



## **WELCOME**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM on January 3, 2022 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 Eric Dulaney, Commissioner Brian Garner, Commissioner John Mefford, and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner Jeremy Ramage was not present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Dulaney made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

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

Mayor Solomon requested that anyone wishing to speak about the proposed Fairness Ordinance wait until later in the meeting. The only visitor wishing to speak at this time was Kentucky State Senator, John Schickel who introduced himself and shared that the next legislative session would begin on January 4, 2022 and would last approximately three months. He encouraged the City Commission and the public to contact him with any topics that they would like discussed.

## **MAYOR/COMMISSIONER REPORT**

Mayor Solomon did not have anything to report. He then asked the Commissioners if anyone wished to discuss any matters. Commissioner Garner suggested that the City start hosting monthly Caucus meetings to give the Commission an opportunity to informally discuss topics more often and connect with the public. He hopes for increased communication among the Commission, as well as with the public. Some discussion followed. Mayor Solomon stated that the suggestion would be taken into consideration for further review and continued discussion.

Commissioner Garner then asked about expanding the City Commission of five to seven members as the population of Union has grown considerably. City Attorney Greg Voss explained that this would require a change in the legislative body to a Mayor/Council form of government. Mayor Solomon stated that the benefit of a City Commission is a more collaborated decision-making process. Commissioner Garner asked about the Executive Team and how it was formed for the City of Union. Mayor Solomon responded by saying that when contractors and/or land owners approach the City about developing specific properties on a confidential basis, the Mayor, Economic Development Committee (EDC) Chairman, the City Administrator, and City Attorney will work together to move said development forward.

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

City Administrator David Plummer reported that the City is about 50% through the year and about 56% through the budget. \$45,000 for twelve small business grants has been reimbursed which closed out the remaining Coronavirus relief funds. An additional \$160,000 payment was made to the original street repair projects and the third quarter payment of \$20,000 to Boone County Planning Commission was made. Lastly, 96% of 2021 property taxes have been collected. Administrator Plummer requested approval of the monthly bills. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Dulaney reported that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) will be reviewing a business retention survey this month. The survey, focused on attaining contact information, as well as questions pertaining to employee recruitment, retention, and training practices, will be sent out to approximately 50 City of Union business owners at the end of January. In addition, Commissioner Dulaney will be attending the upcoming Boone County Forestry Planning meeting in an effort to move forward with a plan for the beautification project on Mt. Zion Road. And a meeting will be scheduled with Viox & Viox to discuss gateway monument sign concepts on US 42.

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Mefford stated that Breakfast with Santa received a great turnout from the community and he thanked sponsors, T-Mobile and Union Presbyterian Church. Donations received during the event benefitted the Boone County Animal Shelter. Commissioner Mefford also confirmed the dates for several City of Union events planned for 2022: Easter Egg Hunt at Union Presbyterian Church on April 16, Union Celebrates America at Ryle High School on June 24, the Zachary Salmon Soldier Run at Boone County Arboretum on September 25, and Breakfast with Santa at the Union Fire House on December 10. Communications Director/Assistant CAO Amy Safran added that Operation Honor Banners are now available for purchase. And the city is working on some updates and revisions to the website.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

City Administrator Plummer provided an update on Union Rice Cemetery front fence replacement. The State of Kentucky compensated the City of Union when fencing had been removed for the Mt. Zion Road project. City staff has reached out to four fencing companies to request quotes. Only one, R & M Fencing, responded with a quote of \$10,725 for four foot tall, aluminum, black fencing. Administrator Plummer has also been exploring front landscaping ideas and quotes for Rice Cemetery, but at this time, he was seeking permission from the Commission to move forward with the budgeted cost to install front fencing from R & M. Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Garner reported that the 2021 CIP was budgeted at \$286,000 and completed at approximately \$311,000. The 2022 CIP draft is complete, but still needs to be reviewed and discussed with City Engineer Burke, City Administrator Plummer, and Commissioner Ramage. In addition, the City Sidewalk Ordinance was amended for approval. And the recent City of Union street sweeping was completed.

City Engineer Barry Burke provided a brief summary of the 2022 CIP draft and stated that eight city streets are included to fully resurface. Items such as street lighting, retrofit, and encroachment permits are ongoing. In addition, there was a revised traffic impact study for the Union Promenade project for RT. US 42 which is under review by the highway department.

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

**ORDINANCE 2021-19** - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY GRANTING THE REQUEST OF VIOX AND VIOX FOR VILLAS OF FOWLER'S CREEK LLC FOR A CHANGE IN AN APPROVED CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN A SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL TWO/UNION TOWN OVERLAY (SR-2/UTO) ZONE FOR A 17.743 ACRE SITE LOCATED AT 9172 ROYAL OAK LANE, UNION, KENTUCKY (VILLAS OF FOWLER'S CREEK CONDOMINIUMS) TO ALLOW A RIGHT TURN, EXIT ONLY GATE AT ROYAL OAK LANE/OLD UNION ROAD INTERSECTION (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

**ORDINANCE 2022-01** - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 91A OF THE CITY OF UNION CODE OF ORDINANCES (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

Commissioner Mefford requested that the definition of hazardous versus nonhazardous sidewalks be added to Ordinance 2022-01. The City Commission members present were in agreement.

**ORDINANCE 2021-20** - AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 131 OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES WITHIN THE CITY. (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

Due to the absence of Commissioner Ramage at the meeting, Commissioner Garner made a motion to postpone the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of ORDINANCE 2021-20 until the February 7, 2022 Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Mefford seconded the motion.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

Mayor Solomon then invited any visitors wishing to speak in reference to Ordinance 2021-20 to do so at this time. Lisa Stenner, Pastor of Union Presbyterian Church shared that their congregation feels very strongly in favor of passing the Fairness Ordinance in order to protect all people. She stated that it is not okay to discriminate against any group of people and as leaders of this community, voting for the Fairness Ordinance sends a message of welcoming support to Union's diverse population. Mayor Solomon referenced Resolution 2020-10 - A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE CITY'S RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK AND DIRECTING CITY PERSONNEL TO USE AVAILABLE TOOLS TO ASSIST IN THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES ACROSS KEY INDICATORS OF SUCCESS, INCLUDING HEALTH, EDUCATION, CRIMINAL JUSTICE, THE ENVIRONMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY; AND TO PROMOTE EQUITY WITHIN THE CITY AND IN THE DELIVERY OF CITY SERVICES - which was passed by the City Commission on July 6, 2020. Commissioner Garner then provided an explanation of the difference between a resolution which is symbolic and an ordinance which is a law.

Neil Fairweather, a City of Union resident, as well as a Kentucky licensed attorney, spoke highly of the community and the importance of the Fairness Ordinance. He referenced the growing community, in population and development, and the new opportunities created as a result. This growth will bring diversity and he feels that the city needs to be welcoming to all people. Mr. Fairweather shared his personal experiences that have opened his eyes to the challenges of the LGBTQ community. The Fairness Ordinance is a way to show a warm welcome from the City of Union.



Chris Hartman, Executive Director of the Fairness Campaign, highlighted the proposed Fairness Ordinance and stated that it covers the 3 areas of discrimination: employment, housing, and public accommodations. Currently, the Supreme Court provides employment protection for the LGBTQ community and the State provides housing protection. However, Ordinance 2021-20 also covers the huge missing gap which is public accommodations. There are 23 Kentucky cities that have passed a Fairness Law, but the City of Union would be the first city in Boone County.

Senator Schickel spoke about how he views the issue differently. He believes in making laws that apply to everyone and not special laws that protect only one group of people. He feels that laws give everyone protection from the courts and that this is a very welcoming community. It is a matter of equality and equal protection under the law.

#### **CITY SIGNAGE**

Mayor Solomon stated that the City Signage discussion will be postponed until the February 7, 2022 Commission Meeting when Commissioner Ramage is present to lead the conversation.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Solomon announced that the City Commission will hold a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Union City Building, 1843 Bristow Dr., Union, KY 41091.

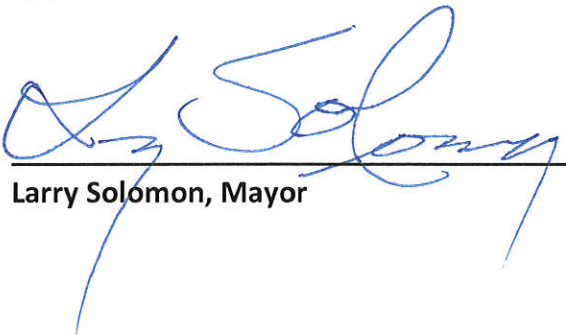
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney at 7:35PM.

**Motion approved 4-0.**

**Approved:**

**Attest:**

  
Larry Solomon, Mayor  
Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk