



REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2023 – 6:00 PM

1843 BRISTOW DRIVE

UNION, KY 41091

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solomon called the Regular Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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 John Mefford, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Brian Garner and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner Doug Bine was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of May 1, 2023, Regular Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion.

Motion approved 4-0

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of May 15, 2023, Caucus Meeting minutes. Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion.

Motion approved 4-0

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of May 24, 2023, Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion.

Motion approved 4-0

VISITORS/GUESTS WISHING TO SPEAK

Certificate of Need

Kentucky State Representative Marianne Proctor gave a legislative update and discussed the introduction of House Bill (HB) 312 Certificate of Need (CON). Certificate of need laws regulate the appointing of new or existing health care facilities and projects. The providers must obtain a permission slip from the Kentucky Cabinet of Health and Family Services to begin development. During her time campaigning Representative Proctor heard from many people that CON was a top concern. The original bill proposed would include three contiguous Northern Kentucky counties 90,000 or larger in population to expedite review for CON. Northern Kentucky being

one of the most rapidly growing areas in our state and the fourth largest county has fewer hospital choices than other regions in our state such as Lexington and Louisville. The original intent for HB 312 was to allow healthcare choices. Currently CON limits eighteen health care services in Kentucky including hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, dialysis, and hospice care which makes it harder to get appointments and second opinions without crossing over into Ohio. House Bill 312 was not picked up by the Kentucky legislature this current session. House Concurrent Resolution 85 (HCR) was picked up this session which will create a bipartisan Task Force to review the CON program; review the need to maintain or modify each health facility and service covered by CON. There are currently thirty-six states that have some type of CON and Kentucky is the sixteenth most restrictive state. Representative Procter stated Kentucky needs to repeal the current CON to stay competitive with other states. The goal would be to keep economic dollars in Boone County and payroll taxes in Kentucky.

Kentucky State Representative Steve Rawlings stated he believes in the free-market economics and does not feel it is a good idea to have one provider for an entire region. He stated free markets have been proven to work and will raise the level of healthcare for everyone including St. Elizabeth.

Garren Colvin, President/CEO of St. Elizabeth Healthcare spoke to why CON is needed. Mr. Colvin stated the main reasons CON was put in place was to control cost, maintain quality and to give access. St. Elizabeth is a number one rated quality hospital according to US News and World Report. When CON was capped at the state level it was to assure the most vulnerable would have access to healthcare. Northern Kentucky currently has 109 CON in which St. Elizabeth holds only nineteen. If CON is repealed it would potentially remove more than St. Elizabeth services but many other smaller providers. St. Elizabeth provides health care services not provided by many other states. Mr. Colvin stated health care is not a free-market when seventy percent is controlled by government controlling how much they will pay. The hospitals then must go the employer plans to negotiate rate that will subsidize what the government is going to pay. The state of Kentucky introduced HB 777 in 2022, a bill to look at ambulance services across the state. St. Elizabeth partnered with Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA) and Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) to maintain ambulance services. If CON is repealed, then any ambulance service could come to an area and compete with current ambulance services. St. Elizabeth plans to have a team involved with the Task Force to follow the progression.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Pride Communications Message

Pastor Lisa Stenner, Union Presbyterian Church addressed the need of being supportive of the LGBTQ community. She mentioned from her experience there are a lot of people in the community who do not feel welcome, particularly after the Fairness Ordinance was voted down. She addressed there is a sizable portion of our population who either identify as LGBTQ have friends or family who identify as LGBTQ, and they are not feeling welcome. She mentioned

that employers care and if a government body wants to grow the community and economic development, they need to take into consideration how people are being accepted and welcomed.

Other guests were in attendance who voiced opposition to the city showing public support of the LGBTQ community.

Commissioner Mefford mentioned there were several businesses that would like to move into communities who support the LGBTQ community. The City of Union passed a Resolution stating support for the LGBTQ community and he feels the city should show that support by posting on Social Media pages or showing support for a Pride event that might take place in the community. Showing support to the LGBTQ community is a human rights issue simply treating humans like humans.

Commissioner Ramage stated he is in support of the Resolution passed by the city. He mentioned in the past the city has only promoted city sponsored events. He feels as a governing body the city should stay neutral and would not be in favor of placing a Pride banner on city property.

Commissioner Garner stated he is in favor of a Fairness Ordinance, and he believes there are people from the LGBTQ community who are not being treated fairly. He believes by showing support to the LGBTQ community shows they are welcomed in the City of Union. Commissioner Garner is in support of a Pride banner.

Mayor Solomon explained that he does not feel the city needs a Fairness Ordinance since there is an existing Resolution. The current Resolution passed in 2020 states that the city treats all people equally and fairly. The request of a Pride banner falls under the guidelines of the current Resolution, and he would support the signage.

The decision was made that the city would have a Social Media post in support of Pride month.

Union Celebrates America

Commissioner Mefford gave an update for Union Celebrates America. The parade will begin at 6:00 PM at Union Baptist Church and the roads will be closed at 5:45 PM until the parade is finished. Nine food trucks and Vito's Fireworks are confirmed for the event at Ryle High School on Friday, June 30.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Ramage provided an update to the Commission on May's financial report which included "the bills to be paid" and the balance sheet. Interest rates continue to climb, and the current rate is 4.8% resulting in earnings just over \$100,000 for the year. As the budget

current rate is 4.8% resulting in earnings just over \$100,000 for the year. As the budget approaches the end of fiscal year 2022-23 there may need to be an amendment to the budget if line items for Professional Services and Administration go over 5% of the allotted amount budgeted.

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to approve the financial report, including paying the bills for the month of May. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0**

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER REPORT

Engineering Services

Mayor Solomon discussed the engineering service contract for the current city Engineer Barry Burke. The use of engineering services has decreased now that the city has a full time Public Works Director (PWD) on staff. Continued use of engineering services will help to provide needed assistance to the PWD over the next year.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Payroll tax

City Administrator Amy Safran gave an update on the Business License and Payroll Tax, there are currently eighty-five businesses that have registered. Once the July 1, deadline arrives there may be a need to send out another round of mailings based on how many businesses have registered at that time.

Boone County Planning Commission

Boone County Planning Commission (BCPC) is in the process of updating the 2017 Goals and Objectives. City Administrator Amy Safran recently met with BCPC Director Jenna LaCount to discuss the updates. Ms. LaCount is planning to attend a commission meeting later in June to give an overview of the current Goals and Objectives to provide the commissioners clearer knowledge, opportunity to give feedback and the ability to compare the current Goals and Objectives to the proposed updates prior to when they are adopted.

Credit Card

City Administrator Amy Safran discussed the need for a new credit card for Public Works Director Paul Kremer. The City Commission agreed to obtain the credit card.

Care Packages

City Administrator Amy Safran mentioned the city will be hosting the second round of care packing for the Adopt-A-Unit on Thursday June 8, at 6:00 p.m. City Attorney Greg Voss mentioned the last round of packages were delivered to the troops and they were very appreciative.

Bourbon in the Bluegrass

City Administrator Amy Safran informed the cost of the tent and staging for Bourbon in the Bluegrass on October 7, has increased from last year to \$3,338.70. The tent and staging are the same sizes but will include steps for the stage. The commission agreed for the current cost.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

City Administrator Amy Safran mentioned Kevin Costello Executive Director with Boone County Planning Commission reached out to gain clarification for the city's portion of \$40,000 towards the Mt. Zion Beautification project. Mr. Costello wanted to know if this amount included maintenance or just the initial cost of planting. Mayor Solomon responded the maximum amount of \$40,000 will include both the maintenance and tree plantings.

PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Calming

Commissioner Garner explained the city is re-evaluating the current traffic calming policy passed with Ordinance 2020-01. Burleigh Lane is currently being addressed on how to calm traffic within the guidance of the current ordinance. A traffic survey was sent out to residents on Burleigh Lane asking for feedback on traffic issues and what traffic calming measures they would support. The city is being asked to address a public safety concern, the current process and procedure is prohibiting from taking action.

Public Works Updates

Public Works Director (PWD) Paul Kremer mentioned the city has received several calls over the past few months from residents regarding speeding in their neighborhoods.

There will be a meeting on Wednesday June 7, with the residents of six homes on Whispering Trail and Indian Hill who are affected by a drainage issue. There will be an overview of the project presented along with the need to obtain construction easements.

The bid notice for Brilliance Avenue Extension was sent to the Enquirer newspaper for publication. The bid opening will take place on June 28, at 10:00 AM. Viox & Viox will give an engineering assessment prior to July 4. Discussion of the project is planned for the Commission Meeting on July 5.

Code Enforcement issues have increased recently with several homes being out of compliance with the current Ordinance when it comes to mowing and maintaining properties. Public Works Director Paul Kremer explained the process of Code Enforcement citations. PWD Paul Kremer and Code Enforcement Officer Bobby McDonald will be attending a Kentucky League of Cities Code Enforcement training later in June, one of the items of training will be new legislation for including Code Enforcement fees to property tax bills.

Public Works Director Paul Kremer gave an update on 2023-24 Street Repair Project. A construction meeting to review six streets with Neyra Paving resulted in an adjustment to the project resulting in a cost savings of \$40,000. The recommendation of PWD Kremer is to use the extra funds to change Brandsteade Court to a full resurface and add Sycamore Drive to this year's project. Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to approve \$2,200 for the adjusted cost of street repairs. Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Commissioner Brian Garner mentioned there needs to be an adjustment to the amount of money the Public Works Director can spend without approval from the commission to help expedite projects. The Commission agreed to make an adjustment to the spending allowance increasing to \$5,000.

LEGISLATION/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-04 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MARCUS CAREY, DARRYL CUMMINS, ROBERT SANDERS, TOM QUIRK, BRYCE C. RHOADES, AND JACK WESTWOOD AND THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES DADY AS MEMBERS OF THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGIONAL ETHICS AUTHORITY ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM, COMMENCING FEBRUARY 1, 2023 AND EXPIRING ON JANUARY 31, 2025

Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion.
Motion approved 4-0

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05 A RESOLUTION LISTING THE ROADS IN THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY WHICH ARE PART OF THE CITY ROAD SYSTEM AND THOSE WHICH ARE NOT

Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion.
Motion approved 4-0

Municipal Orders

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2023-24 A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT OF EVERETTE "JUNIOR" PARTIN FOR GRAVE DIGGING SERVICES FOR UNION RICE CEMETERY IN THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY

Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion.
Motion approved 4-0

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2023-25 A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT OF HARRISON CPAs & ADVISORS, PSC AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT

Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion.
Motion approved 4-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

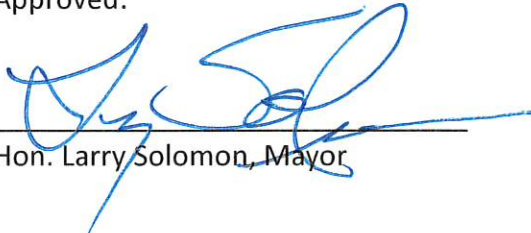
Mayor Solomon announced that the next Caucus Meeting will be on Monday June 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM. Mayor Solomon also stated that the next regular City Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday July 5, 2023, 6:00 PM at the city building 1843 Bristow Drive Union, KY.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

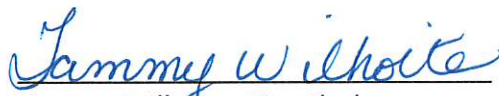
Motion approved 4-0

Approved:



Hon. Larry Solomon, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk