

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on April 18, 2022 by Mayor 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 Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Brian Garner, and Mayor Larry Solomon.

CAUCUS DISCUSSION

City Administrator David Plummer moderated

Phase B Parts 1 & 2 of Street Repair Project

Bid for said project was put out with the stipulation that all intersections needed to be repaired...when in fact only the intersections with more than a one-inch gap would need to be repaired. City Administrator Plummer proposed we move ahead at the next meeting to authorize the work using the current rate received by TMS under the current bid for Phase B 1 & 2 including Curb/Gutter and Sidewalks.

As far as the ADA Ramps are concerned the City would work with TMS and authorize work not to exceed a particular dollar amount under the bid level to not have to ask the Commission to agree to a higher price. Commissioner Ramage asked what would be the solution to the gap. Administrator Plummer explained that there are several solutions and the City would let TMS decide the best way to repair the problem. Commissioner Ramage then asked who installed the current ADA ramps. ADA ramps are installed by the city when resurfacing work is completed as part of that project, City Engineer Burke replied. Burke also stated that with his observations there are only 40 to 60 percent of intersections that have the stated gap issue.

City Engineer Burke brought to the attention of the Commissioners and Mayor that the Harmony neighborhood HOA repaired some sidewalks within their community. Twenty (20) of these sidewalks are on the current list of 2022 Street Repairs and, as long as they meet the required standards, they will be removed from the list.

Sunday Alcohol Sales.

The Boomtown Biscuits & Whiskey restaurant manager requested the city change its Sunday Alcohol Sales Ordinance from 11:00 AM start of sales to 10:00 AM. Communications Director/Assistant CAO Amy Safran explained that they serve Sunday Brunch and this would help sales. She went on to explain that future restaurants will most likely make that same request, so it seems prudent on the city's part to move Sunday Alcohol Sales up to 10:00 AM. Commissioners agreed; City Attorney Greg Voss will prepare legislation for the next regular Commission meeting on May 2, 2022 for a first reading.

Short Term Rentals (STR).

Boone County and the City of Florence have prepared and passed STR legislation to better regulate short term rentals. Key criteria of their respective legislation includes things such as parking restrictions, only one property every 1,000 feet, number of guests, and term of stay. The Mayor mentioned that the discussion of short term rentals has been ongoing for over two years beyond Boone County and Florence; other northern Kentucky cities have passed STR Ordinances said Attorney Voss. The City of Union wanted to see how the Ordinances would work in these other areas prior to implementing one of our own.

Commissioner Mefford expressed that he felt that this topic needs to be researched very carefully. He further expressed he would have a difficult time telling a private homeowner what he or she can-or-cannot do with their house. Commissioner Ramage agreed with Commissioner Mefford and also added that it would be almost like an HOA over stepping. Commissioner Garner added there is no current zoning for short term rentals and therefore they are bypassing regulations that commercial businesses such as hotels would have with regulations and guidelines. Attorney Voss explained that at minimum the city would want to know who owned the property and their contact information.

City Administrator Plummer explained a few things for the Commissioners to consider. Specifically,:

- The Union Town Center is a higher density community and the 1,000 feet between houses will probably not work.
- Contact information is a perfect example of how to solve the problem quickly because a lot of times the homes are owned by corporations and not individuals.
- One of the reasons for Boone County had when implementing an ordinance was to preserve the neighborhoods by not allowing too many short term rentals in one neighborhood.
- At this time, the city does not have required zoning requirements. This itself would preclude the city to preclude the city from enacting STR legislation.

The Mayor asked if there were any current Airbnb rentals in the City of Union. Initially, City Administrator Plummer and Communications Director/Assistant CAO Safran said no, but there are a couple now operating. The Commissioners all agreed they do not feel like there is a current issue with STR in Union. However, they are open to further research and would like a clearer definition of what is and is not accepted currently. City Administrator Plummer and Communications Director/Assistant CAO Safran agreed to assist with putting together a study to present to the Commissioners and Mayor when they are ready to present.

Business Regulations.

City Administrator Plummer reviewed items that were added to the current Ordinance that imposes regulations and fees on those engaged in franchises, trades, occupations, professions and other businesses in the city since the first reading. Plummer mentioned that since the last meeting, he had been introduced to Kentucky Occupational License Association (KOLA), they have a model ordinance for communities to use. With said information, City Administrator Plummer worked with Attorney Voss to make necessary changes necessary changes to ordinance. After making the changes they felt to be necessary, the Ordinance needed another first reading. Some of the language added included:

- Confidentiality of information that is collected
- Penalties for employees who share confidential information
- Language for reconciliation purposes
- Updated for readability and specifically concerning refunds and responsibility of collections

City Engineer Burke inquired about the wording of section six. City Attorney Voss clarified that there was a clerical error and it would be corrected prior to second reading. Second reading of this Ordinance will take place at the May 2nd regular Commission Meeting.

Commission Compensation.

Mayor Solomon addressed the Commissioners about the salaries for Commissioners and Mayor. The Mayor explained that an ordinance would need to be passed by the first Monday in May and the salaries would not take effect until the following January when the new Commissioners and Mayor take office. The Mayor made note that the last time a raise was given was four years ago. Current salaries are \$400 per month for the Mayor; \$350 per month for each Commissioner. These quite modest salaries reflect the Mayor and Commissioner commitment to making the community better. Mayor Solomon said, "We are not in this for the money. We all want to make the community better!"

After discussion between Commissioners and the Mayor the agreement was made that an increase of one-hundred dollars per month would be added to the current salaries. Attorney Voss read legislation first reading and second reading will be at the May 2nd regular Commission Meeting.

Cyber Security.

City Clerk Tammy Wilhoite presented information from NKOL that is being considered to enhance user and computer security for the City of Union.

- **Secure Password Management** – This is to stop users from using their web browsers to save all their passwords which are not stored in a secure manner and are easily harvested from a computer if malicious software gets on it.
- **DNS** – This is software that runs on each workstation and will protect the computer from visiting known malicious websites. It can also be used as a content filter if one chooses to do so.
- **Email Backup** – Currently our email is hosted with Microsoft. Microsoft will do a best effort to maintain data but does not guarantee it or back it up. This feature will backup mailboxes four times per day and keep all emails indefinitely.

It was agreed upon by the Commissioners and Mayor that we should move forward with this product at a cost of \$180 per month. The City recently received a grant in the amount of two thousand dollars from Kentucky League of Cities (KLC). *These funds will be put toward the services being offered by NKOL.*

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-08 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CREATION OF THE POSITION OF PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY SPECIFYING POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE POSITION (2nd Reading)

Commissioner Mefford motioned and Commissioner Ramage seconded the motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY IMPOSING REGULATIONS AND FEES ON THOSE ENGAGED IN FRANCHISES, TRADES, OCCUPATIONS, PROFFESIONS AND OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE CITY (1st Reading)

ORDINANCE NO 2022-10 AN ORDINANE SETTING THE COMPENSATION FOR MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (1st Reading)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

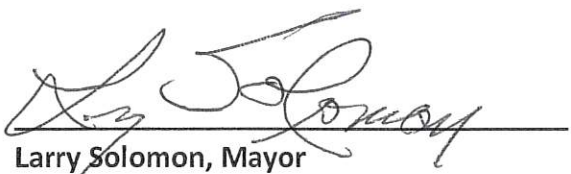
Mayor Solomon announced that the City Commission will hold a Regular Meeting on May 2, 2022 at 6:30 PM at the Union City Building, 1843 Bristow Dr., Union, KY 41091.


ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Ramage at 8:00 PM. **Motion approved 5-0.**

Approved:

Attest:


Larry Solomon, Mayor


Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk