

## **WELCOME**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM on August 2, 2021 by Mayor Larry Solomon.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Solomon led all attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was present and a roll call was taken: Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Eric Dulaney, Commissioner Brian Garner, and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner John Mefford was not in attendance.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the July 7, 2021 special meeting minutes. No discussion. Commissioner Dulaney made a motion with no changes. Commissioner Ramage seconded the motion.

**Motion Approved 4-0.**

## **VISITORS/GUESTS WISHING TO SPEAK**

Matt Turner, Superintendent of Boone County Schools provided information and statistics about the diversity and needs of the 20,000 students attending Boone County Schools. He stated that there are students from 100 different birth countries who speak 63 languages other than English. Boone County Schools work hard to help students feel loved and accepted. He stressed that its important for students to know that they are cared about.

Chief Academic Officer, Jim Detwiler, talked about how pandemic relief funds have been spent, so far, by Boone County Schools. Funding has been used for summer school, staff training, reading programs, hiring intervention teachers/counselors and more. Full day kindergarten will now be offered at all Boone County elementary schools. The need for teachers, bus drivers, and additional positions was mentioned and a discussion concerning student transportation followed.

Mr. Turner also talked about the use of ARPA Esser (federal) Funding and adaptive change. Spending areas in the current plan include a focus on early childhood school readiness and high school career pathways. He opened the conversation to the Commission and addressed the question regarding masks for the upcoming school year. At that time, Boone County Schools gave parents and children the option whether or not to wear a mask at school.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Solomon announced that an executive session will take place following the regular meeting. He also stated that property taxes will not be raised. The same formula will be used to calculate property taxes.

Mayor Solomon then communicated that a Resolution expressing the City of Union's desire to reduce the speed limit on US Rte. 42 from Braxton Drive through the intersection of Frogtown Road at Ryle High School was included in the meeting packet. A follow up letter addressed to Bob Yeager, Chief District Engineer, Kentucky District 6, will be sent with the Resolution via mail and email on August 3, 2021.

#### **FY 2020-21 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Commissioner Ramage updated the Commission on July's financial report which included "the bills to be paid" and "profit and loss" ledger. Commissioner Ramage communicated that July had been a quiet month with no erroneous bills. No questions or discussion followed.

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to approve the financial report for July 2021. Commission Garner made a motion, Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Dulaney reported that the City is still waiting to hear back from the Urban Forestry Division regarding beautification recommendations. In addition, Gateway signage on US Rte. 42 is being revisited and associated costs researched. The project may be delayed depending on public bids.

The Economic Development Committee has successfully recruited new City of Union residents, with strong credentials, to serve as members. Commissioner Dulaney and Communications Director, Amy Safran, have been working on a New Business Packet which will include resources and information such as the small business tax credit. Upon completion, the Packet will be provided to new and current City of Union businesses. Commissioner Dulaney also stated that conversations with developers continue.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Communications Director, Amy Safran, reported that the Committee has confirmed multiple upcoming events including the Boone County Senior Picnic on September 8, the Zachary Salmon Soldier Run on September 26, and the Ryle High School Homecoming Parade on October 1. The City Commission has been asked to lead the parade, as well as judge the other participants. The Communications Committee has also connected with Mann and Gray schools and confirmed a City Halloween Scavenger Hunt on the school grounds scheduled for October 23 at 10AM. And the City of Union Breakfast with Santa has been confirmed with the Union Fire House and Don Mathis, as Santa, for December 11 at 8:30AM.

Ribbon Cuttings are to be scheduled as possible with new businesses. Spring Bungee Fitness to host an Open House on August 14 for the public.

Communications Director Safran stated that the Communications Committee is also working on a Photo Contest to invite the public to submit pictures taken within the City of Union. The goal is to increase community engagement, as well as increase high resolution images of the City for the website, social media, and other marketing materials. Commissioner Garner suggested the idea of City Bucks to be awarded to the photo contest winners.

In regard to prevention and fairness, Communications Director Safran reported that discussions have included ideas for an international event, as well as a need for more diverse images on social media.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Plummer reported that the expenditure of Corona virus relief funds has been extended to December 31, 2021. The City of Union still has \$61,000 to spend for the remainder of this year. Administrator Plummer proposed that the city focus on small business grants and work with the Communications Committee on outreach to local businesses. Administrative reimbursement may also be a possibility for funding use.

In addition, State and local Fiscal Recovery Funds over \$1.5 million will be received with certain restrictions and a stipulation to spend by the end of the year 2024. A program will be developed by the City. The majority of other municipalities are targeting broadband services. A discussion of ideas followed.

Next, Administrator Plummer stated that there is saturation issue at 9513 Old Union Road in the right of way on US Rte. 42. The ponding issue has resulted in the presence of vermin, mosquitoes, and cattails. The root of the problem was identified as the land not being sloped appropriately to the proper stormwater feature to the south. The area needs to be relandscaped to address the issue. Quotes were received by landscapers to re-slope. Boone Florence Water has agreed to pay half the costs so the City of Union would be responsible for \$1283.08.

Mayor Solomon requested a motion to proceed with the hiring of landscapers to re-slope the area. A motion was made by Commission Dulaney and seconded by Commissioner Garner. **Motion approved 4-0**

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Garner reported that TANK had been contacted to inquire about a transportation route in the City of Union. TANK replied that the company is only up to 85% full working capacity. Until they are back to 100%, they are unable to consider new or additional routes. Once new business development in the City is completed and the demand for transportation is needed, it would be worth pursuing a test run with TANK at that time.

Commissioner Garner announced that the stop bars and SLOW text on Burleigh Lane have been painted. The City will request a follow up speed study in several months to discover whether or not the painted stop bars have been effective in slowing down traffic.

City Engineer, Barry Burke reported that the City received good bids and upon further discussions, some projects have been completed under budget. The ADA ramps were put back in. Two sections of Bayberry, and all of Greenbrier and Lassing Green are almost complete including curb and gutter replacement. On Sherman, ADA ramps are back and seeding, mulching, and curb repairs are done. Side and edge drains on Lincoln were also finished. Resurfacing is yet to be completed. And recommended adjustments to the invoice have been communicated to the contractor.

Contractor, TMS, is ready to begin Phase B, separate curb and gutter repairs. In addition, the "tee pee" issue, two slabs of elevated sidewalks, along US 42 were reported to the KYTC. City contractor, TMS, advised that the sidewalk work adjacent to the KYTC's adjacent concrete curb cannot be completed without KYTC first completing their work within a week or additional city authorization for replacing the curbing along US 42 for an additional cost of \$1,500. Engineer Burke recommended that the City hired contractor execute the completion of both the curb and gutter repair, as well as the sidewalk "tee pee" replacement. The total cost would be \$3,500. Recommendation was approved by the Commission.

Engineer Burke reported that the condo development at Union Point Center is moving forward quickly. Final design plans were communicated to the Boone County Planning Commission and improvement drawings are awaiting approval. In addition, he stated that in order to start building development by Fischer Homes, a Final Plat for six existing condos for sale as "landominiums" and the two new lots will follow, subject to a detailed cost estimate as a Guarantee/Bond for the uncompleted public improvements covered by the Final Plat. The City should receive a check for the missing improvement lots until the developer completes the work.

Engineer Burke stated that the Highway Department transfer of the 62 LED street lighting on SR 536 Mt Zion Road to the City will take place on September 8, 2021. Coordinating with final inspections by the KYTC, Engineer Burke plans to prepare a scope of services which will include any extra work for emergency repairs and/or lighting replacements and request quotes.

Furthermore, following up on encroachment permits, Engineer Burke reported that Duke Energy's plans to improve the electrical grid are ongoing. A full report was submitted to the Commission.

#### **LEGISLATION/ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

**RESOLUTION 2021-10** – A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY OF UNION'S DESIRE TO HAVE THE SPEED LIMIT REDUCED ON U.S. HIGHWAY 42 FROM BRAXTON DRIVE THROUGH THE INTERSECTION OF FROGTOWN ROAD. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

**ORDINANCE 2021-16** – AN ORDINANCE LEVYING AND FIXING THE TAX RATES OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY, FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR; LEVYING SAID TAX UPON REAL AND TANGIBLE PROPERTY; FIXING THE DATE OF PAYMENT, DISCOUNT PAYMENT, DELINQUENCY AND INTEREST CHARGES; FIXING THE PURPOSE THEREFORE; AND SETTING FORTH THE PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION OF TAXES (1<sup>ST</sup> Reading)

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Solomon announced that the next Special City Commission Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:30PM at the City Building.

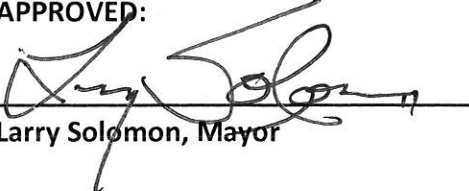
#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Solomon called executive session to be held in accordance with KRS 61.810, Section G. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion. **Motion approved 4-0 at 8:53PM** Mayor Solomon announced that no decisions were made during the executive session.


Mayor Solomon requested a motion for City Administrator Plummer to inquire about the promotion of state-owned parcels. A motion was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 4-0**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ramage and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney at 9:00PM. **Motion approved 4-0**

**APPROVED:**

  
Larry Solomon, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Christy Everman, City Clerk