



REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MAY 6, 2024 – 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 Brian Garner, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Doug Bine, and Mayor Larry Solomon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of April 1, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes.

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

Motion approved 5-0

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of April 15, 2024, Caucus Meeting minutes.

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

Motion approved 5-0

GUESTS

Public Works Proclamation

Mayor Solomon presented Boone County Public Works Department Tyler Hill and Jackson Webster with a proclamation declaring the week of May 19 through May 25, 2024, as National Public Works Week in the City of Union. Tyler Hill spoke on behalf of the Public Works Department; he thanked the Commission for the recognition. Mr. Hill mentioned some of their responsibilities which include snow removal, tree trimming and filling potholes, all of which are vital to the community.

Foster Care

Dani Mendenhall, Director of Cedar Haven Arts Academy addressed the commission regarding foster care and adoption in the state of Kentucky. There are currently 8,000 children in the foster care system in Kentucky with less than 2,000 families qualified as foster parents. Boone County currently has 138 children in foster care in fifty-one homes. There is a great need for the recruitment of foster families in our area. There is a lack of homes with the capabilities of caring

for children who are medically complex, of an older age, and have multiple siblings. There are other ways to support foster care families.

- Foster Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA) – event coordinators
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – they stand up and speak out to help abused and neglected children.
- Forgotten Initiative – volunteers provide supervised visitation for families.
- Giving Tree/Vine Dresser – donation of clothing for foster care program.
- Respite Care provider – assistance provided to foster care families.

Promenade Special Sign District

The three issues addressed in the Special Sign District include:

1. Children’s Hospital Medical Center to have a twenty-foot-tall sign including the four-foot masonry base.
2. United Dairy Farmers (UDF) all temporary advertising shall have unlimited colors.
3. There shall be no time limit on advertising campaigns for UDF within a calendar year, and no permits will be required.

After Attorney Greg Voss read the first reading of Ordinance 2024-06 Mayor Solomon asked for discussion from the Commission.

Commissioner Bine does not have an issue with the twenty-foot sign.

Commissioner Ramage does not have an issue with the proposed sign.

Commissioner Garner asked how the sign would be illuminated. Maura Moran-Berry, Assistant Vice President for Real Estate at Cincinnati Children’s explained the sign will be illuminated internally. He does not have an issue with the sign.

Commissioner Mefford explained he reviewed information given to him for other Cincinnati Children’s signs. Based on the information of what is approved at the other locations he feels the sign is needed at the Union location.

Mayor Solomon is in support of the variance for the wayfinding sign for Cincinnati Children’s. He stated there will be a second reading at the Caucus meeting on May 20, 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Commissioner Ramage provided an update to the Commission on the month of April financial report which included “the bills to be paid” and the balance sheet. As the city nears the end of the current budget cycle everything looks to be in order. Interest rates continue to remain at 5%.

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to approve the financial report, including paying the bills for the month of April.

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

Motion approved 5-0

VISITORS WISHING TO SPEAK

Mayor Solomon asked if there was anyone wishing to speak. No one had any issues to be addressed.

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER REPORT

Mayor Solomon mentioned the Publix on US Highway 42 and Farmview Drive has been approved.

Brilliance Avenue Traffic Light

Mayor Solomon mentioned the Executive Committee met with Viox & Viox and Grammas Development on April 23, 2024, to discuss the traffic light on US Highway 42 and Brilliance Avenue. Viox & Viox provided all their data and support. It was clear from the meeting Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) makes the decision on traffic studies and the applicant is responsible for all improvements to the state-maintained highway as determined by the department. In this case the last applicant and therefore the last developer is Grammas Development. The last applicant is responsible for the installation of the traffic light on Brilliance Avenue and US Highway 42.

Commissioner Garner asked if there was anything in writing from Grammas Development indicating a timeline of when the traffic light would be installed.

Attorney Voss stated Grammas Development cannot begin their development until the traffic light is installed.

Commissioner Mefford asked if there was a system in place for communication between the city and Grammas Development. Mayor Solomon stated the city tries to have ongoing communication with all the developers within the city.

Commissioner Garner mentioned Brilliance Avenue Extension is expected to begin later this month and he does not see that Grammas Development is ready to begin at the same time which is what is stated in the agreement.

Commissioner Bine mentioned construction can begin but they will need to acquire an occupancy permit prior to installing the traffic light.

Union Town Plan Update

Mayor Solomon explained currently when Boone County Planning Commission (BCPC) is approving developments they are referencing the twenty-year-old Town Plan. He mentioned BCPC will be working with Communications Coordinator Jaime Lyons, and City Administrator Amy Safran to revise the current Town Plan. BCPC will provide a proposal of the updated plan to the Commission. Commissioner Ramage asked if the project will be covered under regular BCPC dues or will there be an extra charge.

Mayor Solomon stated the project will be considered a special project that is not included in current dues paid to BCPC by the city.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Bine mentioned he will be meeting with residents of StoryPoint Friday May 10, to give them updates on development in the city. There will be a Business Mixer on May 28, at Boomtown Biscuits and Whiskey from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Commissioner Bine is working with Communication Coordinator Lyons and City Administrator Safran to develop Union business spotlight feature videos. The videos will be displayed on the city website and Facebook page to help bring awareness and promote local businesses.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Garner mentioned Riegler Blacktop is the successful bidder of phase two additional asphalt work. This will allow the city to move up repaving on Pembroke Drive, Easymoor Court, and Grafton Court, repave a portion of Melody Drive, and repair crumbled stamped pavement with asphalt near Harmony Park that was scheduled to be completed in 2026. Repaving of Farmview Drive that is in the city limits of Union will occur next calendar year. Commissioner Garner requested the city use Municipal Road Aid (MRA) funds to pay for a portion of the project allowing budgeted funds to be used on other projects. Mayor Solomon asked for approval to spend \$150,000 of MRA funds to cover asphalt projects. Mayor Solomon made a motion and Commissioner Bine seconded that motion. **Motion approved 5-0**

Commissioner Garner mentioned construction on Brilliance Avenue Extension should begin in approximately two weeks and expected completion is October 2024.

Public Works Director Paul Kremer mentioned the fence at Mr. Long's property will be removed next week. Public Works Director Kremer is working on the design for pocket park number one at the corner of Mt. Zion and Sycamore Drive. He will have cost estimates to present at the May caucus meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Public Works Director Kremer mentioned Boy Scout Troops 702 and 1702 are asking for permission to use the corner lot at US Highway 42 and Old Union Road which is owned by the city. They would like to host a yard sale to raise funds during the Longest Yard Sale between August 1 to August 3, 2024. The troops will provide liability insurance.

Mayor Solomon asked if the Commission agreed to give permission for the Boy Scout Troops to use the property. The full Commission voted aye.

MKSK agreed to the decision made by the Commission to merge both the park and city building projects together. Summit Architects and Engineering will be primary on the project, MKSK will be a subcontractor. The conceptual master design will be presented at the May 20, 2024, Caucus meeting. The designs will be shared with the public at Union Celebrates America June 28, 2024, in hopes of receiving community feedback. At that point, the scope of work with MKSK will be complete and the city will continue to work with Summit Architects and Engineers.

City Administrator Amy Safran had a meeting with RSA Advisors and Attorney Donnie Warner to discuss financing of the combined city building and park projects. There is a follow-up meeting next week that will include Mayor Solomon. Further discussion is expected at the May 20, 2024, Caucus meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Mefford mentioned the Zachary Salmon 5K Run had a great turnout with over 150 attendees participating. Planning is underway for Union Celebrates America on June 28, 2024. The theme for the parade is "All American Classics."

LEGISLATION/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2024-13 A MUNICIPAL ORDER ACCEPTING THE CONTRACT OF RIEGLER BLACKTOP, INC. FOR THE 2024 RESURFACING PROJECT PHASE II WITHIN THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT

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

Motion approved 5-0

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-05 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY (First Reading)

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-06 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY APPROVING, WITH CONDITIONS, A REQUEST OF 9541 US 42 LLC PER THOMAS J. ACKERMANN (APPLICANT) FOR CITY OF UNION, PER MAYOR LARRY SOLOMON AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER PER MAURA MORAN-BERRY (OWNERS) FOR A ZONING MAP AMENDMENT FOR A SPECIAL SIGN DISTRICT FOR AN APPROXIMATE 68 ACRE SITE LOCATED BETWEEN US 42 AND OLD UNION ROAD AND NORTH OF SWEET HARMONY LANE, UNION, KENTUCKY, BEING KNOWN AS THE UNION PROMENADE DEVELOPMENT. THE REQUEST IS FOR A SPECIAL SIGN DISTRICT IN A UNION COMMERCIAL/UNION NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE/URBAN RESIDENTIAL TWO/PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (UC/UNO/UR-2/PD) DISTRICT TO ALLOW ALTERNATIVE SIGNAGE (First Reading)

ANNOUNCEMENTS


Mayor Solomon announced the Caucus Meeting will be on Monday May 20, 2024. The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Monday June 3, 2024. Both meetings will be at the city building 1843 Bristow Drive Union, Kentucky.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Motion approved 5-0

Approved:



Hon. Larry Solomon, Mayor

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk