MINUTES REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2012 7:00 P.M.

Present:

Mayor Ralph Moore, Councilmembers Shirley Jackson, Brian Jones, Angelette Mealing and Vince Williams, City Attorney Dennis Davenport, City Manager Steve Rapson, City Clerk Jacqueline R. Cossey and Assistant City Clerk Tameca White

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Councilwoman Vince Williams

II. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENGA: (2 MIN.)

Public comments were made by the following:

Yvonne Barber of 385 Church Street spoke regarding an overgrowth of shrubbery and trees surrounding her home, and she receives no help from the neighbors to maintain the overgrowth. She also alleged a theft from the Dollar Tree by Officer Prentice Brooks.

III. <u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS</u>:

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of the minutes:

Worksession Meeting, 03/12/2012 (*Canceled*) Regular Council Meeting, 03/20/2012

Called Council Meeting, 03/29/2012

- 2. Council to consider approval of a resolution opposing the use of the former J. C. Larmore Probation Detention Center as a Youth Detention Center.
- 3. Council to consider approval of a resolution recognizing Georgia Cities Week, April 22-28.

On motion of Councilman Williams seconded by Councilman Jackson and carried, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

V. <u>OLD BUSINESS</u>:

VI. <u>NEW BUSINESS:</u>

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Council, and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Meeting Agenda for separate consideration.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

VIII. <u>OTHER BUSINESS:</u>

At this time Mayor Moore introduced Housing Authority Board Member, Jennifer Jones, to the Council and residents.

City Manager Reports:

Mr. Rapson provided the Council with a report regarding the following:

Mr. Rapson stated for the record that in regards to some of Ms. Barber's comments, there was an
internal investigation in regards to the theft of services associated with the jail and found that
there was no basis for any further investigation and it has been closed. He further added that
with regards to the allegations associated with Officer Brooks; there was also an investigation
done and again they found no warrant for any basis for those allegations.

Councilman Jones inquired about the shrubbery surrounding Ms. Barber's home.

Mr. Rapson stated that he asked Polly, the Chief Code Enforcement Officer, to visit the property today and she spoke with Ms. Barber's neighbor and there is one section of the property immediately behind Ms. Barber's home and there is some dispute regarding the property line. He added that the neighbor has agreed to clean up his portion of the shrubbery.

Councilman Williams stated that Ms. Barber's neighbor, Milton Foster, was present for questions.

Mr. Rapson stated that Mr. Foster has complied and is willing to clean the property.

Councilmember Mealing asked if the neighbor has provided a timeframe as to when they will have the property cleaned.

Mr. Rapson stated that the property owner, Mr. Foster, has already cleaned about 2/3 of the property and has not cleaned this portion due to the dispute regarding the property line. He added that this dispute falls outside of any city enforcement action and is really a civil dispute between the two neighbors and we are trying to facilitate a resolution.

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

At this time City Attorney Davenport reported that Governor Deal signed into law House Bill 397 this afternoon which revamped the open meetings/open records laws. He added that there will be a difference tonight regarding executive session. He further added that he will be putting a memo together to provide the Council, for future executive sessions as well as open records requests, to identify all of the changes so that the Council will be more familiar with them. Mr. Davenport stated that the Bill was effective upon signature and he received the notice at 5:23 p.m. this afternoon.

Mr. Rapson stated that he would add this as a retreat item with the Council's approval.

Councilman Williams informed the staff that they did a great job on the trail at Ronald Bridges Park. He then thanked everyone for participating in the employee appreciation fun day. He added that it was greatly needed and everybody had a great time. He further added that this is something that we hope we can do more often because it heightens the morale. Mr. Williams stated that his daughter was blown away by the acknowledgement of his birthday by Mrs. Cossey and his colleagues. He added that he really appreciated it, especially in the absence of his wife.

Councilwoman Mealing stated that she wanted to echo what Councilman Williams said and she thought the employee appreciation event went well. She then praised the Parks and Recreation Program for expanding their programs. She added that she is getting a lot of good feedback. She concluded by thanking all staff members for doing a good job.

Councilwoman Jackson stated that she too enjoyed the employee appreciation day event. She added that she also enjoyed Opening Day at the park. She concluded that the cheerleaders at the park were awesome.

Councilman Jones stated that he would like to echo everything that his colleagues said. He then thanked staff for their hard work on behalf of the City. He then thanked Ms. Jones for her willingness to serve on the Housing Authority Board.

Mayor Moore stated that he had nothing to add, but he is looking forward to the second half of the year as we have outdone ourselves during the first half. He concluded that he is looking for great things to come from the Council and staff.

At this time, Mayor Moore stated that he would entertain a motion to enter into executive session for one item regarding threatened litigation and one personnel matter.

On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council entered into executive session to discuss one item regarding threatened litigation and one personnel matter.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council reconvened to regular session.

Mayor Moore informed the City Clerk that the she received an excellent review from the Council and no one had anything negative or felt that there were any areas that needed immediate improvement, although everyone can use improvement. He added that everyone is appreciative of her initiative taken to heighten her skills as a city clerk and overall everyone is pleased with what she has done in Union City. Mayor Moore stated that he and the Council also discussed a merit increase and have come to the conclusion that since no one else received an increase this year; it would send a bad message to everyone if the Council took action in that direction. He added that the Council agreed to hold off until Mr. Rapson indicates that we are in a position to give everyone an increase. He concluded that once Mr. Rapson indicates that increases can be given to everyone; the Council

has agreed to a minimum of 3 % but if the budget allows; they will entertain something more that will reflect the City Clerk's performance as well as her accomplishments.

Mrs. Cossey thanked the Mayor and Council for her raving review.

City Attorney Davenport stated that a claim was advanced against the City. He added that Mr. Lockheart damaged his vehicle on City property and found that the damage was \$1,001.86 and has requested the City compensate him that amount so he can fix his car. He then asked Council how they wished to proceed.

On motion of Councilmember Williams seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, Council directed the City Attorney to move forward and settle the matter. Vote was unanimous.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Councilmember Jackson seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk

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STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FULTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, Ralph Moore, Mayor of the City of Union City, Georgia, who after being duly sworn says:

I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Union City Mayor and City Council held on the 17 day of 10 day of 20 12. That it is my understanding that O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4(b) provides as follows: When any meeting of an agency is closed to the public pursuant to subsection a of this Code section, the person presiding over such meeting shall execute and file with the official minutes of the meeting a notarized affidavit stating under oath that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the exceptions provided by law and identifying the specific relevant exception. 3. The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on /7 day of /4000, /20, which was closed for the purpose(s) of litem regarding threatened it igation + i personnel matter as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law. 4. This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4 (b) that such an affidavit is executed. FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT. RALPH MOORE, Mayor

Notary Public , 20 10

Sworn to and subscribed before me this