



Bryan Miller
Commissioner

An Update from Commissioner Bryan Miller on the City of Union

Hello Citizens of Union,

My name is Bryan Miller and I have lived within the city limits of Union for over 8 years. I have lived in Boone County for over 25 years and I'm currently serving my third term as a City Commissioner for the City of Union.

Part of my duties with the Commission include overseeing the Finances for the City. I think an open line of communication with our citizens is important, and I'd like to give you an update on the City Finances and answer a few questions you may have.

The Commission recently reviewed the tax rate, and approved no increase for 2016.

It was unanimously decided not to raise taxes in 2016, and we haven't raised taxes for over six years. We have sufficient funds to meet our budget, and an acceptable level of reserves, and did not feel we need revenue at this time. The fact that Union is experiencing a high growth period helps. Everywhere you look, you see new homes and condos, and that helps the treasury by bringing people and money to the City of Union. We are one of the few cities in the area that do not have an occupancy tax, in that people who work in the city of Union, but do not live here, do not pay a tax.

I want our citizens to be aware of our budget and how we allocate funds to various areas. I think we are transparent in our budget process. Our budget is published on the website (cityofunionky.org) and everyone can see how we allocate the money we get, and the tax payers of Union can see we spend wisely.

The Citizens should expect their elected officials to spend wisely, and I think we do that very well. Spending conservatively and wisely is important in city government.

Of course, citizens can always look on our website (cityofunionky.org) and see the complete budget and where the money is spent. We only collect on Ad Valorem (Property) and Tangible Property taxes, so our revenue is all in real property taxes.

Citizens can look on the website and see where the money is spent. We also have a CPA who works with our City Clerk on a monthly basis, and provides a review of those monthly expenditures to us at our Commission meetings. Paul Maddox, CPA, with Maddox and

Associates, Inc., oversees our standardized accounting procedures. This helps our City Clerk Kathy Porter, perform her job well and meet critical accounting practices.

Citizens should also know we have our yearly audit on our website, as required by the State of Kentucky. Our fiscal year runs from July 1-June 30 and we just recently completed our yearly audit. The audit report should be available on the website sometime in November, and I invite you to review it when it is posted.

The Mayor (Larry Solomon), and Kathy and I spend three to five days each year working on preparing the budget. We look at every line item and evaluate the numbers to see if there was growth, or if there needs to be more or less spent on an item or area. Significant time ensuring we look at the budget closely and continue to spend tax dollars wisely.

I'm in my third term on the Commission, and in the six years I've been here, we haven't raised taxes, and our yearly budget has always been in the black. I'm proud of the fact that we've never had a yearly budget in the red.

Our citizens should be aware that tax statements are being mailed out shortly. Statements will be mailed out on October 1, and they are due by December 31. Residents can receive a 2% discount on their taxes by paying by October 31, and that they are subject to a penalty if paid after the first of the year.

This important information is also printed on each statement, but if anyone has a question regarding their statement or their taxes, they can contact Kathy Porter at the City Building and she will be able to help them.

One question I often get asked as a Commissioner is, what services do taxpayer get for their tax dollars?

We provide several services to the citizens of Union, including street lights, snow removal, spreading salt and plowing of roads in the winter. We also providing trash removal and recycling in the city. We also pay maintenance of the roads in the city, maintaining 22.7 miles in the city of Union. We are responsible for sealing cracks in the asphalt, resurfacing of the roads and pothole repair. We also maintain street signs in the city, and repair or replace them as needed because of vandalism.

A lot of people may not know that our city Building is also a station for the Boone County Sheriff's Office. The deputies can come in there to use the facilities and they store portable defibrillators there as well. Allowing them to use the building is a great partnership for us, and allows the Sheriff's Office to be more responsive to Union as well.

As a Commissioner, I serve you, the Citizens of Union. I invite you to visit our City of Union website (cityofunionky.org) and look at the information we post there. You can also find a link to the city telephone number, where you can always leave a message for me and I will return your call as soon as possible. The site also has my email where you can send me and email with

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any questions or concerns. We also have a city Facebook page and Twitter account that you can follow from our website links to receive all types of information on what is going on in our city.

Don't forget to vote on November 8!

Sincerely,

Bryan Miller

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