

**CITY OF UNION
Business Meeting
October 1, 2018**

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on October 1, 2018 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 Bryan Miller, Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Eric Dulaney, and Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

Also present:

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.

City Engineer-Barry Burke

City Administrator-David Plummer

City Communications and Operations Director-Melissa Stark Hinkle

City Clerk Donna Wahoff

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the September 4 meeting minutes. Commissioner Miller brought up a typo in the minutes on the vote of Municipal Order 2018-21, which should read a 4-0 vote instead of a 3-0 vote. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the September 4, 2018 business meeting minutes with this correction. Commissioner Miller seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Financial Reports

Commissioner Miller gave an overview of the monthly budget. He noted there were no issues to report on the budget. He reported that more than \$25,000 had been collected in City Taxes on the first day to pay them, and that the 2% discount for payment runs through October 31. He also noted that the city had received \$1,590 in interest on their investments in the last month.

The Commission reviewed the Budget/Spend Comparison report from through September 30, 2018; and also reviewed bills for payment through September 30. Commissioner Dulaney moved to approve the City's monthly financial statement in total. Commissioner Miller seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Mayoral Report

Mayor Solomon noted that he had talked with Lisa Ammons from Kroger and she informed him that Mr. Scott Hayes from the Michigan Division would be taking over as the new President for Ohio and Northern Kentucky

of Kroger. As far as she knew the old Kroger was still being planned for a Click List location, but she had no further updates to provide.

Public Comment

Mrs. Jennifer Dusing, a candidate for the newly-created Family Court Judge for Boone/Gallatin Counties addressed the commission. She is a Union resident, and her husband, Andy, is an assistant principal at Ryle High School. She is a graduate of UK Law and went to law school specifically with the intent of practicing in Family Law. She has a thriving family law practice in Florence, and primarily specializes in Adoptions with 50% of her practice in that area. She answered a few questions from the commission regarding her stance on issues of custody, adoption and dealing with the heroin/opioid epidemic consequences at the family level.

Economic Development

Commissioner Ramage provided an update from Steve Harper/Boone County Planning. Two issues affect the Union area. One is the conversion of the Union Fuel Mart from a BP station to a Sunoco station. This conversion will convert the color scheme from green based to blue based, along with other cosmetic improvements to the building. The other issue is the construction of a new assisted living facility for seniors along Gunpowder Road on land located behind the CVS. While the construction is outside of the city, it may impact traffic along Gunpowder, which does run adjacent to city boundaries.

Ramage also updated on the last EDC meeting. He gave a brief overview and presented an informational handout on Allie's Walkabout, a dog day care and boarding business in Erlanger. This business is interested in locating a second facility to the Union area if a suitable location can be found. One concern for this expansion is the restriction of a "kennel" to be on a five-acre plot per Boone County regulations. This issue will be further evaluated once a plot of land is secured and Allie's is ready to move forward with construction and location. He also updated that a representative from First National Bank of Kentucky came to the EDC and they are looking at locating a new branch in the area. FBNK specializes in a small-town banking feel with a focus on agricultural-based banking and loans. They have looked at the Dr. Wright property on the corner of Frogtown and US42, but no further negotiations have been made public at this point.

Public Works

Commissioner Dulaney began his report by advising that the fall Prescription Drug Take Back Day will again be held at the City Building on Saturday, October 27 from 10-2. This event has been very popular in Union in the past, and Union has collected the most donations for each of the last two events in Northern Kentucky.

Dulaney also advised that he was attending the Boone County Sheriff's Citizens Academy, and he had found it very informative. He invited the rest of the commission to attend this event in the future, as he felt it gave great insight into the Sheriff's Office and their operations.

Dulaney advised that KYTC had notified the city that the Clarkston Street Bridge had been officially downgraded by the cabinet from Fair to Poor rating. This rating is based on the shift of support piers with the current from Fowler's Creek. This shift is continuing to be monitored, but he emphasized that the bridge is

still safe to use, but is rated for no more than 15-ton limit. He did recommend that the commission strongly consider improvements to the bridge in the 2019 Capital Improvements Plan, barring support from the Bridging Kentucky Initiative that may provide funding for some or all repairs needed.

Dulaney also noted that the City had been notified via certified letter on Friday that the bridge at Gunpowder Greens had been downgraded in quality, and must be weight-limited to no more than 15 tons due to scour of the underpinnings of the bridge. City staff has arranged for this weight limit to be posted at the bridge. Engineer Burke advised that the work to repair this bridge would ideally be done in a dry or drought time of year, where water could be diverted and a special concrete be applied to the supports under the bridge to address the scour issue. Both advised that this bridge issue be given strong consideration in the next budgeting cycle for repair, but that the bridge remains safe to travel with the restriction in weight limit.

Dulaney noted that the city will receive a number of “stub” portions of the current Mt. Zion Road when the construction of the new road is completed. These roads will be abandoned by KYTC and deeded to the city for city streets. To prevent confusion for drivers and deliveries, these roads should be renamed. Mayor Solomon directed the Communications Committee be given the task to develop a list of names for these streets so the commission could select names for the new streets as they are deeded over to the city. He recommended special consideration be given to names with historical or cultural significance to Union.

Commissioner Miller asked about a recent study of signage in the Hempstede subdivision done by Engineer Burke. Burke explained that he did a review of the more than 200 street and road signs in the division to determine if any warranted replacement or repair. In this review, several were noted as absent, particularly for cross streets in four-way intersections where both sides of the street may not be clearly indicated. While none of the signs are of an immediate hazard to motorists, Burke did advise that a speed hump sign that was missing be replaced, and the city consider marking the unclear streets in the next year budget process.

Administrator Plummer also reported on a broken sewer grate at Richmond Road, where the steel grate was broken, possibly by street shifting. The city marked the grate for public safety, and Riegler Blacktop has done the repairs. Plummer estimated the cost would be in the \$1,300 to \$2,000 range to repair the issue. Because of the need for repair in the interest of public safety, the staff approved the repair costs prior to the commission granting approval. This was endorsed by the commission, as the open hole created by the lack of grate was not in the public interest.

Communications/Office Operations Report

Director Hinkle requested commission support to set the official city Trick or Treat times on Halloween to Wednesday, October 31 from 6-8 PM. This is consistent with times already set by both Florence and Boone County. Miller made a motion to approve this request. Dulaney Seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Hinkle updated that the venue, Union Fire Protection District station, has been secured for Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 8. She also reported that Mr. Don Mathis, the Union Santa, has been secured to provide Santa services for the day as well.

Finally, she noted that DelMonde, Inc. has agreed to work with the city to host the Union Celebrates America event in 2019. They are requesting the city again provide mowing services to the areas they do not normally mow short prior to the event, and that they reimburse for any expenses for water and power utilized by the city for hosting the celebration.

City Administrator Report

Administrator Plummer updated on the County Emergency Operations Plan, which is included later in the legislation. This plan is adopted yearly by the each of the cities and Boone County as is required by law to receive federal funding designation in the event of a disaster in the area.

Plummer also updated on a mausoleum at Union Rice Cemetery which has fallen into disrepair. The mausoleum was built in the 1940's for Robert and Lizzie Dickerson, and is the only one in the cemetery. The stucco has come off of the structure and the city has received complaints from citizens about the appearance. The Dickerson's died without any children. Commissioner Miller asked that city staff exercise due diligence in trying to locate a surviving family member who could provide the financial means necessary for the repairs. Staff will research and get back with any information regarding family still in the area.

City Attorney Report

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

Resolutions.

None

Municipal Orders

Municipal Order No. 2018-22 – A MUNICIPAL ORDER OFFICIALLY APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE BOONE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN. Commissioner Miller moved to table this issue to give the commission time to review the entire plan, Mefford Seconded. **Motion tabled 4-0.**

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-12-- AN ORDINANCE ORDERING THE PARTIAL CLOSURE OF THE 0.020 ACRE PORTION OF PROSPERITY COURT IN UNION, KENTUCKY – Commissioner Mefford moved to approve, Dulaney Seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Announcements

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dulaney and seconded by Commissioner Ramage. **Motion carried 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Larry Solomon, Mayor

Donna Wahoff, City Clerk