



**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2024 – 6:00 PM
1843 BRISTOW DRIVE
UNION, KY 41091**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solomon called the Special 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 Brian Garner, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Doug Bine, and Mayor Larry Solomon.

DISCUSSION

Introduction/Meeting Purpose

Mayor Solomon explained the purpose of meeting was to discuss Strategic planning for the city. The focus will be on infrastructure, development, and planning. The city has grown infrastructure by hiring a City Administrator, Public Works Director, and Communications Coordinator. One of the things realized is the city has outgrown its current building.

There was a time when it was difficult getting developers to come to Union. Once Mt. Zion Road was widened giving access from interstate I-75/71 to US Highway 42 development has increased. The city's strategy is knowing the demographic of the city and to provide goods and services to that demographic who represent Union residents.

The original Town Plan from 1999 was envisioned to create a small-town including retail space located near the current historic Union district. The increase of current development has changed the vision to a Town Center Park. The Strategic Plan in 2021 was developed based on the current needs of Union residents.

Review of 2021 Strategic Plan

City Administrator Amy Safran discussed items that have been accomplished since the 2021 Strategic Plan was initiated.

One accomplishment was the acquisition of twenty-two acres of property in June of 2022. A Park Advisory Committee was created in November 2023. The city received applications from Union residents and put together a committee that represented various parts of the city to give feedback, input, and good representation.

Another accomplishment was the creation of a Public Works Department starting with the hiring of Paul Kremer Public Works Director in February 2023. The key role of this position is to have oversight of everything related to public works.

- Land/lawn maintenance
- Snow Removal
- Street Repairs
- Potholes
- Managing engineering consulting services

The position also includes identifying ways to improve the budget and services provided. Also, to look ahead with expansion of the department as the city continues to grow. The city purchased a truck in November 2023 for the Public Works Department, still needed is garage/storage space for equipment and expansion of the department.

The Sense of Place included installing city entry signs in May 2022, creating a new city logo in April 2023, and the beautification of Union/Rice Cemetery in the fall of 2023.

These updates improve the look and feel of Union.

In addition, a historical district study will help define the area of Old US 42 and the opportunity for the small businesses in that area. The development of the twenty-two acres could help bring more business and possible restoration to the area. The city will revisit the need for wayfinding signs to help direct residents and visitors.

Public Works

Public Works Director (PWD) Paul Kremer mentioned the vision is to increase services while continuing to contract out certain services to remain cost efficiency.

The mission statement is based on four items.

- Maintain city streets.
- Maintain the cemetery.
- Improve recreation.
- Improve the connection to nature.

Recommended Goals for the Public Works Department include:

- Public Works Building for storage of equipment.
- Improving Old Union Road south of Hathaway circle.
- Improving signage throughout the city.
- Planting new Maple trees in Union/Rice Cemetery.
- Recreation – creating pocket parks along Mt. Zion.
- Plant trees along Mt. Zion.
- Create an Arboretum.
- Create wildlife habitats on city owned properties.

Town Center/Park

City Administrator Amy Safran mentioned the Parks Advisory Committee will be meeting Wednesday with MKSK. Three committee members recently walked the property with MKSK and staff to get a better vision. The committee was tasked with producing visions and goals for the committee moving forward. Also, to look at local park amenities in the area and put together ideas of what would be desired by Union residents. Selecting a name for the park is needed to identify the area and inform residents of what is coming.

New City Building

The Commission discussed the need of a new city building. They determined adequate space for staff, conference room for meetings, and storage are all necessities. After discussing potential locations, the decision was made to explore four separate areas before deciding where the building will be located. Determining the budget of the new city building will help with the planning of the Town Center Park.

City Administrator Safran mentioned once an engineering firm is selected, they will conduct a feasibility study to identify the actual needs, location, and cost for a city building.

The Commission agreed to continue the discussion after the locations are pursued.

City Font

Communications Coordinator Jaime Lyons discussed different font options that would be used on the new city building, and future signs. The Commission agreed Georgia font was the best option for future use.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Solomon announced there will be a Public Hearing on Thursday February 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM located at the Union Fire Department 9611 US Highway 42, Union, Kentucky 41091.

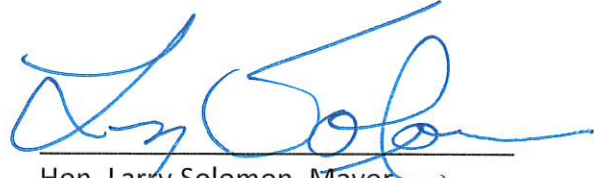
Mayor Solomon also stated that the next Regular City Commission meeting will be held on Monday February 5, 2024, 6:00 PM both meetings will be at the city building 1843 Bristow Drive Union, Kentucky.

ADJOURN

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ramage made a motion and Commissioner Bine seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.


Motion approved 5-0

Approved:



Hon. Larry Solomon, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk