FILE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK-CV GRANT APPLICATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000.00 TO PROVIDE UTILITY RELIEF FUNDING TO RESIDENTS Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 5-0.**

#### **Municipal Orders**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER 2021-08** - A MUNICIPAL ORDER OFFICIALLY APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BOONE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Garner. **Motion approved 5-0.**

#### **Ordinances**

**ORDINANCE 2021-05** -AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY APPROVING, WITH CONDITIONS, A REQUEST OF JAMES R, WRIGHT, MICHAEL A. BROWN, LEE ANN BROWN, MEGAN LEE RUDOLPH and PHILLIP ANDREW RUDOLPH FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FROM SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL TWO (SR-2) TO SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL TWO/PLANNED DEVELOPMENT {SR-2/PD) FOR A 11.9101 ACRE SITE LOCATED ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE US 42/CALLIE WAY INTERSECTION, THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE FROGTOWN ROAD/CALLIE WAY INTERSECTION, ALONG THE SOUTH AND EAST SIDES OF CALLIE WAY, AND

INCLUDING THE PROPERTIES AT 2054, 2058, 2066, AND 2070 CHRIS COURT AND THE PROPERTIES AT 10320 AND 10324 LEA WAY, UNION, KENTUCKY. THE REQUEST IS FOR A ZONE CHANGE TO ALLOW DUPLEXES AND PATIO HOMES- Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Dulaney and seconded by Commissioner Mefford. **Motion approved 5-0.**

**ORDINANCE 2021-06**-AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY DECLARING ITS INTENT TO ANNEX CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS CONSISTING OF 159.239 ACRES *-1st Reading*

**Announcements**

No announcements. The next meeting will be a special meeting to be held Monday, March 15 at 6 PM. This will be a virtual meeting. The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 5, 2021.

**Executive Session**

none

**Adjournment**

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

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Larry Solomon, Mayor**

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**Christy Everman, City Clerk**