

**CITY OF UNION
Business Meeting
November 6, 2017**

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on November 6, 2017 by Mayor Larry Solomon.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Solomon led all attendees in the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call

A quorum was present: Mayor Larry Solomon, Commissioner Eric Dulaney, Commissioner Bryan Miller, and Commissioner John Mefford. Commissioner Jeremy Ramage was not present.

Also present:

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.

City Engineer-Barry Burke, PE, PLS

City Administrator-David Plummer

City Communications and Operations Director-Melissa Stark Hinkle

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the October 2 regular business meeting and October 11 special business meeting minutes, and Commissioner Miller seconded that motion. **Motion approved 3-0.**

Financial Reports

The Commission reviewed the Balance Statement from September 28, 2017 to November 3, 2017; the Budget/Spend Comparison report from September 28, 2017 to November 3, 2017; and also reviewed bills for payment through September 28, 2017 to November 3, 2017. Commissioner Miller moved to approve the City's monthly financial statement in total. Commissioner Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved 3-0.**

Special Report-Frank Busofsky of TANK

Mr. Busofsky reported on a city request to extend TANK bus service to the new Kroger. He detailed the service request process TANK follows and that the request was not going to be granted to extend service at this time. The primary reason for denial of service was that the proposal is not part of the TANK Comprehensive Plan of 2014 and that TANK has been reducing service throughout their service area due to loss of ridership. He explained that 70% of funding for TANK comes from the three-counties Fiscal Court of Boone, Kenton and Campbell who are served by the system. Mr. Busofsky did state the city could make another request for service and that would be taken into consideration during the evaluation period for TANK which begins in January, before their budget is approved in March.

He did note that the city could fund, or partner with Kroger to fund a local route for pilot services. He noted that it costs \$55 per hour to operate at TANK bus currently. The commission requested that a pilot service proposal be sent to the city with estimated costs of such a program.

Special Report-Bob Jonas of Boone County Planning Commission

Mr. Jonas gave a brief report on the update of the Boone County Comprehensive Plan. The plan is currently evaluating the Goals and Objectives portion of the plan, and is seeking city approval for those updated Goals and Objectives. Mr. Jonas stated there were few changes to the original goals and objectives, and that by Kentucky Statue, they must be reviewed and updated every five years. He reviewed the new objectives, which combine multiple areas into more simplified chapters which cover a broader range of topics. Some changes of note include considering future transportation developments, including autonomous driving vehicles, and planning for an aging population in Boone County. He requested approval of the revised goals and objectives to be considered during the legislative portion of the meeting.

Mayoral Report

Mayor Solomon updated on the progress of the Code Enforcement Board and outlined the process and procedures the board will use to consider complaints to the nuisance code and other applicable codes in the City of Union and the City of Walton. Now that the inter-local agreement has been accepted and approved by the Kentucky Secretary of State, the Board can move forward to hearings on code matter. The Board will meet the second Wednesday of every month starting in December, if there are code issues to be discussed in either Walton or Union. *The importance of the Code Enforcement Board is that when there is a nuisance issue it provides the mechanism to systematically resolve that issue...all residents have to do is complete the complaint form to set the mechanism in motion. Now, the complaint form requires they identify themselves as the one complaining; the city does not respond to anonymous complaints.*

Solomon also updated that curb and gutter is being installed in sections of Mt. Zion road and that some asphalt has been placed. Progress is also being made on additional earthwork and grading in other sections of Mt. Zion closer to Hathaway Road and Old Union, and those portions of the road may be opened to traffic in a few months, depending on weather and other issues.

Solomon concluded with a brief report on the Kroger Marketplace, and advised that we expect some developments to be announced regarding the Old Kroger building in January. He also noted that the city is actively moving forward with the Town Center development and has had fruitful meetings with an area developer who has provided some insight as to next steps.

Public Comment

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Nicole Hartley of 1813 Merrimack Court came forth with a complaint about a neighbor with a beagle breeding operation that has caused a public nuisance. They stated that the smell from the dog feces and the runoff of dog urine in the rain has created a health hazard and causes their outdoor living spaces to be unusable. City staff has been working with Boone County Planning on the issue, and the owners of the property in question have received a cease-and-desist letter for their operation, as it is not allowed by the

zoning code in a residential area. The Hartley's advised that five additional puppies have been added to the group of dogs over the weekend, and they have not seen any change in the operation since this letter. Mayor Solomon said that this issue will be brought before the Code Enforcement Board as a violation of the Nuisance Ordinance when they meet on December 13, if the matter has not been resolved before that time.

City Administrator Report

Administrator Plummer advised of a Lisa Hill, a resident of Whispering Trails, who wishes to use the Community Building parking lot as overflow parking for a private event at her home. He will advise her of the necessary insurance requirements and lease agreement to use the property for this use. Plummer noted that bids for the Union Community Building will be opened on November 15 at 3 p.m. and that there has been interest in the building. He also advised that he has submitted application to the Kentucky League of Cities for a matching grant for sidewalk improvements to install ADA sidewalk ramps in the city. The grant is for \$3000 and requires a match from the city. He will advise if the application is approved and request approval for the additional match when needed in the future. The grant will allow for three additional ADA ramps to be installed where needed.

Plummer updated on a request from UPS to allow golf cart deliveries during the holiday season. While neighboring communities received such a request, Union has not. Plummer made contact with UPS officials, who advised that there was not a need for such deliveries in Union at this time, but that they may make application in future years and he requests that the Commission keep the issue in mind for study.

Plummer concluded with a brief update on a meeting with David Tomes and Charles Osborne from Norton Commons who met with city officials and toured Union to discuss potential development as part of the Union Town Plan. He stated the meetings were very productive and that the group will follow up with next steps in a couple of weeks.

Public Works

Commissioner Dulaney updated on the Prescription Drug Take Back Day. More than 50 pounds of various drugs were collected, filling four large boxes. He reported that Boone County Sheriff Deputy Linny Cloyd was very pleased with the response in Union, and Dulaney recommended that the City participate in the event again if it were requested next year. He noted that citizens were very pleased to have the opportunity to dispose of these items safely, and to have this option available to them locally at a convenient location. Dulaney advised the commission of the approval of \$412.00 of extra work with A&A Landscaping to trim trees that are obstructing driver vision along Old Union Road, and that a stop sign will be installed at the intersection of Symphony and Cobalt Way to create a four-way stop in the area. Due to the slight curve at that intersection, coupled with landscaping vegetation that will only continue to grow, the stop sign will be a proactive issue to increase driver safety. The city will provide the standard stop signs to the Vertex Group HOA, who will install those signs into more decorative post and hardware in keeping with the HOA standards of the community.

Dulaney also updated on a request to install guardrail along Wetherington Boulevard near Mt. Zion. Administrator Plummer had reviewed police reports in the area near the fire hydrant along Wetherington and noted there were four reports of accidents in the area where the rail has been requested. The PWC has recommended approval of the installation of the guardrail. Plummer requested three quotes, and Burcor Fencing was cheapest with a quote of \$1,390. Commissioner Miller wondered if the city might contact Duke, as there is a street light near the hydrant that has been damaged and replaced because of the accidents in the area and if they might be willing to share in the costs of the installation. Plummer will follow up on this issue. A motion was made by Commissioner Mefford to proceed with the installation of the guardrail. Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved 3-0.**

Dulaney noted that the PWC is improving in their communications and seeing benefits of a stable group responding to citizen issues throughout the city. He noted that the high rate of turnover in the last year had caused issues with response, but now that the group was stabilized with more long-term planning and vision, response to public work issues would continue to improve.

Office Administration Report

Director Hinkle gave an update on the payment of city taxes. More than 90% of citizens have paid their 2017 tax bills, taking advantage of a 2% discount for payment prior to October 31. Tangible property taxes have also received a high payment rate, with 89% already paid for the year. The City Sewer and Streetlight Assessments have been paid at a rate of 36% and 32% respectively, but she noted that those payments are not eligible for any discount, and that they typically are paid closer to the deadline of December 31.

She also brought forth a request from Grace Fellowship Church in Florence to conduct a Christmas Caroling event in the city on December 16. She advised that she had requested they contact the individual neighborhood HOA's to seek any additional approvals, and requested the Commission grant approval for the event in the city not governed by any HOA restrictions. Attorney Voss advised that no approval was necessary, but requested that Hinkle advise the group to contact the Boone County Sheriff's Office to be sure they met any traffic regulations regarding transporting people in trailers, which is typically prohibited under the traffic code.

City Attorney Report

Attorney Voss had no report.

Legislation: Ordinances/Municipal Orders/ Resolutions (prepared by Attorney Greg D. Voss)

Resolutions.

No resolutions to be read this month.

Municipal Orders

No municipal orders to be read this month.

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-17—AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2017 BOONE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AS PART OF THE REVIEW OF THE CURRENT BOONE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPLICABLE TO THE CITY OF UNION. *First Reading*

Announcements:

The December meeting of the Commission will be Monday, December 4 at 7 PM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miller, and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion approved 3-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Larry Solomon, Mayor

Donna Wahoff, City Clerk