

**CITY OF UNION  
SPECIAL Meeting  
June 21, 2017**

**Special Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM on June 21, 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 Jeremy Ramage. Commissioner John Mefford was absent.

**Also present:**

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.

City Engineer-Barry Burke, PE, PLS

City Communications and Operations Director Melissa Stark Hinkle

City Clerk Donna Wahoff

**Public Comment**

No members of the public came forward with comment.

**Mayoral Report**

Mayor Solomon stated he had lunch with Tim Brown (Kroger President Cincinnati/Dayton/NKY), Carson Spangler (Kroger VP and Jim Betas supervisor), and Jim Betas (Union Kroger Store Manager). Mr. Brown stated he was considering closing the current/soon to be old Kroger gas station, because they would have to invest \$200k to keep it open. Mayor Solomon made the case (at lunch and in a follow-up email) to Mr. Brown that closing that station would get back lash from residents (who have always been told that the current/soon to be old station would remain open), and the small business owners that surround the current/soon to be old Kroger store. Additionally, Solomon stated at lunch and his follow up email that the last thing Kroger would need is negative publicity a couple months before the opening of the new Union Kroger Marketplace. (On June 23, subsequent to this Special Meeting, Kroger confirmed they will keep the current/soon to be old Kroger gas station open. We thank Kroger for making the right decision.)

Mayor Solomon also reported on the issue of the grubbing behind the new Kroger location and the residents of Braxton Road. Kroger has agreed to remove the old farm fence in that area and to grub in that location, but a timeline has not been announced. Kroger still plans to meet with the affected residents to finalize their plans.

### **Community Center**

Commissioner Ramage clarified the payoff amount for the loan on the Community Building with the Kentucky League of Cities and the amount is \$690,331.65, if paid to full term. He has contacted a number of appraisal firms, with a cost ranging for each appraisal from \$1500-2000. While Commissioner Miller advocated for three appraisals at the June 8 meeting, this would be a significant cost to the city. Attorney Voss advised that only one appraisal was required for potential sale of the building. Commissioner Miller moved to approve a motion to obtain two appraisals on the Community Building. Commissioner Dulaney second. **Motion approved, 3-0.**

Mayor Solomon reported that he had recently visited the building and observed two youths behind the building loitering. He requested City Staff contact the Boone County Sheriff's Office to request they monitor the area more frequently to discourage activity behind the Community Building.

### **Public Works Committee (PWC)/City Engineer Report.**

Commissioner Dulaney presented a report requesting the removal of six trees located on city property on Farmview Road near Route 42. The trees are Bradford Pears are prone to weak wood which leads to increased debris and breakage during storms and snow load. The City has had to trim the trees on numerous occasions for them scraping the top of the Boone County school busses, and for an obstructed view of the bus exit onto Route 42. In addition, the trees are planted very close to the roadway and two are leaning toward the roadway. A quote was obtained from A&A Landscaping to remove the trees at a cost of \$3550. Commissioner Miller moved to approve the removal of the trees by A&A Landscaping. Commissioner Ramage second. **Motion approved, 3-0.**

City Engineer Barry Burke updated the Commission on the 2017 Street Repair program, and presented a recommendation from the Public Works Committee for striping of the area near Farmview, to allow for a turn lane and other traffic safety features at a cost of \$725. The work will proceed in the next few weeks.

Burke also reported that the contracts have been issued by the city for the 2017 Street Repair Program, and Communications and Operations Director Hinkle will follow up with Roeding Insurance to see if the insurance and bond review has been completed prior to work beginning in July.

### **Office Administration Report.**

Communications and Operations Director Hinkle brought forth a request for approval to purchase the required notification signs for the 2017 Street Repairs Program. Five signs will be ordered to place in the areas where the streets will be repaved to notify residents of the upcoming repairs. Three quotes were obtained, with the lowest for the five metal signs from Vennefron Signs of Newport at a cost of \$1,192.50. If the signs are not damaged during the project, they can be re-used for future repair projects by the city. Commissioner Dulaney moved to approve the purchase of the required signs from Vennefron Signs at a cost of \$1,192.50. Commissioner Ramage second. **Motion approved, 3-0.**

Hinkle also updated that work continues on Union Celebrates America, set for June 30. Five sponsors have been secured for the event, and the parade has more entries than 2016. She will be seeking to employ 3-5 high school age students to work the event as support staff to supplement the city staff. Mayor Solomon reported that Mayor Mark Carnahan from Walton will be joining him and the Commissioners in the parade. Hinkle then added, that at the request of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, an off-duty Boone County Sheriff's Deputy will be hired to specifically patrol the construction area located on Old Union Road where a new culvert is being installed. KYTC has concerns about safety in the active construction zone and requested patrols for safety.

### **Personnel Session**

Mayor Solomon reviewed the recent interview process to hire a new City Administrative Officer (CAO)...

- A group of two teams consisting of Solomon, Burke and Dulaney, and Hinkle, Mefford and Miller interviewed six candidates for the position, and based on the recommendations of the teams, moved forward with a recommendation to employ Mr. David Plummer as the new City Administrative Officer for the City of Union.

Solomon concurred with the selection and thanked the group for their participation in the process. Solomon then recognized City Clerk Donna Wahoff for her assistance in providing initial screening of candidates and for arranging the interview dates and times.

### **City Attorney Report**

Commissioner Miller asked about a request from a local business owner to review the city ordinance regarding Sunday sales of liquor by the drink. Attorney Voss reported briefly that he was still reviewing the Kentucky statutes regarding the sale of liquor by the drink on Sunday, and would look further into what times those sales would be allowed and report his findings at a future date. Mayor Solomon stated that the City would not move forward to change any liquor sales until the Commission hears from said local business owner and other community residents if they have any questions or objections.

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

#### **Municipal Order.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER No. 2017-23-** -A MUNICIPAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE BY THE CITY OF UNION FOR A YEARLY STIPEND TO OFFSET COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR'S ELECTRONIC EXPENSES. Commissioner Ramage moved to approve, Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved, 4-0.**

#### **Ordinances.**

**ORDINANCE No. 2017-09** –AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING DAVID PLUMER AS THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY AND SETTING COMPENSATION. Mayor Solomon called for a vote on First Reading of this ordinance, because he needed to meet with Mr. Plummer to negotiate employment. **Motion approved, 3-0.**

Commissioner Dulaney moved for Mayor Solomon to proceed forward with contract negotiations with Mr. Plummer. Commissioner Miller seconded. **Motion approved, 3-0.**

**Announcements:**

Union Celebrates America will be held June 30 starting with the parade at 7 p.m. and the fireworks at approximately 9:45 PM.

The next regular business meeting will be held on July 5, 2017, at 7 PM.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ramage. Seconded by Commissioner Miller. **Motion approved, 3-0.** Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Larry Solomon, Mayor**

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**Melissa Hinkle, Interim City Clerk/Treasurer**