

**CITY OF UNION**  
**Business Meeting**  
**July 5, 2017**

**Regular Business**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on July 5, 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, Commissioner John Mefford and Commissioner Jeremy Ramage.

**Also present:**

City Attorney-Greg Voss, Esq.

City Engineer-Barry Burke, PE, PLS

City Communications and Operations Director-Melissa Stark Hinkle

**Approval of Minutes**

Engineer Burke requested a change to the June 5 meeting minutes to note the correct cost for the lane striping of Farmview of \$725.00. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the June 5 regular business meeting minutes, and Commissioner Miller seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Commissioner Miller moved to approve the June 8 special meeting minutes, and Commissioner Dulaney seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Commissioner Mefford moved to approve the June 21 special meeting minutes, and Commissioner Dulaney seconded that motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

**Mayoral Report**

Mayor Solomon gave a brief update on the Union Celebrates America event, noting it was the largest crowd ever to attend the event and was by all accounts a great success.

Solomon also reported that work on Mt. Zion/KY 536 continues as it has been, with the utility relocations still underway and no major changes or updates other than that to the construction.

Solomon also reported on a successful lobbying effort to keep the current Kroger Fuel Center open. Kroger officials met with the Mayor regarding the construction and noted plans to close the existing fuel center once the new store opened. The Mayor and city staff lobbied Kroger to keep the existing center open, citing the need to keep that area of the city vibrant and growing once the new store opens. Through this effort, Kroger has agreed to keep the existing fuel center open once the new store and fuel center opens this fall.

He then introduced Kentucky Senator John Schickel, of Union, who represents the city and area in Frankfort. Schickel has resided in Union for 14 years and has served 19 years in the Kentucky Senate. Schickel briefly addressed the commission, praising the cooperation of the city government and local administration with the state, and how the work at the local level is key to the success of the state overall. He addressed the commission on two issues he feels are key issues facing the state in the upcoming legislative session...

- The first is the issue of taxes, which will have to be addressed by the state government, with a balance between revenue and expenditures to be a point of great discussion among all representatives of the state.
- The second issue is pensions throughout the state. He emphasized that the pension system for the state needs fixed, and that a special session may be considered to address the issue. He feels the system needs a major reform to focus on the new service economy and answered questions regarding the CERS (County Employee Retirement System); KRS (Kentucky Retirement System) and SPRS (State Police Retirement System). Addressing funding shortfalls in the system will be a point of much discussion in the upcoming legislative session.

Mayor Solomon presented Senator Schickel with an official City of Union polo shirt to thank him for his recent participation in the Union Celebrates America parade and for his dedicated service to the citizens of Union and the state. Solomon then requested Schickel wear the shirt to an upcoming state event and he explain to state officials that the City of Union is the only city in his district to have given him a really neat polo shirt!

### **Financial Report**

The Commission reviewed the Balance Statement from May 31, 2017 to June 26, 2017; the Budget/Spend Comparison report from May 31, 2017 to June 26, 2017; and also reviewed bills for payment through June 26, 2017. Commissioner Dulaney moved to approve the City's monthly financial statement in total.

Commissioner Ramage seconded Commissioner Dulaney's motion. **Motion approved 4-0.**

### **Public Comment**

No members of the public came forward with comment.

### **Committee Reports**

- Planning and Zoning: Commissioner Ramage reported on behalf of Jamie Nieves, who was attending the Boone County Planning Commission meeting happening in conjunction with the commission meeting. He updated on the review of the plans for the proposed Story Point retirement development. A final vote on those is expected soon, with the recommendation from the BCPC likely to be before the Union City Commission in August.
- Economic Development Committee (EDC): Commissioner Ramage updated on Kroger, with an anticipated opening of September 14, moving back a month from a previously set date in August. Issues with bedrock have delayed construction of several areas, most notably in the fuel station construction.

Ramage also noted that St. Timothy's has completed construction of the sidewalks adjacent to Frogtown Road, which will increase safety and eventually tie into planned sidewalks from Boone County in the future.

Ramage announced that the next meeting of the Economic Development Committee is set for August 17 at 6 PM.

### **Public Works**

Commissioner Dulaney reported that stop signs have been installed on Soaring Breezes, along with No Parking signs along Soaring Breezes. These signs were installed in response to a citizen request by Brittaney King to increase safety in that area. Ms. King had also requested the installation of a speed hump along that street. After review by City Engineer Burke and Dulaney, it was determined that there is no ideal location for the installation of a speed hump, due to the close, offsetting, driveways for the homes along that street. There is not enough space between the drives to allow for the proper installation of a speed hump, but that a speed bump could be installed. However, Burke advised that it has been a long-standing city policy not to install speed bumps, due to noise and traffic concerns, and he advised no further action to this request.

Dulaney followed up on a request by Commissioner Miller regarding mowing along US 42 between Mt. Zion and Whispering Trails, where the right-of-way was not being mowed as far back as it has traditionally been. Upon review of the mowing and landscaping bid specifications, it was determined that A&A was not adhering to the contract in this regard, and Dulaney met with Andrew Wesselman to advise him that this work needed to be performed as specified in the contract. Wesselman agreed, and Dulaney will continue to monitor the situation to ensure compliance with the contract is achieved.

Burke reported that a broken sewer cleanout issue at the home of Mr. Steven Nugent at 1527 Mt. Zion Road had been addressed and repaired.

City Engineer Burke reported that work on the median at Fowler Oaks Lane and Old Union Road has been completed, and recommended that additional safety measures be done by the city at a cost of \$1875 to increase driver safety through shoring up the shoulder in the median area and creating additional drainage to alleviate street flooding during heavy rain events. He also requested the installation of a "No Left Turn signage symbol" sign be installed at this median to ensure that traffic flows as was designed. Commissioner Dulaney made a motion that this work be conducted at a cost not to exceed \$2000. Commissioner Ramage second.

**Motion Approved, 4-0.**

The HOA of Fowler's Creek is considering closing the median from "Right Turn In Only" traffic. Burke advised that the Boone County Planning Commission must approve this request first, then it would come to the city for approval. If approved by both entities, the cost of closing the median would be the sole responsibility of the Villa's at Fowler Creek HOA and not the city or county.

Burke also brought forward a concern from the HOA regarding the 55-mile per hour speed from Braxton Drive to just south of Whispering Trails. Residents of the Villa's do not currently have a deceleration lane to help them safely enter the subdivision, and speeding traffic is becoming a great concern. Given the amount of new development in the city, with the proposed Story Point development and the near completion of the Harmony Apartment complex, Burke recommended that the city again have the Mayor request a traffic study from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to determine if a lower speed limit is recommended for this area. Mayor Solomon agreed to do so.

Burke also updated on the 2017 Union Street Repairs Program. Phase A will begin this week, and he will continue to monitor as the work progresses. Two change orders to add additional curb and gutter repairs have been added to address citizen complaints.

### **Communications Report**

Communications and Operations Director Hinkle reported that more than 3,700 people attended the Union Celebrates America event, marking the largest crowd in the nine-year history for the event at that location. The food truck vendors reported success as well, with all requesting to return for the next year. The Commissioners complimented all staff members all their hard work on UCA...and, a special shout out to Melissa Hinkle for coordinating the best event in the City of Union's history!

### **Office Administration Report**

Hinkle had no report.

### **City Attorney Report**

Attorney Voss reported that the KLC Insurance for Workers Compensation had been presented, and that Commissioner Mefford requested that the City collect two bids for this service to see if the costs presented were reasonable. However, in the interim, the city would be uninsured, and Voss advised that the city should consider paying the invoices as presented to ensure continual coverage while shopping for other plans. Commissioner Mefford moved to pay the KLC Invoices of premiums as presented. Commissioner Miller second. **Motion Approved, 4-0.** Voss advised that legislation could come forward with KLC or a new company at a later date, and overpaid premiums would be refunded.

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

#### **Municipal Orders.**

**MUNICIPAL ORDER No. 2017-24** –A MUNICIPAL ORDER FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY TO EXTEN THE CONTRACT TO PEFECTION LANDSCAPING & DESIGN FOR SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES. Commissioner Mefford moved to approve, Dulaney seconded. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Resolutions

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-05**—A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY ADOPTING THE NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION. Commissioner Ramage moved to approve, Mefford 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. Commissioner Dulaney moved to approve. Commissioner Ramage second. **Motion approved, 4-0.**

Announcements:

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

Mayor Solomon announced that he would be out of the country from July 10 to July 29, and during that time Commissioner Miller would serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Mefford, and seconded by Commissioner Ramage. **Motion approved 4-0.** Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Larry Solomon, Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Donna Wahoff, City Clerk**