



**SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2025 – 6:30 PM
1843 BRISTOW DRIVE
UNION, KY 41091**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Solomon called the Regular Commission Meeting to order at 6:30 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. Mayor Larry Solomon, Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Brian Garner. Commissioner Eric Dulaney arrived at 6:45 PM.

Resignation Acknowledgement

Mayor Solomon mentioned at the last Commission meeting the resignation of Commissioner Jeremy Ramage was acknowledged and by law the city needed to recognize his resignation again this year for the beginning of the new session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of December 2, 2024, Regular Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Garner made a motion and Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 3-0**

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the December 16, 2024, Caucus Meeting minutes. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Garner seconded that motion. **Motion approved 3-0**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Winter Weather Update/Resourcing

Mayor Solomon addressed the recent snow fall and removal of snow on city streets. He acknowledged this week's snow fall totals were among the highest the city has seen in recent years. He complimented the excellent job done by GroundSystems, Inc.; they worked day into night. He commended city staff for taking all the calls that came into the office pertaining to

snow removal, and he thanked Public Works Director Paul Kremer for keeping the Commission informed throughout the event.

Commissioner Mefford stated he appreciated the communication to residents, and he noted the communication between staff, commissioners and mayor was managed very well.

Public Works Director Paul Kremer mentioned Communications Coordinator Jaime Lyons made a social media post asking residents to move their cars off city streets to allow better access for snowplows and there was a good response. Saturday night into Sunday there were few cars on the street, but they started to come back Tuesday into Wednesday. He stated with cars on the street it makes it difficult for snowplows to remove snow off streets.

PWD Kremer mentioned the city hired a second contractor this week to assist with snow removal.

Union Town Square – Land Clearing Bids

PWD Kremer mentioned the next phase of Union Town Square project is to remove trees on the property. Invasive Pear Trees are the majority of trees being removed. The trees will be cut and mulched on site. The city received bids from two separate contractors. The recommendation is to use the lowest bid of \$16,000 received from Land Clearing Services to clear and mulch eight acres of the property. The deadline to have the work completed is March 31, 2025, due to the start of bat season on April 1, 2025, this will avoid any penalties from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Commissioner Garner recommended the city request the contractor include workers compensation insurance before beginning the work.

Mayor Solomon made a motion to spend up to \$20,000 for Land Clearing Services to remove trees at Union Town Square. Commissioner Garner seconded that motion.

Motion approved 4-0

FINANCIAL REPORT

City Treasurer Christy Everman provided an update to the Commission on the month of December financial report which included “the bills to be paid” and the balance sheet. She mentioned the city is halfway through the fiscal year budget, and everything looked to be in order. Higher bills to be paid in the month of December included those to Lonkard Construction, Summit Engineering and Architects, and Rumpke. She mentioned due to a large increase on the invoice this year from last year the city is working with Rumpke and Boone County GIS to assure the number of households serviced is correct. An update will be given at the Caucus meeting January 22, 2025.

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to approve the profit and loss, including paying the bills for the month of December. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and Commissioner Dulaney seconded that morion. **Motion approved 4-0**

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Appointment

Mayor Solomon discussed issues that occurred during the November election. He mentioned on December 30, 2024, at a judicial hearing Judge Brueggeman acknowledged procedural mistakes were made by the Board of Election when incorrect ballots were given out at precincts number one and four in Union during the period from 6:00 AM to about 11:30 AM. During this time Union residents were denied the opportunity to vote for Commissioners and the Cannabis issue, while Boone County residents were given Union city ballots voting for Commissioners and the Cannabis issue.

Mayor Solomon mentioned on December 30, Judge Brueggemann ruled on the Commissioner Certification upholding the certification of John Mefford, Eric Dulaney, and Brian Garner. Jeremy Ramage resigned, leaving a vacancy. Now that Judge Brueggemann has made his initial ruling on the Commission election the city needs to address the issue of appointing a new Commissioner. Mayor Solomon recommended appointing Doug Bine to the vacant commissioner position.

Mayor Solomon opened the floor for Commission discussion.

Commissioner Garner stated one option would be for Doug Bine to drop his lawsuit to pursue a new election. If that occurred there would be a vacancy to fill without the unknowns of what a Judge would do later. Mr. Garner researched ways cities across the state of Kentucky fill vacancies and found a lot of them put out a notice to city residents and conduct interviews to find the best candidate for the position. He feels this would be a better approach to filling the vacancy and does not support appointing Doug Bine to the vacancy.

Commissioner Dulaney agreed with Commissioner Garner.

Commissioner Mefford gave reasons why he felt Doug Bine would be the most qualified for the position.

- Mr. Bine became interested in running for a commission seat a year prior to running and began attending commission meetings to become more knowledgeable of how meetings and the city operated.
- Service to community has always been of importance to Mr. Bine, he engages in the community in various roles.

- A new city logo was one of his first tasks given to Doug Bine as the head of the Economic Development Committee, which he achieved successfully, and the new logo is now being used.
- As a member of the Executive Committee, he met with developers to give guidance on projects in the city.
- As a member of the Economic Development committee, he has made himself available through town hall style meetings to various groups, keeping them informed of what is occurring in the city.
- He makes himself available at city events and assisted with clean-up.
- He worked closely with Public Works Director on revitalizing Union Rice Cemetery.
- As a member of the legislative body, he always took fiscal responsibility and maintaining a high quality of life in Union into account.

Commissioner Mefford stated the choice is clear to appoint the person who has done an excellent job in the past instead of conducting research to find someone new to fill the vacancy.

Commissioner Mefford made a motion to appoint Doug Bine to the vacant seat and Mayor Solomon seconded that motion. Commissioner Dulaney voted nay, Commissioner Garner voted nay, Commissioner Mefford voted aye, Mayor Solomon voted aye. **Motion failed 2-2**

Commissioner Garner outlined a proposed process for seeking a new commissioner to fill the vacancy which include:

- Application Process inviting all interested and eligible candidates to submit applications for consideration.
- Interview Process to follow the close of submission.
- Public Appointment Process to ensure accountability and public confidence.

Commissioner Mefford does not feel the process for seeking another person other than Doug Bine is in the best interest of the city.

Mayor Solomon stated he feels the court process will be going through expeditiously and until he hears from the court, he does not want to move forward with an application process of finding a new commissioner.

Commissioner Mefford stated he also wanted to wait and hear from Judge Brueggemann.

Committee Appointments

Commissioner Garner inquired about superintendence committee appointments for each department required by Kentucky Revised Statue to be done at the first meeting in January.

Mayor Solomon read appointment recommendations for the new term. (Please see attached) The Commissioners agreed with the committee assignments.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mayor Solomon mentioned there were no updates.

EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Mefford mentioned the City of Union Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 12, 2025; sponsor information will be announced when received. The planning for Bourbon in the Bluegrass is underway, two bands have been secured for the event.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Union Promenade Applications

City Administrator Amy Safran mentioned there are two applications for the Union Promenade final plat reviews from Drees Homes to subdivide lots sixteen and eighteen into three lots each. The request is being made for Mayor Solomon to sign the applications so they can be submitted to Boone County Planning Commission.

The full Commission agreed to the mayor's signature on both applications to subdivide lots sixteen and eighteen.

Open Records/Open Meetings Act

CAO Safran mentioned there was a certificate of receipt or distribution for Open Records/Open Meetings Acts in the Commission packet. The Kentucky Attorney General requires these forms be signed and returned at the beginning of a new Commission term to show they have received the Open Records/Open Meetings Act publications.

There will be updates on Union Town Square at the Caucus Meeting on January 22, 2025.

LEGISLATION/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

MUNICIPAL ORDER 2025-01 A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING THE CURRENT MAYOR OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY TO SERVE AS A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE OHIO-KENTUCKY-INDIANA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Motion approved 4-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS


Mayor Solomon announced the Caucus Meeting will be on Wednesday January 22, 2025. The next Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Monday February 3, 2025. Both meetings will be at the city building 1843 Bristow Drive Union, Kentucky 41091.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Solomon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mefford made a motion and

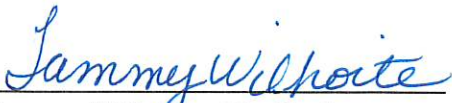
Commissioner Dulaney seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.
Motion approved 4-0.

Approved:



Hon. Larry Solomon, Mayor
Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:



Tammy Wilhoite, City Clerk