

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2013  
7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ralph Moore, Angelette Mealing, Brian Jones, and Vince Williams, City Attorney Dennis Davenport, Interim City Manager Sonja Fillingame, City Clerk Jacqueline R. Cossey and Assistant City Clerk Tameca P. White

Absent: Councilmember Shirley Jackson

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Councilmember Vince Williams

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

Public comments were made by the following:

Joyce Robinson of 8814 Lake Road spoke regarding the Union City Citizens Police Academy.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Mayor Ralph Moore's State of the City Address

At this time Mayor Ralph Moore presented his State of the City Address. (See Attachment)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

***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 Agenda for separate consideration.***

1. Approval of the Minutes: Worksession Meeting, 01/07/2013  
Regular Council Meeting, 01/15/2013
2. Council to consider request to reappoint Jo Croom to the Planning Commission.
3. Council to consider request to reappoint Robert Williams to the Planning Commission.

***On motion from Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.***

V. OLD BUSINESS: None

VI. REGULAR /NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to consider request to amend the Charter pertaining to compensation for members of the Mayor and Council. (Second Reading)

***On motion of Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the aforementioned item was unanimously approved.***

2. Council to consider request to amend the Code of Ordinances to revise provisions pertaining to compensation for members of the Mayor and Council.

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried, the aforementioned item was unanimously approved.***

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

City Manager Reports:

At this time Interim City Manager Sonja Fillingame stated that the City received a grant award through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety in the amount of \$16,000. She added that this grant award goes to the Police Department to purchase laptops for their patrol cars.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

Councilmember Mealing stated that it was great to see the citizen's police academy.

Councilmember Jones thanked the residents and staff for their support.

Mayor Moore stated that he needed a motion to enter into Executive Session to review the Executive Session Minutes of January 7, 2013, January 15, 2013 and two items regarding personnel.

***On motion of Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to review the Executive Session Minutes of January 7, 2013, January 15, 2013 and two personnel matters.***

***On motion of Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council reconvened to Regular Session.***

At this time Mayor Moore stated that the City Clerk's review was short and sweet. He added that Mrs. Cossey either met or exceeded the Council's expectations and any compensation with regards to a raise would be predicated upon the budget.

Mrs. Cossey asked for clarity regarding her review. She asked if she met or exceeded. Mayor Moore stated that some said that she met their expectation and some said that she exceeded their expectations.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she rated the City Clerk as outstanding.

Mayor Moore stated that the City Clerk was still in good standing.

Mrs. Cossey stated that she wanted to be sure that no one had any areas of concern.

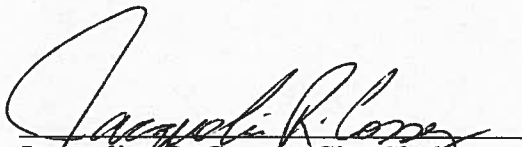
The Mayor and Council stipulated that no one had any areas of concern.

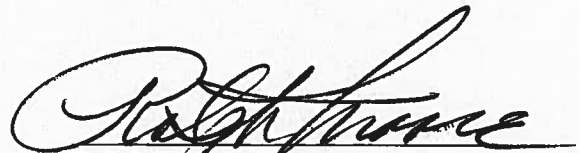
At this time Mayor Moore informed Mrs. Fillingame that it was a consensus that during the interim period, she would be compensated and the Council is sending Mrs. McCord to determine the salary of former Fire Chief Kenneth Collins when he was made interim and a decision would be made from there. He then added that the compensation would be retroactive to the date that she began serving as interim city manager.

Mrs. Fillingame thanked the Mayor and Council and stated that she continues to remain grateful.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

*On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried, the meeting was adjourned.*

  
Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk

  
Ralph Moore, Mayor

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:

1.

I was the presiding officer of a meeting of the Union City Mayor and City Council held on the 19 day of February, 2013.

2.

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.

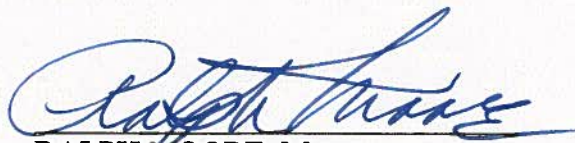
3.

The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 19 day of February, 2013, which was closed for the purpose(s) of 2 Personnel Items & Review of January 7+15, 2013 <sup>minutes</sup> as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

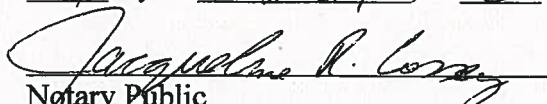
4.

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

Sworn to and subscribed before me this  
19 day of February, 2013.

  
Notary Public

## **2013 State of the City Address**

### **City of Union City, GA**

To Mayor Pro Tem, Council, Staff and Citizens, I present to you as required by city charter the State of the City Address. The purpose of this address is to highlight the past accomplishments of our city and provide insight into its short and long term future. It is always a pleasure to present the accomplishments, the challenges and vision to the community. This overview is not equivalent to the over used word of government transparency, but government understanding. Using this opportunity is a great way of sharing how your government's process and capacity works.

In the past twenty years, I have consistently stated that there are two things that characterize a community's success and character, and that is in the areas of Finance and Public Safety. Either of these areas can create chaos and distrust among its citizenry and associated institutions. With this in mind, I shall begin with the city's finance.

I stand here today to state that our books are balance and no accounts stand overdrawn. Our city continues to challenge with declining revenues and continued increases in the cost of delivering quality services to Union City residents. Our \$17.2 million dollar budget increased by 5.8% for the fiscal year of 2013 and came primarily from our Capital Improvement Program and E911. Both a very much needed expenditure for our city. While our two largest revenue sources Property Tax and Sales Tax, we expect to have an increase in our sales tax, but a decrease in property tax revenue due to the upside down values of property, especially residential. Increases and stability in non-residential property assessments such as commercial and industrial have been able to off-set our drop in property taxes, this increase was 9.2% and paid 60.2% of the services in the city, a major contribution to the community.

Personnel cost continues to be our largest expense in our budget with 60% paying for our employees wages and benefits and second to personnel cost is the payment of our bond debt service comprising of 16% of the budget.

With all of this said, Union City has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest tax rate of the eight communities in south Fulton and that includes the city of Atlanta. In addition, there was no increase in taxes a statement that cannot be made by very many cities in Georgia. Our conservative and pragmatic approach to government is not to promise more than the city can afford and then find the most efficient way to acquire and deliver those desired services to our citizens. This is due to the diligent efforts of our department managers, by keeping each of their budgets in line with their allocated department funding.

Our public safety departments comprising of fire and police services are our two largest departments and provide value service in the protection of life and property. First, our fire department: In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 3,031 EMS calls and 589 fire related calls for a total of 3,620 calls for service. This is a 2.0% increase from last year, 2012. In the fire department's effort to maintain quality communication, equipment was purchased ensure that the department meet the Federal Communications Commission VHF and UHF frequency mandate for all local governments by converting from a wide-band operation to a narrow-band by January 1, 2013. The digital communication system will allow the department to communicate with each other as well as local law enforcement and emergency aid as needed, thus providing seamless, quick and responsive communications.

The Union City Fire Department continues work toward protecting lives, the environment, and property by providing the community with prompt, skillful, and efficient emergency services; and to prevent disastrous incidents from occurring through community partnerships, awareness, and education.

Last year, the Police Department issued 13,202 written citations, 5,358 warning citations, made 2,427 physical arrests, and completed 7,158 incident reports. During the same time period, the Police Department Communications Centre issued 21,163 incident numbers for calls for service. These incident numbers reflect instances wherein police officers completed an incident report, issued a citation, or made a physical arrest. The Communications Centre also issued 84,760 event numbers. These event numbers reflect instances wherein police officers responded to calls for service or conducted self initiated filed activity. The Police Department responded to approximately 232 calls for service per day which reflects 9.68 calls for service per hour.

Our officers responded to 2,847 alarm ringing calls, 548 calls involving vandalized property, and 429 instances wherein a residence or business was burglarized. The officers also responded to 56 robberies involving businesses or pedestrians, 886 instances involving theft, and 182 situations involving a domestic dispute.

During 2012, the Uniform Division conducted 14,860 traffic stops. The Uniform Patrol Division, along with the Traffic Enforcement Unit, investigated 804 automobile accidents wherein there were no reported injuries. The officers also investigated 83 automobile accidents that involved injuries.

The Anti Crime Enforcement Unit, a component of the Special Operations Division, conducted 57 narcotic arrests in 2012. During these arrests, \$156,560.00 worth of illegal narcotics were seized and removed from the streets of Union City. The Unit also made 110 fugitive arrests wherein dangerous felons, probationary violators, and other wanted individuals were

apprehended. The unit made 52 other arrest for various charges ranging from forcible felonies to ordinance violations.

The Union City Municipal Court which is administratively managed by the police department scheduled 13,414 cases. During that same time period, the Municipal Court adjudicated 13,632 cases and issued acquittals in 1,857 cases.

The Union City Municipal Court collected \$2,124,024 in fines as a result of cases brought before the Court in 2012. The Court also collected \$549,729.04 in probation fees as a result of sentences imposed by the Municipal Judge.

The police department continued to enhance its community oriented policing efforts throughout 2012. These enhancement programs included business and home inspections, speaking engagements, departmental tours, citizen police academy, and the college internship program.

Our Public Works department whose men and women provide valuable labour in enhancing the appearance and function of our city. Without their dedication, our city can become a visual embarrassment and deterrence toward the efforts of business and family attraction.

The Construction Department has overseen 14 Projects during 2012 ranging from planning to construction. A variety of upgrades to our infrastructure have been completed with additional underway.

Improvement highlights consist of drainage installation and upgrades, asphaltic overlay, full depth reclamation, sidewalk replacement, water line upgrades, bus shelters, intersection upgrades, erosion control, Ronald Bridges Trail improvements and a Pedestrian Bridge on Highpoint Road.

Oakley Road, Pine Valley, Jamaica Court, McKinley Avenue, Forrest Avenue, Haven Street, and Simpson Avenue were part of our re-pavement program in 2013.

The Street Department was very busy this year with items listed below as well as numerous other projects and events that we are responsible for:

- 149 Tons of Trash and Debris removed from the City
- 366 Individual Storm Water structures inspected, cleaned or repaired.
- 236 Curb miles on Right of Way mowed, cleaned and maintained
- 763 Curb miles of streets swept
- 37,991 Linear feet of ditches & storm drains inspected.

- 56 Tons of Hot Asphalt repair work done on city streets

The Water Department replaced a 2" water line with an 8" line on Forrest Avenue, Haven Street, McKinley Avenue and Simpson Avenue and a fire hydrant was also installed. They responded and performed the following:

- 191 Water leaks repaired
- 28 Sewer Back-ups repaired
- 2 New Meter Installations
- 32 Replacement Meters
- 240 Water & Bacteria Samples, 6 Copper Tests Completed
- 20 Water Samples done every 3 months, THM & HAA Samples
- 5000 Work Orders in total was processed

Planning and Zoning whose function plays an important role in managing the city's growth and change had a comparatively slower year due to the downturn in the economy. But in spite of the slower pace in their office, they continue to provide value advice to the elected and appointed officials as well as the development community. The Community Development department provided the partial list of accomplishments:

They assisted the Planning Commission with the review of 11 rezone requests. In an effort to improve how the city will appropriately develop, the department advised the decision makers in amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance. Text amendments included changes to commercial zoning districts with regards to places of assembly and an update to the Town Center Mixed Use zoning district to clarify residential, commercial and industrial requirements. Often, a need to grant zoning variances are needed to mitigate development hardship on businesses and residents, the Planning Department assisted the Zoning Board of Appeals with five variance requests.

Development and Permitting service provided by the Community Department acts as a liaison between our consulting engineer and the city for 14 commercial projects, one residential project and two infrastructure improvement projects.

Notable commercial projects initiated in 2012 include a proposed new building in Majestic Airport Center III, an additional Graceland Thrift Store located in Christian City and upgrades to allow conversion of former Blockbuster into four new businesses: Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins, 7 Star Wings, T-Mobile and First American Title Lending.

The reduction in residential development that began in 2008 continued in 2012. In 2012 there were no permits for new construction issued.



Our Code Enforcement coordinated a Spring and Fall Clean-Up events which collected 1000+ tires and 53 tons of trash. The department sponsored one "Hands On Saturday" event to plant a tree in memory of Maureen Rice and flowers at City Hall. The Green Team also designed the exterior of the new Big Belly trash cans which were installed in city parks.

One of the annoying symbols in any community is those popsicle signs you see along the roadway, especially on the weekend. The Code Enforcement Department removed over 2,500 signs from the right-of-way. Another important job the Code Enforcement conducted is the cleaned up 30 properties with the Clean & Lien program, and conducted inspections, issued warning and citations resulting in 185 court cases. Because of the national housing crisis, Union City was not exempt and therefore needed the creation of a Vacant Property Registry to track vacant properties not in compliance with our appearance codes.

Our popular Recreation Department has aggressively provided programming for all ages with great success. In 2012, Parks and Recreation had great success in acquiring many new facility additions and continued to offer new programs to residents. Youth Sports programs continued to realize an increase in participant registrations and volunteers. Programs registered over 200 participants between the ages of 3-17. Program offerings included basketball, baseball, football, soccer and cheerleading. Track was introduced as a new program.

Union City Homecoming Festivities culminated with tail gating by every team as well as with all teams winning. The coronation program celebrated the crowning of the kings and queens for the year 2012 in a bigger facility, Banneker High School, to accommodate the growing number of participants.

Programs for seniors remained popular and included Crochet and Knitting classes, Art Classes, a Quilting Club, and participation in a wide variety of field trips. The charitable efforts of program participants supported organizations such as Christian City Children's Home, Ronald McDonald House, Southwest Christian Hospice Center, local shelters, schools, and Veterans' programs.

The Cheerleaders again participated in League competitions and won two 1<sup>st</sup> place Championships and one 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy. The Park also received the Spirit Award for most spirit out of 16 Parks.

New outdoor exercise equipment has been placed around the Park for residents to enjoy 7 days a week. An initiative by Councilman Jones provided for an Eco-Friendly solar trash bins placed at the park to assist in the ongoing effort to keep Union City beautiful and clean. Union City was awarded a \$15,000 grant from KaBoom and a brand new playground was added to the park. The Park now features climbers, spinners and a zip line in addition to swings and a slide.

The Etris Community Center received a "face lift" in 2012. All carpet was replaced by beautiful Spanish tile, the walls were repainted, and new ceiling tiles were placed to improve the look of

the Rental Room. In addition, offices and storage space were added to improve the buildings functionality.

Capital improvements at and near the park continued to move full speed ahead in 2012. Completed park amenities included the construction of a new trail system and the acquisition of new ball fields. The trail is a major enhancement for the park and provides residents with an opportunity to enjoy the community's natural beauty and to do physical activity outdoors. The three newly acquired ball fields bring the total number of fields owned by the City to five and ultimately increase the capacity to serve the City's growing number of youth.

Our commitment to hospitality and tourism continues to showcase our city to visitors and new comers as a destination spot by offering free concerts. In 2012 the city sponsored Norman Brown and Gerald Albright in July and they were followed in September by the world famous recording artist, Keith Sweat. Both concerts were highly successful and brought thousands of visitors to Union City's door step.

Our prison continues to meet the challenge of remaining self-sufficient, The South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail continues to operate with minimum staff required to ensure the orderly and safe operation of the facility. Our average daily population for 2012 was 168 inmates from our multi-jurisdictional agencies. This is the eighth consecutive year the U.S. Marshal Service inspection found our facility and staff in full compliance with all areas examined. During 2012 we were inspected by the federal monitor appointed by Judge Marvin H. Shoob four times with favorable results.

We continue to support the Bauder College internship program for Criminal Justice students. Three students completed their internship program in our facility this past year. We were able to hire one these interns as a Jail Officer after completion of the program.

During 2012, we booked in 6,927 inmates which resulted in the preparation and serving of approximately 184,000 meals. In addition our medical staff accommodated over 24,500 sick call complaints and medication requests.

While our various departments remain vigil in their effort to apply the highest administrative approaches to their duties, our community is in constant transition. A transition that is due to many things, one is the age of our community's infrastructure, the transition of our national economy, the transition of our demographics, the transition of our values and priorities and finally a transition of our political philosophy. All of which shapes how we can provide the quantity and quality of the delivery of services. Such is always the challenge of any government and its community.

Community transitioning should not be viewed as a threat, but as an opportunity to overcome their challenges or to embrace their existence as an asset. Community transitioning is often found in areas that include the involvement of other people, groups, organizations or institutions. As for my observation, the following areas could have an impact on Union City's transition and future:

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) will become a very important area that is currently under negotiations with the county and the cities of Fulton County. Since Sales Tax revenue as previously stated is the second largest source of revenue for the city. As we jointly work with our sister cities, we do so under one common bond and that is to receive what we believe is our fair share of sales tax revenue. We are not at battle with the county, we are in the strongest belief that we can provide local services to our cities in a more efficient manner than the county. Not to participate in negotiations, can result in our surrendering our interest in a fair distribution of sale taxes. We must retain a robust engagement in this process.

Tax Allocation District did not provide the level of revenue or attraction for development as intended. The decline of property values did not yield the revenues over the established base year. While I believe in the district and fought political battles to ensure that Union City and Fulton County participation was established, the market circumstances have demonstrated that as of today its value to the city will not yield the development assets necessary for the program to be successful. But remember, it is not a reflection of the city, but a reality of the economy.

Transportation continues to limit our ability to efficiently move people and things through our city. SR 138 continues to choke movement east and west and South Fulton Parkway more often is the German Autobahn. Our interchanges have become the tip of the funnel and traffic stacking is concentrated in those areas. Financing to relieve metro-Atlanta congestion was rejected by the citizens of region. As a result we will continue to have peak traffic condition on a majority of our weekdays. This can become a disincentive for economic development, thus limiting our prosperity.

Declining Revenues continue to limit our ability to reach beyond our responsibility for traditional services. There must be responsible thought and action not to succumb to political and community pressures that places undo strain on an already strain budget. Promising and providing services not within the scope of this city's ability or legal responsibility will certainly erode its ability to provide its own citizens quality services. Our threat is the mismatch of administrative pragmatism with self-serving politics of which has never shown success at the local, state or national level. Restraint is paramount to avoid falling victim of myopic politics.

Service Delivery Strategy continues to linger with the issue of roads and sewer. As we move down this road, we still have no sewer agreement with the county. This continues to be a reflection of cheap suit politics, nothing more and nothing less. Union City will prevail, but this process only is a reflection to the relationship that has been built among the ten cities and county.

The Union City Regional Jail continues to crack at the very seams of stability and threatens its viability as a self-sufficient center. When originally developed, it was and in theory still is the example for efficient government and multi-jurisdictional cooperation. I continue to have faith in its purpose, but I must also realize that the city's general fund can no longer float the operation of this facility. As suggested by the former city manager, decisions on its future must be made and made very soon.

Finally, the South Fulton Regional Water and Sewer Authority have met challenges unheard of for an agency that seeks to fulfill the goals of the state by providing more sources of water. From flawed internal authority decisions, to unnecessary lawsuits, to state agencies with preconceived cultural philosophies, the authority has withered many storms. This vision of being self-sufficient with water must continue. If not, we will continue to be at the mercy of a water provider that we have no input into its management, operation or fee setting. Let not our heart grow faint, but let our resolve grow stronger by holding to fire the feet of those we task in moving this project to term.

City growth and change have been the central topic of most citizens when it comes to their interest. Citizens believe that city success is centered with the number of Starbucks, Macys, Longhorns, or Applebee's we have in the city. When in fact, a lack of presence by those commercial units, only reflects the lack of required discretionary purchasing power by the community. I know it appears that there is a level of disrespect when stated that there is not enough money in our community. That is farther from the truth, many of you concern about a lack thereof of many of your favorite stores, only see the discretionary spending capacity that you occupy and not collectively as a community. Study after study demonstrates that community spending capacity will have marginal support for many of the commercial outlets you desire. That is a simple fact. What makes our city popular by many stores is our proximity to the interstate and state roads. We must begin to accept that fact and concentrate on making our local businesses that have chosen Union City as their place to do business so successful that others will take notice.

Where should our energies reside? We should continue to invest in our city's appearance, enhancement of our infrastructure and safety. Remember, investors do come to our city to see

how well we take care of our community and should they observe our lack of interest in ourselves they quickly determine that their investment could be treated in the same manner.

I have observed my colleagues write, visit and call most of the eating and dining places only to be told, when they are interested in us they will let us know. I applaud their efforts, but now they have come to recognize that it is about numbers and how businesses translate those numbers into a business decisions. Businesses don't come to your community for a social statement, they come here to make a profit and when the profit margin no longer meets their business goals they leave whether it is to make greater profit or reduce their losses. Again, it is the bigger picture of profit that the franchise business looks toward as oppose to making the community happy. A perfect example that I can provide is the recent move of Cracker Barrel. They needed to expand their business due in part to their success in Union City, meaning they were profitable. When the business needed to expand using their newer building model, they could not place the building's footprint and required parking on its current site; as a result, they are forced to move to a new location that will accommodate both the larger building footprint and needed parking. That was just a plain and simple business decision to move and the city can regret their move, but must respect their decision.

The city must continue to explore and utilize all available tools to attract not just restaurants, but more important primary jobs. The higher paying primary jobs will create the opportunities for other businesses to locate here because they can capture those discretionary dollars in the community. Having heavily dependent base economy of retail will only place our community in harm's way when there is an economic down turn, we must have a balance economic landscape. With our Opportunity Zone now in place, our location to the airport and highway we are now very attractive to major businesses. When the cyclical economy turns in the positive, Union City will have a greater position for business attraction and usually the other desired retail will follow. In addition, we must remember the potential of South Fulton Parkway. This corridor has all of the business incentives and mixed used zoning designations for business attraction. Faith in the national economy must turn positive if we are to realize the full development potential of this area. Union City cannot build businesses and under constitutional restriction cannot provide money to businesses for such purpose.

What can government then do? Government can continue to build bridges with other jurisdictions to create a business environment that can be of benefit to the whole. In a continued effort to position Union City in a positive light for development, I wish to announce that I have been working with the neighboring counties of Fayette, Coweta and of course Fulton County to establish a development corridor along Interstate 85 and its adjacent land. This corridor will concentrate on the medical technology industry. The establishment of such business entities like Dendreon in Union City and the Cancer Treatment Hospital in Newnan

provides for perfect anchors for the corridor. Of course, the inclusion of the plans at Fort McPherson and the Aerotropolis at the airport can only compliment the corridor. Chairmen from each county have given their support and are willing to pledge resources as we move ahead. Given that the medical industry will continue to see tremendous growth, it is only in the best interest of Union City to pursue those opportunities.

Finally, what can we do as citizens and government? First, we can believe in ourselves, by thinking of what we lack defines who we are provides a very shallow approach in defining our community. Rather, what we have is what we need to make successful to build upon other things to come and it will come. We must stop blaming others and government for what we don't have, rather get out your pen and paper and collectively write to those desire businesses and tell them how much you value them and that Union City will welcome them with both their arms and wallets. That is the pro-active role of a citizen. Writing me or my colleagues will never find its way to the decision makers of the desired retail and eating establishments. Take groups of people to those desired places and take pictures and send them to those establishments and show them that you are willing to patronize them on a consistent basis. You must be the voice of the city and not the victim. Charge toward the community challenge as oppose to retreating to the pasture of complaining and finger pointing.

I now challenge this community to a writing campaign to at least five well know establishments that are desired in this city, whether it is Longhorn, Red Lobster, TGIF, Olive Garden, etc., it does not matter, what matters is that they hear from you. I will ask staff to place on the website people willing to organize six-hundred (600) people to begin a monthly writing campaign to the desired eating and drinking establishments. Will this take work? Yes, but how much are you willing to work at it?

That reminds me of one of my favorite poems by Lord Alfred Tennyson; The Charge of the Light Brigade. I will not recite the entire poem, but the last stanza is probably the most memorable. He honored the charge of 600 Russians and Cossacks on a suicidal charge through a valley of cannons surrounding during the Crimean War.

*When can their glory fade?  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wondered.  
Honor the charge they made,  
Honor the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred.*

Who is willing to take the lead? Who is willing to make the sacrifice? Who is willing to battle for their community? Any why? The simple answer is because this is your Union City. May

**God, Bless this Country, may God bless this state, and above all may God Bless this great city.  
Thank you.**