

City of Union, KY

CAUCUS/COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2023 - 6:00 PM

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, 2023 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 Doug Bine, Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Brian Garner, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, and Mayor Larry Solomon.

VISITORS/GUESTS WISHING TO SPEAK

Andrew Price, Future Business Leader of America (FBLA) Chapter President at Ryle High School addressed the Commissioners, Mayor and staff to thank them for recognizing FBLA with a proclamation. Mayor Solomon read a signed proclamation recognizing the week of February 5 through 11 as National FBLA-PBL Week.

PUBLIC WORKS

Street Repairs

Commissioner Brian Garner mentioned that he, Commissioner Bine, City Administrator Amy Safran and City Engineer Barry Burke went on a drive around Union to look at city streets. Commissioner Garner asked Engineer Burke to give an update on the Capital Improvement Plan and the LED Street light and maintenance contract that the city was recently seeking. Engineer Burke explained that the city currently consists of one hundred and eighteen named streets. Of those streets there are one hundred and seventy eight segments. Engineer Burke explained that a segment is when occasionally a portion of a street from intersection to intersection has to be resurfaced, he also went on to explain how there are also repairs such as curb and gutter and base repairs that need to be done. Engineer Burke explained how he codes a street for needing repairs ranging from excellent to poor. Engineer Burke also discussed micro surfacing as an option for the 2023 street repair program, this should be a cost savings for the city of approximately 38% over a full resurface and will add life to the street from anywhere to four to five years. Commissioner Ramage asked Engineer Burke how the grading scale worked. Engineer Burke responded that when he looks at the road himself, a street could be in excellent condition but poor curb and gutter conditions therefore giving it a lower rating. Engineer Burke went through all of the projects that will need to go out for bid this fiscal year.

- Street Repairs
- Whispering Trails Storm Water Project
- Brilliance Avenue Extension
- Striping Clarkston

Mayor Solomon asked Engineer Burke if the projects were prioritized in order of importance. Engineer Burke responded that there are some projects that could be held off for another year if the money is not in the budget for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

Engineer Burke explained that beyond the street repairs the city also has sixty two LED lights they now own and need to maintain. The city recently had a Request for Quotes for maintenance and repair service for the lights but did not receive any quotes. City Administrator Amy Safran is going to reach out to Boone County to find out who they use for maintenance on their LED lights.

Street Signs

City Administrator Amy Safran discussed the installation of seventeen street signs and poles that are needing to be installed in the Westbrook subdivision. CAO Safran gave the Mayor and Commissioners pictures of two different post options that that the city can chose from. After a brief discussion the decision was made to use the 2 x 2 post option would be used for used for larger signs such as stop signs, street signs and U-channel post will for smaller signs such as no parking.

LEGISLATION

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2023-06 A MUNICIPAL ORDER ADOPTING THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE REVENUE STANDARD MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Bine seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2023-07 A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING AMY SAFRAN AS THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY

Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2023-08 A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING DOUG BINE TO SERVE AS A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OHIO-KENTUCKY-INDIANA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIIRECTORS

Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-09 FOR IMPOSING REGULATIONS AND FEES ON THOSE ENGAGED IN FRANCHISES, TRADES, OCCUPATIONS, PROFESSIONS AND OTHER BUSINESSES IN THE CITY. (2nd Reading)

After Attorney Greg Voss read the Ordinance Mayor Solomon asked if there was any discussion. City Administrator Amy Safran mentioned there were a few items to discuss regarding the business application. First being the question of prior felonies. CAO Safran proposed the question should we keep this question or remove it. After a brief discussion it was decided to remove the question due to the city not having the resources to conduct extensive background checks. The second question was exemptions for occupational license fee for solicitors, craft vendors doing business in the city less than a week. After a brief discussion the decision was made not to have any exemptions for business license fees.

The decision was made that solicitors/peddlers will continue to pay \$5 for the peddler license and in addition they will now be required to pay \$50 for a business license.

Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Bine seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY APPROVING AND ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO ZONING REGULATIONS, BOTH TEXT AND ZONING MAP, TO UPDATE THOSE ZONING REGULATIONS FOR TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019 BOONE COUNTY BOONE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN THAT IS ENTITLED “OUR BOONE COUNTY PLAN 2040” (2nd Reading)

Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Bine seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04 AN ORDINANCE CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (1st Reading)

CAUCUS DISCUSSION

Hiring Update

Mayor Solomon referenced the new Administrative Table of Organization Chart. Mayor Solomon also mentioned the upcoming interviews for the Public Works Director position and inquired about the status of current candidates for the Communications Coordinator position.

Office Furniture

Mayor Solomon discussed the need for purchasing new office furniture in anticipation of two new employees that will soon be added to the city staff. Mayor Solomon gave the Commissioners a design concept of what the office will look like with the new furniture and discussed options of how the furniture could be placed. The new furniture will be ordered from the same manufacturer and match the same design as the current furniture, it is of high quality and will last for many years and will be able to be moved to a new city building in the future. After discussion of how to best utilize the space and accommodate five employees it was decided to purchase new furniture. Mayor Solomon asked for approval to purchase office furniture in the amount up to \$6,100.

Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0**

Water Heater

Mayor Solomon mentioned the need to purchase a new hot water heater at the city building due to the current one no longer working and has not been working for a while. City Administrator Amy Safran mentioned that we had a plumber come and inspect the hot water heater and he was unable to light the pilot. After discussion it was agreed to purchase a new water heater for the city building. Mayor Solomon asked for approval to purchase a new water heater in the amount up to \$1,700.

Commissioner Bine motioned to approve and Commissioner Ramage seconded the motion.

Motion approved 5-0

Fairness Ordinance

Mayor Solomon addressed the issue a fairness ordinance. Mayor Solomon's stance on the issue is that the city already has a Resolution addressing the fairness issue and stated that the city should not have to pass an Ordinance to be nice to people. Mayor Solomon asked for conversation from the Commissioners to get their opinions on the fairness ordinance issue.

Commissioner Mefford read the title to the Civil Rights Act: **All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, and privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation, as defined in this section, without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, color, religion, or national origin.** Mefford also summarized sections one and two of the Civil Rights Act on public accommodations as follows. **(1) Any inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment which provides lodging. (2) Any restaurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, lunchroom counter, soda fountain, or other facility principally engaged in selling food for consumption on the premises.** Commissioner Mefford explained that this is not giving extra protections to a certain group it is giving the same protections as the Civil Rights Act did in 1964 to people who are Jewish, Black or Asian. Commissioner Mefford stated that he felt that having only a Resolutions was not enough. Commissioner Mefford also stated that we do not have Federal or State protections for the LGBTQ community and he feels we should step up and do that.

Commissioner Ramage explained that he does not have an issue with the fairness ordinance. However, his stance is how this ordinance would affect our community. Commissioner Ramage stated that he knows how he treats people and he feels that he cannot make someone else treat someone else differently. Commissioner Ramage feels that the issue should be put on a ballot for the residents of Union to decide if this ordinance should be adopted.

Commissioner Bine explained that he was raised to treat everyone with respect no matter what they looked like or who they loved. Commissioner Bine acknowledges that the city does not have a current fairness ordinance but also stated he does not feel the city has a current problem. Commissioner Bine's stance is he is serving to represent the residents of Union and his main concern is having a fairness ordinance would open the city up to litigation cases that would essentially cost the tax payers money.

Commissioner Bine explained that he was raised to treat everyone with respect no matter what they looked like or who they loved. Commissioner Bine acknowledges that the city does not have a current fairness ordinance but also stated he does not feel the city has a current problem. Commissioner Bine's stance is he is serving to represent the residents of Union and his main concern is having a fairness ordinance would open the city up to litigation cases that would essentially cost the tax payers money.

Commissioner Garner explained that he is in favor of having a fairness ordinance, he stated there are currently no laws on the federal or state level to protect the LGBTQ community. Commissioner Garner mentioned that everyone can look at the laws and determine whether they are equal or not, and we as elected Commissioners have the authority to pass laws. Commissioner Garner stated that he likes people and wants to help them, he also wants to see the law equal to everyone.

Commissioner Garner explained that the state law only recognizes race, religion, color and creed, but does not include gender identity. By passing a fairness ordinance the city could give the authority to anyone to advocate on the behalf of anyone who felt discriminated against due to gender identity, sexual orientation. Commissioner Garner explained that he talked with The Human Rights Commission and they have agreed to take on the investigations for anyone who feels they have been discriminated against.

Commissioner Garner mentioned he feels that no laws will be passed at either the state or federal level to make the laws equal for the LGBTQ community and this is why he feels it is extremely important for the city to move forward on passing a fairness ordinance.


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Solomon announced that the City Commission will hold the Regular Commission Meeting on Monday February 6, at 6:00 PM. He also stated that the next Caucus/Commission Meeting will be on Wednesday February 22, at 6:00 PM both meetings will be video teleconference.

ADJOURNMENT

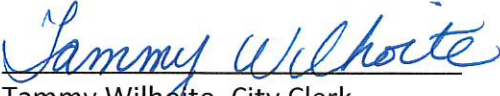
Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Mayor Solomon seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**
The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Approved:



John Mefford, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk