



**REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 7, 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, Commissioner Doug Bine, and Mayor Larry Solomon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of July 5, 2023, Special Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of July 17, 2023, Caucus Meeting minutes. Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion.

Motion approved 5-0

VISITORS/GUESTS WISHING TO SPEAK

Union residents Elise Milton, Eva Milton, and Everett Reed were recognized with a certificate of excellence for raising \$1015 dollars with their lemonade stand in July. The money raised went to a Go Fund Me page in honor of their young cousin who is battling cancer and will be going to The Cleveland Clinic for treatments.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER REPORT

Mayor Solomon mentioned updates that will be occurring throughout Boone County that were addressed during a recent quarterly Judge Executive/Mayors meeting.

Commissioner Garner discussed recently proposed legislation to increase authorized spending for the City Administrative Officer (CAO). Commissioner Garner recommended the amount of

\$10,000 be put in legislation to authorize the Public Works Director under the direction of the CAO to complete planned projects using funds from the current year budget. Municipal Road Aid (MRA) funds should be used under the guidance of the Commission for unplanned projects, this language will be included in legislation. The Commission agreed to have further discussion at the August Caucus meeting to determine what projects should be considered when using MRA funds.

Commissioner Garner proposed the city should conduct a full analysis of city streets and sidewalks to see if they are compliant with Americans with Disability Act (ADA). City Administrator Amy Safran will reach out to Kentucky League of Cities for guidance.

Commissioner Garner requested the city research a new process for completing the city's annual budget. After discussion it was decided City Administrator Amy Safran will research the process in which other local Mayor/Commission ran cities prepare their budgets. Commissioner Garner, Mayor Solomon, and CAO Safran will discuss a new budget process.

Commissioner Ramage gave an update for the Union Town Center. He will be looking over renderings that were created by MKSK, He will also meet with Boone County Parks Director David Whitehouse to review renderings that were completed for the Union Park. Communication will start in September through property tax bills and Residents of Union magazine directing residents to visit the website to give their input on what they would like to see at Union Town Center.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Ramage provided an update to the Commission on July's financial report which included "the bills to be paid" and the balance sheet. Interest rates continue to climb, and the current rate is 5%.

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to approve the financial report, including paying the bills for the month of July. Commissioner Bine made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0**

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Whispering Trail Update/ARPA Funds

City Administrator Amy Safran gave an update on the Whispering Trail water drainage project. The deadline of August 1 has passed for obtaining all the required signatures from the six residents who would be impacted by the project. The project was going to be funded through a cost share with Sanitation District No. 1 and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Due to the lack of required signatures the project will not be moving forward. The commission will need to decide on how to use ARPA funds that were obligated for this project. Suggested uses are as follows.

- Catch Basin Repairs – Whispering Trail, Russwill Lane
- Rice Cemetery Beautification - Cemetery Perimeter Fencing, Pavement Rehab, Mausoleum Rehab, Cemetery Gazebo.
- City Truck for Public Works Director
- Mt. Zion Pocket Parks
- Traffic Calming Program
- Old Union Business District Wayfinding Sign

Mayor Solomon recommended reviewing the current traffic calming ordinance 2020-01 prior to making any updates.

There will be continued discussion at the August Caucus meeting to prioritize the suggested projects using current ARPA funds.

Brilliance Avenue and US 42 Traffic Signal

City Administrator Amy Safran discussed the proposed need for a traffic signal at the intersection of Brilliance Avenue and Highway US 42. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is recommending a traffic signal at this intersection. A letter to KYTC is requested if the city is not in support of a traffic signal. If the agreement to have a traffic signal at this intersection is made by the commission, then no letter is required. Commissioner Ramage feels there is a need for the traffic signal for safety purposes. Commissioner Garner feels a traffic signal is a vital component to Brilliance Avenue Extension and is in favor of the installation. A motion by Commissioner Ramage was made to authorize no letter be sent by the City of Union to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet in opposition of a traffic signal, Mayor Solomon seconded that motion.

Motion Approved 5-0

Union Rice Cemetery

City Administrator Amy Safran discussed Union Rice Cemetery and the increase of plot sales and funerals. Upon research by the city treasurer, it was discovered the plot costs have not been increased in at least ten years. The current cost for a single burial plot at Union Rice Cemetery is \$500. The average cost for a cemetery plot in the state of Kentucky is \$2370. With the increase of plots being sold and funerals taking place the proposal was made to increase the cost of burial plots, opening, and closing of graves. The increase will support overall maintenance of the cemetery and an increase to the Cemetery Sexton salary. After discussing the current cost of the cemetery and the need to create more revenue to maintain the cemetery the decision was made to review current prices for adjustment, rebrand and advertise the cemetery.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Garner discussed the ongoing issue of blighted and abandoned homes

throughout the city. He along with Public Works Director Paul Kremer are looking into ways to resolve these issues. Mayor Solomon recommended enforcement of these properties using current legislation of the Code Enforcement ordinance.

Public works Director Paul Kremer mentioned he is working with the city attorney on a couple of properties in violation of the Code Enforcement ordinance, one citation has been sent and another one is in the process of being generated.

Public Works Director Kremer requested use of Municipal Road Aid (MRA) funds to repair an ADA ramp/curb at the intersection of Highway US 42 and Richmond Road. The cost of the project is \$7,800. The Commission agreed to the use of MRA funds for the repair.

Public Works Director Kremer requested moving \$20,000 from the allocated \$25,000 for the LED light repair project on Mt. Zion Road. The approximate cost needed for the project is only \$5,000. The extra \$20,000 will be used for concrete curb repairs. The Commission agreed to the reallocation of funds that are already in the current 2023-24 budget.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Mefford mentioned the City of Union photo contest is currently open until October 31, 2023. This year's photo contest has been expanded; residents of Union can submit photos taken anywhere throughout Boone County.

Bourbon in the bluegrass will take place on October 7, 2023. The event is growing with more vendors planned from last year. Commissioner Mefford mentioned a second tent is being considered that will allow for more seating. The Commission agreed to the extra tent.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Bine discussed there is interest in the Kroger Micro Fulfillment store, but no final decisions have been made. The development at Highway US 42 and Farmview will be going to the Boone County Planning Commission next week. No business has formally been named at the development. Progress is being made at the Union Promenade with two buildings and the entry monuments. Developer TJ Ackermann gave an update on current construction of a building on lot number six will be Goodwood Brewing restaurant, a medical day spa, and a nail salon.

Mayor Solomon mentioned the city is working with the owner of Strong's Pizza to have them connect a portion of the parking lot between Union Point Center and Strong's Pizza. Mayor Solomon mentioned from a safety standpoint it would be of great benefit to have both parking lots connect to assist Emergency vehicles that need to access the development.

LEGISLATION/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No legislation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

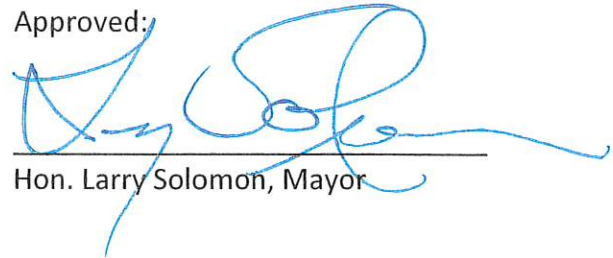
Mayor Solomon announced that the next Caucus Meeting will be on Monday August 21, 2023, at 6:00 PM. Mayor Solomon also stated that the next regular City Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday September 6, 2023, 6:00 PM at the city building 1843 Bristow Drive Union, KY.

ADJOURNMENT

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

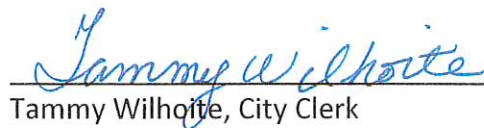
Motion approved 5-0

Approved:



Hon. Larry Solomon, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk