

**CITY OF UNION  
Business Meeting  
January 6, 2020**

**Regular Business**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM on January 6, 2020 by Mayor Larry Solomon.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Roll Call**

A quorum was present: Commissioner John Mefford, Commissioner Jeremy Ramage, Commissioner Eric Dulaney, and Mayor Larry Solomon. Commissioner Bryan Miller was absent.

**Also present:**

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.; City Administrator-David Plummer; City Communications and Operations Director-Melissa Hinkle, and City Engineer-Barry Burke.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Solomon asked for approval of the December 2 meeting minutes. Engineer Burke requested two changes in the public works section: Geotechnology to GSI International, and the word accept to inspect in the section regarding bridge repairs. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the December 2 Meeting minutes with the stated revisions. Commissioner Ramage seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

**Financial Reports**

Mayor Solomon presented the financial report in Commissioner Miller's absence. He noted that the city made \$13,677.43 in interest in the first six months of the fiscal year, which is down about \$1000 from last year. This change is due to the federal reserve interest rate, which is what the rate of return is based upon for the city's investments. He also noted that the city had overspent the budgeted amount for 2019 street repairs, and in special works projects for public works, due to the construction of the sidewalks near the Villas of Fowlers Creek. The Commission will look to reduce spending in other areas to make up for these increases. He also reported that 98% of the tax bills are now paid, and that delinquent notices have been sent to those who have not yet paid their 2019 taxes. Those delinquencies will be turned over to Attorney Voss in March for further action and lien placement.

Commissioner Dulaney moved to approve the December expenditures and bills. Commissioner Mefford seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

**Mayor Comments**

Mayor Solomon noted reported that Flipdaddy's has closed their Union location. Attorney Voss noted that the chain in in bankruptcy and is restructuring after a bad investment for a location in Alabama. Solomon also

noted that he had not received any further updates from Kroger regarding the out lots at the old location, but would be following up with Lisa Ammons.

### **Citizen Comments**

Mr. Rob Schmidt of 3765 Evensong came forward to request a speed hump be installed in that area. He cited speeding and an abundance of small children in the area as a concern for safety. Commissioner Dulaney informed him of the process to obtain a speed hump, including a speed study, potential citizen petition and engineer review. Director Hinkle will send Mr. Schmidt a signature form for a citizen petition so he will have the information at hand.

Boone County Commissioner Jesse Brewer also came forward to note his support for the commission. Commissioner Brewer is attending other city meetings to stay connected to local issues and show county-level support for local issues when needed.

### **Economic Development**

Commissioner Ramage noted that EDC did not meet in December due to the holiday season, but that the group continues to work on goal-setting for 2020, including looking a business mixers or business retention programs, ways to help local businesses and other economic development activities. After the KLC Commissioner Visioning session in February, he will look to reconvene the group and have a robust goal-setting session to provide direction for the group heading into the new year.

### **Public Works Report**

Commissioner Dulaney noted that the work on Mt. Zion has been focusing on frontage roads, sidewalks, and driveway installations along the construction zone, to improve citizen access to the highway throughout the winter. With the closing of the local asphalt plants, most of the major road work will be sidelined until spring, but work continues on utility relocations and other cosmetic concrete work which can be done during periods of warm weather this winter. The lights have been installed at the new US42 Roundabout, and they have not yet been turned on. Once they are turned on, the “old” Mt. Zion will become a right turn in-right turn out at US42, and work for medians to make them restricted turning will be completed. It was hoped by KYTC this work would be done in 2019, but it looks to be delayed to spring of 2020.

A speed study was conducted on Wetherington Boulevard, but due to where the study box could be located for power access, the data was not helpful in the area of guardrail damage. The study was not able to be placed close enough to the area to provide meaningful information regarding speeding. The Public Works Committee recommends the installation of three yellow/black Chevron signs to help indicate the curvature of the road to help address the issue. Cost of the signs is minimal, with expected expenditure less than \$100 to install three.

Dulaney updated on the bridge repair projects at Clarkston and Gunpowder, but neither project has been completed, due to scheduling conflicts and weather delays. Engineer Burke will continue to follow up with GSI

International to ensure these projects are completed in a timely manner and where the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will inspect the work as safe and complete.

Commissioner Dulaney presented an issue with brush overgrown on a portion of Old Union Road, on the access road to the west of the Donatos Pizza/Wendy's Building near US42. This road was transferred to City ownership following the construction of new US42, and growth in the area makes it difficult for two cars to navigate the roadway. A proposal from A&A Landscaping to clear and remove the brush, grind stumps and place retardant to prevent future plant growth was presented at a cost of \$2,306.00. Commissioner Mefford moved to accept this proposal to remove and retard plant growth on this section of Old Union Road. Commissioner Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved, 4-0.**

### **City Administrator Report**

Administrator Plummer presented a review of a proposed procedure to allow citizens to participate in the SD1 Cost Sharing Program. The City must apply with the citizen to this program as a Co-Permitee for the application for cost-reimbursement to the homeowner to be accepted. Commissioner Ramage inquired about how this would benefit the city. Engineer Burke and Administrator Plummer noted that this program comes at minimal cost to the city, and those costs can be reimbursed by the homeowner as part of the application process. Commissioner Mefford asked about how the city would deal with non-meritorious projects. Engineer Burke noted that each project would require drawings and specific proposals, which he would review before application would proceed. These projects would also be reviewed by SD1 engineers, which should ensure only worthy projects that address significant issues are approved and move forward. Commissioner Dulaney moved to move forward with the proposal development and to authorize Attorney Voss to develop the necessary legal documents to finalize and codify the application and approval process on behalf of the city. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved, 4-0.**

### **Communications/Office Operations Report**

Director Hinkle presented a brief update of Breakfast with Santa. The citizens of Union donated an entire car full of supplies to the Boone County Animal Shelter, at an estimate weight of more than 500-pounds of various animal supplies. Citizens also donated \$167.00 in cash to BCAS at the annual Breakfast event. More than 375 people RSVP'd to the event, despite three other Breakfast with Santa events being held nearby at the same time.

Hinkle also presented Mrs. Linda Browne to the commission. Mrs. Browne is being recommended to fill the vacant administrative assistant position for the city. Mrs. Browne has extensive work experience, including with the IRS and in the City Clerk's office for Dry Ridge, Kentucky.

### **City Attorney Report**

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

#### **Resolutions.**

none

Municipal Orders

**MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2019-20**—A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING DENNIS GORDON TO SERVE ON THE UNION/WALTON JOINT CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved, 4-0.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2020-01**—A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING LINDA BROWNE AS AN OFFICE ASSISTANT FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY. Commissioner Dulaney moved to approve. Commissioner Mefford seconded. **Motion approved, 4-0.**

Ordinances

none

Announcements

The next meeting of the commission will be Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the City Building.

Commissioner Mefford will be serving as Mayor Pro Tem from January 11 to February 1 while Mayor Solomon is in Florida.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford and seconded by Commissioner Dulaney. **Motion carried 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Larry Solomon, Mayor

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Christy Everman, City Clerk