

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM on February 7, 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, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, and Mayor Larry Solomon.

Mayor Solomon provided a brief recap of the recent winter weather and the response by the City of Union public works team emphasizing the severity of ice storm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the January 3, 2022 and the January 17, 2022 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0.

VISITORS/GUESTS WISHING TO SPEAK

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Advisers and Chapter Officers from Ryle and Cooper High Schools, Angie Albaugh, Renae Kopser, Ariel Fader, Brianna Burke, Andrew Price, Garrett Warman, and Travis Rasso, were present. Ms. Albaugh and Ms. Kopser both spoke about FBLA and thanked the City Commission for being recognized at the meeting. Mayor Solomon then read a Proclamation signed by the entire City Commission recognizing the third week of February as National FBLA-PBL Week.

Mayor Solomon then asked guests if anyone was present to speak on an issue other than Ordinance 2021-20. The response was no. Mayor Solomon then asked for the second reading of Ordinance 2021-20 by City Attorney Greg Voss to be followed by City Commission statements.

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. (2nd Reading)

After Attorney Voss provided the second reading of stated Ordinance, Mayor Solomon stated that he and each Commissioner would make their statement, then would move directly to a vote. He said that he would start...

Mayor Solomon stated, "On the surface, this is a statement that all Union residents believe no matter their political beliefs. Everyone wants to be treated fairly, and they want to treat others fairly. In 2020, the City of Union enacted a Fairness Resolution (2020-10) that states all those in Union should be treated equally and fairly with respect...this is expected of all Union city officials/staff/city contractors, businesses, schools, and residents. In 2021, the city commission approved, at my request, a Public Relations Campaign to inform residents that the city believes in Fairness and all should be treated equally and fairly. The city has given its

word that it believes in treating all people fairly and equally through the 2020 Fairness Resolution, and one's word is their bond. I believe that this is currently good enough."

Commissioner Dulaney did not make a statement.

Commissioner Ramage stated, as an elected official, he has taken a considerable amount of time to read communications and talk to residents who have been sharing varying backgrounds and beliefs. It is his understanding, through the overwhelming response, that the majority of residents feel that we already have equal rights. His decision is based on the response by these residents whom he represents.

Commissioner Mefford stated that he is not only a commissioner, he is also a teacher at Ryle High School which places him in a unique position. He read the Ryle DEI Task Force mission statement and shared that he has talked to a lot of residents who have varying backgrounds, feelings and beliefs. Commissioner Mefford feels that either way he votes, he will be in either be in conflict with his employer or he will be in violation of the residents who he was elected to represent.

Commissioner Garner stated that he is the only commissioner who grew up in this community since age 3. He has received responses that this ordinance is radical which he feels is untrue. He stated that the current theme is that we expect everyone to treat people equally, but there appears to be confusion concerning the current laws protecting all people. He also stated that there is confusion about the local Republican Party and the false assumption that all beliefs are the same. He noted many Republicans who believe that being gay is okay. Commissioner Garner shared that he had only received two communications from City of Union residents against the ordinance. However, he received numerous communications of support in favor of the ordinance. The primary opposition to Ordinance 2021-20 has been from the Boone County Republican Party. He left the Republican Party because of this issue and continues to work hard to find a common ground. Commissioner Garner proceeded to read directly from resident communications of support. He is disappointed that his community, where he has grown up, is not accepting of the ordinance.

A roll call vote was taken for the second reading of Ordinance 2021-20. Mayor Solomon voted no, Commissioner Dulaney voted no, Commissioner Ramage voted no, Commissioner Mefford abstained, and Commissioner Garner voted aye. **Motion failed.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Solomon called an executive session to be held in accordance with KRS 61.810(1) (b). Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0 at 7:05PM.

Commissioner Ramage motioned to exit executive session and Commissioner Garner seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0 at 8:01PM

Mayor Solomon announced that no decisions were made during the executive session.

Commissioner Mefford made a motion for a 5-minute break and Commissioner Ramage seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0 at 8:02PM. Commissioner Garner motioned to return to regular session and Commissioner Dulaney seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0 at 8:06PM.**

MAYOR'S REPORT/COMMISSIONER REPORT

The City Commission is considering hosting a Monthly Caucus open to the community. Some members of the Commission are planning to attend the City of Elsmere's next caucus meeting on March 1, 2022 at 6:30PM located at the Elsmere Senior Center to simply observe.

FY 2020-21 FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Ramage provided an update to the Commission on January's financial report which included "the bills to be paid" and the balance sheet. Commissioner Ramage reported that snow removal bills are coming in. Approximately \$20,000 remains in the budget for snow removal. Additional line items that drew attention were social security expenses as a result of two new city staff members being hired and banking credit card fees from Heritage Bank. An inquiry with the bank will follow.

Also, a retainer check from 2019 to Riegler to cover repairs was issued. Commissioner Ramage also made a request to waive the remaining street light assessment fees. He questioned the money due in the amount of \$165 for the remaining street light assessments. Attorney Voss will further investigate to determine whether or not the city may waive the remaining costs due.

Commissioner Ramage requested approval of the monthly bills. Commissioner Dulaney made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Dulaney provided an update from the Boone County Urban Forestry Committee in regard to the Mt. Zion Beautification project. Boone County will allocate \$80,000 toward the project and also offered to solicit bids. The City of Union has also budgeted up to \$40,000 toward the project.

Commissioner Dulaney then reviewed the Business Cooperation Survey and stated that the goals include establishing contact information, developing a Union Business Directory, building relationships with local businesses, and assessing needs to offer support and resources as applicable and available. Commissioner Dulaney talked through survey questions. Feedback was provided from the City Commission with a request to remove the yes/no question regarding a payroll tax. Revised surveys would be mailed out on February 8, 2022 to forty-nine City of Union businesses.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Mefford reminded the Commission of the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on April 16, 2022 at Union Presbyterian Church from 8:30AM-10:30AM. There will be two age groups for egg hunts: 6-12-year-olds from 9:00AM-9:15AM and 2-5-year-olds from 9:30AM-9:45AM. Student volunteers from Ryle High School will be requested to dress up in City provided Easter Bunny costumes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

City Administrator David Plummer reported that staff is acquiring estimates for a new copier as the current machine can no longer be serviced due to outdated and unavailable replacement parts. In addition, Plummer announced that the new front fencing at Union Rice Cemetery has been installed. And staff is working with Boone County GIS to create a mapping system with data for Union Rice Cemetery.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Garner reported that he communicated with City staff and Daughters of the American Revolution- Boone County Chapter to attain a current list of Veterans buried at Union Rice Cemetery. The Boone County Chapter Masons Lodge had requested a new list to continue their efforts to decorate graves on Veterans Day. Commissioner Garner would like to also coordinate groups that may wish to decorate Veterans' graves throughout the year.

City Engineer Barry Burke was not present, but he supplied the Commission with a digital copy of his report. Commissioner Garner stated a goal to get bids out earlier this year in hopes of receiving more bids. In addition, there is a ponding problem in front of Kroger at US HWY 42 and Fowlers that needs to be addressed.

Administrator Plummer reported that Boone County has proposed a joint sidewalk project with Union and Florence. Boone County is offering to cover 50% of the costs and will send out the bids. The remaining costs are split according to the percentage of sidewalk to be located in each Florence in Union. The majority of property is in the City of Union. Discussion followed. The Commission advised Administrator Plummer to continue conversations with Boone County and Florence in attempt to negotiate the proposed percentages.

LEGISLATION/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2022-01 - A MUNICIPAL ORDER OFFICIALLY APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BOONE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commission Dulaney seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

ORDINANCE 2022-02 - AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE DAY AND TIME OF THE MONTHLY CITY COMMISSIONERS MEETING FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (1st Reading)

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

CITY SIGNAGE/LOGO UPGRADE

Commissioner Ramage presented four different color schemes for new city signs: maroon and white, forest green and white, navy and gold, or navy, white, and red. Commission discussion followed and resulted in favor of forest green and white as the colors for new city entry signage. The Commission also agreed to add a message on the back of the signs such as "Come Back Soon" or something similar. Next steps include City staff working on new renderings with the sign company to present to the Commission.

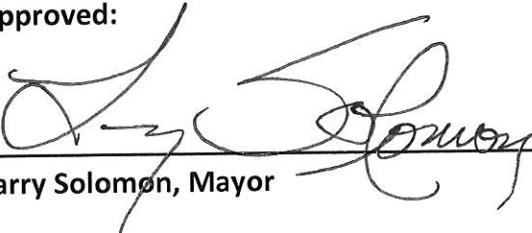
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

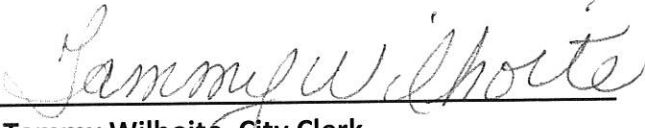
ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney at 9:05PM. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Approved:


Larry Solomon, Mayor

Attest:


Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk