

CITY OF UNION
Economic Development Committee
September 18, 2019

Members in attendance:

Jeff Bowman

Denny Mathis

Steve Harper

John Cole

Larry Solomon, Mayor

David Plummer, City Administrator

Melissa Hinkle, Communications and Operations Director

Bob Jonas, Boone County Planning Commission

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Administrator David Plummer.

Old Business: Administrator Plummer noted there were no changes in the development at the Kroger outlots, at either the new or old locations. Site plans have been approved at Boone County Planning for Buffalo Wings and Rings, but construction has not yet begun on that project.

Transportation Update: Administrator Plummer updated on the slow, but steady progress on Mt. Zion Road. The project is now slated to be completed in 2020, but the Transportation Cabinet is still promising that traffic will be diverted to all of the new roadways by the end of 2019, weather permitting.

Bob Jonas had no update on the other Boone County roadwork projects, other than to note they were still ongoing and on schedule as far as he knew.

Boone County Planning Update: Mr. Jonas noted that the update is about to begin on the Zoning regulations in Boone County. Kevin Wall from the BCPC will be the point of contact on this update. Mayor Solomon and Administrator Plummer asked if the sign division regulations will be addressed in this update. Mr. Jonas confirmed that the signage requirements were going to be reviewed. The BCPC has seen a significant increase in the number of special sign district requests (sign zoning variances) and that indicates that the requirements are in need of review to keep up with trends and new technologies available in the sign industry. Plummer and Solomon emphasized that the needs of small businesses and non-profits, like churches, should be carefully considered as the cost of a special sign district request is beyond their budgets and they are being hampered in their efforts to promote their businesses and organizations.

Mr. Harper noted that Firestone had requested to put in a tire location next to the new Starbucks on US42 just outside of the Union City Limits. This request was rejected by the

Planning Commission, and the issue is now up for review at the Florence City Commission.

Gresham Smith Phase 2 Report: Administrator Plummer provided the final draft of the Phase 2 report to the group and asked that they review it and provide feedback at the next meeting in October. Mr. Harper noted he would be out of town in Florida, but would provide his written feedback to Administrator Plummer prior to the meeting date.

New Business: Mayor Solomon invited the group to attend the opening of the new Starbucks location on US 42 on September 26th. The manager of this new location is a personal friend of the Mayor and has allowed him to extend an invitation in the area for customers to attend the event. Director Hinkle invited everyone to attend the Union Food Truck series, which was ongoing at the time of the meeting. She also reminded everyone of the Finale of the series set for September 28th.

Wednesday, October 16 at 6 p.m. was set for the next meeting date at the Union City Building. The public is invited to attend.

The Meeting was formally adjourned at 6:40 pm by Administrator Plummer.