

CITY OF UNION
Special Business Meeting
March 25, 2019

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM on March 25, 2019 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 Administrator-David Plummer

City Communications and Operations Director-Melissa Stark Hinkle

Visitor Comments

Mr. John Henney of Gresham, Smith and Partners led the group in a discussion of the Union Town Center project and the overall vision of this project as part of their work on reviewing the Union Town Center Plan. Mr. Henney then led the group on high level conversations regarding what town center means in six types of broad categories: vibrant public spaces, mix of uses, active environments, well connected, experience driven and sustainable living.

The Commission presented several different ideas as to what a “town center” means, and what their vision of a town center space might encompass or include. Ideas presented included a large green space, perhaps with several pocket parks. Another idea presented included a water feature, or other large public art/landscaping type feature to be the centerpiece of the town center. Several commissioners supported the idea of multi-use buildings containing a mix of retail, living and other business space. The group voiced the need for other service-type businesses to locate to the center, to develop more of a locally-based lunch crowd to help drive the retail and restaurant businesses in the area. The group also identified a need for small recreational activities, such as basketball courts or small multi-use sports fields in the area to help bring in foot traffic and gathering spaces for family and friends. Other concerns were looking at the types of finishes, including lighting, brickwork and other surfaces, to ensure a higher-end look and feel for any potential development. In the end, the Commissioners believe that the City of Union is a “*family-based community*” and that the new town center should emphasize and reflect those values and virtues.

Mr. Henney will combine these thoughts with the information gained from meetings with the Economic Development Committee and the Boone County Planning Commission and present those to the commission in a memorandum at a commission meeting in a month or two.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Solomon announced Donna Wahoff has submitted her letter of resignation to the commission. He recommended the acceptance of her resignation, so the City Administrator can move forward with a search for a replacement. Commissioner Mefford moved to accept the resignation of Donna Wahoff as City Clerk. Commissioner Ramage seconded. **Motion approved, 5-0.**

Mayor Solomon requested to proceed with legislation to approve Melissa Hinkle as an Interim City Clerk until a replacement can be named for Wahoff. (See City Attorney Report; Municipal Orders; Page 3.)

Mayor Solomon also noted a recent letter from a citizen that was blind copied as an email to the entire Commission. He respectfully requested that individual Commissioners who receive these types of communications to refer them to Director Hinkle for review. Mayor Solomon has directed Director Hinkle to provide unified city responses to such resident letters and requests in the interest of clarity and efficiency.

City Administrator Report

Administrator Plummer had no report.

Communications/Office Operations Report

Director Hinkle presented a request from City Staff to hold a visioning exercise with the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) with the commission to identify long-range goals and objectives for the City of Union.

Administrator Plummer had contacted KLC and Mr. Tad Long has done many of these types of sessions for other cities, including Elsmere, Lakeside Park and others in Northern Kentucky. Attorney Voss commented that the other cities he works with have been very pleased with the level of services provided by KLC. The commission supported this proposal, and Hinkle and Plummer will work with KLC to identify potential dates and locations for this session.

Hinkle also brought forward a proposal to hold a Business Mixer for local business owners in Union. Several business owners have brought a variety of concerns forward to city staff, and several have requested an opportunity or forum, such as a business association, to help foster business interests in the city.

Commissioner Miller noted that there is a Boone County Business Association, but Director Hinkle noted that the Union businesses are interested in having a separate group to address the immediate business area. This event would be held at Union 42 Bourbon and Brew on a Monday evening, as to not interfere with their regular business hours, and the city would provide non-alcoholic beverages and light snacks.

It was suggested that a presentation or agenda be created, and Commissioner Ramage indicated his willingness to give the group a brief update on the Union Town Plan as an agenda item. Director Hinkle will work with Ramage and Larry Hemstath, Union 42 owner to establish a date and set up invitations to the event.

For this initial event, restricting attendance to only those owners located in Union, and the numbers will be limited by the number of individuals allowed in the building due to code. It is hopeful to hold it in May, where the outdoor patio area could be utilized for an overflow crowd if needed. Hinkle hopes this will spur communication with business owners and representatives of the commission, and help the city identify concerns and areas where the city may be able to assist in business growth and retention as a future goal.

City Attorney Report

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

Resolutions.

None

Municipal Orders

MUNICIPAL ORDER NO. 2019-09 – A MUNICIPAL ORDER APPOINTING MELISSA HINKLE AS INTERIM CITY CLERK FOR THE CITY OF UNION, KENTUCKY. Commissioner Miller moved to approve Municipal Order 2019-09. Commissioner Mefford seconded. **Motion approved, 5-0.**

Ordinances

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-09—AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A PORTION OF THE MODEL PROCUREMENT CODE SET FORTH IN KRS 45A.345 TO KRS 45A.460—*First Reading*

Announcements

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miller and seconded by Commissioner Mefford. **Motion carried 5-0.** Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Larry Solomon, Mayor

Melissa Hinkle, Interim City Clerk