



**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 2023 – 4:30 PM
1843 BRISTOW DRIVE
UNION, KY 41091**

WELCOME

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:51 PM, 2023 by Mayor Solomon.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was present, and a roll call was taken. Commissioner Doug Bine, Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Brian Garner, and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner Ramage arrived at 5:30 PM.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-08 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2024 BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (2nd Reading)

Commissioner Mefford made a motion to accept the current budget as written and pass Ordinance No. 2023-09 and Commissioner Doug Bine seconded that motion. Commissioner Bine voted aye, Commissioner Mefford vote aye, Commissioner Garner voted nay, Commissioner Ramage voted nay, and Mayor Solomon voted aye. **Motion approved 3-2**

Attorney Greg Voss read the legislation and prior to a vote he opened the floor to the Commission for discussion.

Mayor Solomon mentioned the Budget presented is the same as was discussed at the Caucus meeting on April 17, 2023, except for two added line items; one for Duke Energy Franchise fee and an adjustment line item of capital expenditure for Public Works.

Commissioner Garner mentioned he would like the ARPA funds identified under another line item other than the current Street Repair. The Commissioners agree to classify the line item as Street Construction and Repair, this would not change the budget amount. By making this change the funds could be used for street repairs, construction, and Brilliance Avenue Extension if the decision is made by the commission to move forward with this project.

Commissioner Mefford questioned if there could be more clarification on the budget showing where income is coming from, for instance city growth income will come from payroll taxes. Mayor Solomon responded a change could be made on the budget to note where the money was coming from.

Attorney Greg Voss mentioned the budget is a requirement but can always be amended and items better clarified during the fiscal year.

Commissioner Garner mentioned he would need a better understanding of the budget to pass it. He also stated he would like the budget process changed to include more commission involvement. Commissioner Garner asked what the current process was for preparing the budget. Mayor Solomon explained every line item is looked at by the budget committee and input is sought by other commissioners as to how to best implement the numbers. The line items are consistent with past years and consistent for what is needed to run the city. Commissioner Mefford agreed there could be discussion at a future meeting on how the budget process is managed. Commissioner Ramage stated the budget should be prepared with more commission involvement and not how it is currently prepared as a mayor budget. He also stated discussion should take place to get a better understanding of the numbers prior to passing the budget. Mayor Solomon commented once the budget is approved it is the responsibility of the finance committee to manage the funds properly with the approval of the commission. Commissioner Garner is going to be working on a proposal on how to improve the budget process and legislation on how to regulate the balance of the commission. Mayor Solomon commented if you restrict funds in the beginning of the fiscal year it limits you throughout the year.

Commissioner Bine mentioned the city has two new revenue streams Occupational tax and Duke Franchise and the job is to decide how to best spend these funds for the best use. With concrete revenue streams they should be used to benefit the citizens and add value to the city.

Commissioner Ramage stated he does not want to spend all the ARPA funds on one project when the money could be used to serve the whole community and businesses that have been in existence for twenty years. He would like to put the money towards unfunded projects. Mayor Solomon stated at current time there were not enough projects to expend ARPA funds which need to be spent by the end of 2024 to qualify for future funds.

The continuation of the Brilliance Avenue Extension project will be decided once the bids are received. Public Works Director Paul Kremer stated he expects the project ready for bid mid-July. The current plan is to use ARPA funds along with money from the developer, up to a set amount, if there is a gap in the project cost over the agreed upon cap set by the commission. The commission agreed there will be a discussion at a future meeting to determine a cap for funds to be used on the Brilliance Avenue Extension project.

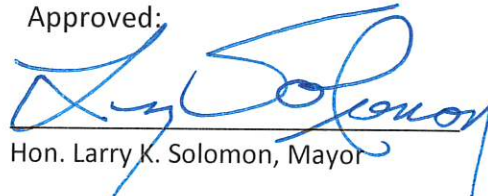
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Solomon announced that the City Commission will hold the next Regular Commission Meeting on Monday June 5, at 6:00 PM. He also stated that the next Caucus/Commission Meeting will be on Monday June 19, at 6:00 PM both meetings will be held at the city building located 1843 Bristow Drive Union, KY 41091.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0.**
The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Approved:



Hon. Larry K. Solomon, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk