

**CITY OF UNION
Business Meeting
April 5, 2021**

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM on April 5th, 2021 by Mayor Larry Solomon via Zoom Teleconference.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Mefford led all attendees in the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call

A quorum was present and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Eric Dulaney arrived at 6:08 pm, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Brian Garner and Mayor Larry Solomon.

Also present:

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.; City Administrator-David Plummer, City Clerk/Treasurer Christy Everman and City Engineer Barry Burke. Also present was BCPC representative for Union-Steve Harper and Noreen Morgan from the Villas of Fowler's Creek HOA.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the March 15th Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Garner moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0**

Visitors and Guests Wishing to Speak

No comments were provided.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Solomon provided staffing updates to the Commission to the vacancy left from our Communications Director, Melissa Hinkle. Melissa left in good standing and is seeking employment at Summit Hills Country Club. She did a fantastic job for the City of Union with our events, communications and assisting our individual committees. The goal will be to fulfill her core duties and expand it to an assistant CAO position in lieu of operations. This will allow administrator Plummer to have greater focus on larger items. This person will additionally oversee clerical duties such as minutes, but we do see the position evolving over time. We expect a good response as a few applications have already been submitted without regular advertising. There is an April 21 deadline for the applications.

Furthermore, the Mayor updated the commission that Clerk Everman, Administrator Plummer, Commissioner Ramage, and himself have met to review the 2021-2022 Budget. The Mayor and Administrator Plummer will continue to tweak the said Budget as we move forward to the first reading in May.

Financial Reports

Commissioner Ramage presented the monthly financial report and bills to pay. He noted that snow removal bills have finally come in and severely impacted that line item. Savings in other budget line items will offset the overage in the snow removal line item. Ramage further noted that 2020 tax collection delinquency is in rather good shape with over ninety percent of taxes collected. Attorney Voss will be pursuing those delinquent outliers. No comments were received from other commissioners. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the Financial Reports as presented by Commissioner Ramage. Ramage seconded the motion. **Motion approved, 5-0.**

Christy Everman provided a brief report concerning CERS costs and Administrator Plummer's pay. She reported that Administrator Plummer was miscategorized as a CERS Tier 2 employee in our payroll system when in reality he is a Tier 1. This means the city has been withdrawing an unnecessary amount of funds from his paycheck since his employment in 2017. The correct amount is being remitted to the CERS system. Treasurer Everman recommends that the city provide a one-time compensation in the amount of \$2,226.54 with the understanding that all future amounts are corrected on this issue. Commissioner Garner made a motion to approve; Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved, 5-0.**

City Administrator Report

Administrator Plummer updated the Commission on the third round of small business grants. The total check that went out was \$67,295.21. This amount has officially been received from the DLG and close out paperwork has been filed to end our involvement in the Coronavirus Relief Fund Program officially.

Secondly, Administrator Plummer mentioned that the Worlds Longest Yard Sale is coming up once again, and Boy Scout Troop 702 has asked permission to utilize a small parcel of city owned property at the intersection of Old Union Road and Us 42. Commission agreed to allow them to use this land parcel for said purpose.

Fairness Discussion

Mayor Solomon introduced Mr. Chris Hartman and provided the floor to Commissioner Garner to guide the discussion. Commissioner Garner indicated that he has been doing research on this issue, and he believes he has a few suggestions to help with the common criticism on this issue. Mainly, the ordinance would create a volunteer body of local volunteers to serve on a "Human Rights Board". He envisions this board could provide additional benefit to the city by being the starting point for additional dialogue or city events involving diversity.

Mr. Hartman provided a quick history of the Fairness Style of legislation which governs employment, housing, and public accommodations. He said, "Some court rulings have extended protections to these classes, but a legal journey still remains. There are many different ways to craft such an ordinance, and it is ultimately up to the city on how to shape the City's response". Discussion with the Commission ensued with Commissioner Mefford favorable to the idea as long as it is effective yet not a burden on City operations. Commissioner Ramage seconded John's claim that thought needs to be given in the operation of the legislation. Preferable that these issues would be handled by professionals who are conditioned on these issues. Commissioner

Dulaney was interested to hear how these styles of ordinances have played out with the different Northern Kentucky Communities. Mr. Hartman confirmed that these ordinances have not led to any claims in the past year and administrative impacts minimal. However, he suggested that it is important to have a solid procedure in place to be able to handle any future incidents.

Mayor Solomon stated that the City of Union staff is not equipped to handle an internal investigations and that any procedure would require passing on any-and-all complaints to another professional entity. Attorney Voss then suggested that there might be a possibility for a cooperation of a shared board for regional participation. Such an idea would need to be investigated. Another suggestion is to have the code enforcement board handle these issues, but that would require cooperation with Walton to pass a similar ordinance given the shared nature of our Code Enforcement Board. Mayor Solomon stated that before this issue comes back to the Commission it will have to be thought out as to how procedurally it would work for the City of Union.

Economic Development Committee (EDC)/Boone County Planning Update

Commissioner Dulaney updated the Commission on the most recent discussions concerning the Mt. Zion Road beautification project. A meeting was held with Kevin Costello, the Boone County Forestry Commission, Administrator Plummer and himself. It seems that we are on a path, in some fashion, to share costs with the Boone County Urban Forestry Commission.

Commissioner Dulaney stated that the Gateway Project, i.e., building a monument entrance to the city on Route 42 across from the Kroger Marketplace, is a high priority for the EDC. Mayor Solomon indicated that monies were budgeted in the 2021-2022 Budget for this project.

Public Works Report

Administrator Plummer provided an update to the Commission on the state of our LED highway lights on new Mt. Zion Road. In the original contract agreed between the City and State Highway Department, there was a provision for these lights to be a Bronze in color. The State Highway Department installed silver light poles. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed it would be too cumbersome to change the installed light poles. Commissioners decided to keep the silver poles in hopes that such a move will lead to a better rate on the maintenance of these assets.

Commissioner Garner that he is working on getting the several potholes filled through the community. He also requested that he be informed if any Commissioners, Contractors, and Staff know of any additional pothole to which he is not aware. Engineer Burke provided an update on the 2021-2022 Street Repair Program stating bids will total about \$280,000. His planning is to execute street repairs all together to take advantages of economies of scale to bring costs down and to be efficient in executing street repairs. Additionally, coordination with SD1 on future projects should help prioritize Union street repairs.

Engineer Burke additionally provided an update on the improvements at Lea Way with RJ Riegler. There were new cores drilled and the County Engineer had approved the quality of the road as sufficient to the levels of Dense Grade Aggregate (DGA). He anticipates the developer to move ahead rapidly. Lastly, the No Parking Signs on Braxton have finally been posted.

Communications/Office Operations Report

Commissioner Mefford reported on the Easter Event which was held in cooperation with StoryPoint. Over 300 bags were distributed, and the event went off without a hitch. He thanked Melissa Hinkle for putting together the event and all volunteers.

He additionally provided updates on Union Celebrates America. He informed the Commission that Ryle High School agreed to host for this year's upcoming event. Commissioner Mefford is working to find the most optimal place to set off this upcoming event's fireworks. Lastly, this will be advertised as a "family friendly; no alcohol" event; Ryle High School does not permit alcohol sales and consumption if held on their property.

City Attorney Report

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

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2021-08 —A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AUTHORIZING LARRY K SOLOMON, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDIUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN THROUGH FEMA. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Mefford. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Municipal Orders

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2021-09 - A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING MAYOR LARRY K. SOLOMON TO EXPEND FUNDS TO VIOX AND VIOX TO EXTEND THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRILLIANCE AVENUE IN AN AREA LOCATED IN THE CITY OF UNION, KY. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 5-0.**

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2021-10 – A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING CHRISTY EVERMAN AS THE CITY ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY. Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Dulaney and seconded by Commissioner Garner. **Motion approved 5-0**

Ordinances

ORDINANCE 2021-07 – AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY ADJACENT THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (2nd reading). Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 5-0.**

ORDINANCE 2021-08 - AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY ADJACENT THE PRESENT BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (2nd reading). Motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Mefford. **Motion approved 5-0.**

ORDINANCE 2021-09 – AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PAY PLAN FOR THE ANNUAL SALARIES OF THE NON-ELECTED CITY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY IN ACCORDANCE WITH KRS 83A.070(2). (1ST reading)

Executive Session

The Commission entered executive session as described by KRS 61.810 promising that no action will be taken because of the executive session conversation. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 5-0.**

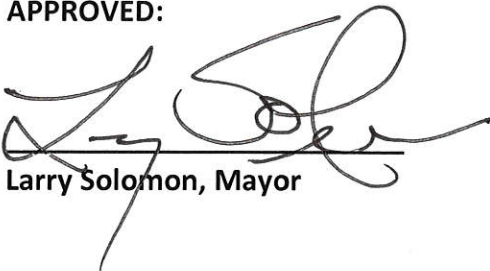
Announcements

The next meeting will be a Special Meeting. This meeting will be held via Zoom on Monday, April 26 at 6:00 PM. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, May 2 at 6 PM. The next Regular Meeting will be an in-person meeting at the Union City Building.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Garner. **Motion approved 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

APPROVED:



Larry Solomon, Mayor

ATTEST:



Christy Everman, City Clerk