

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2013  
7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Vince Williams, Councilmembers Shirley Jackson, Brian Jones, Angelette Mealing and Joyce Robinson, City Attorney Dennis Davenport, City Manager Sonja Fillingame, City Clerk Jacqueline R. Cossey and Assistant City Clerk Ricky Clark Jr.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. by Mayor Williams.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TOT HE FLAG:

Invocation by Ricky Clark Jr.

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

No one signed-up for Public Comments.

III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation to Councilmember Shirley Jackson

At this time Mayor Williams presented Councilmember Jackson with a plaque for over 20 years of service. He added that she will continue to service on the Jail Authority.

City Clerk Cossey presented Councilmember Jackson with a jewelry gift set.

Union City Eagles Cheerleaders ( Recognized during the Worksession)

Metro Atlanta Arterial Traffic Signal Timing Program (S.R. 138 Union City)

Public Services Director Cedric Clark addressed the Council and stated that earlier this year staff approached Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) about interest in operational improvements on State Route 138 and not only were they on board with the idea, but they had extra money to spend so the project will be done this year. He then reported that the project is complete and the contractor that worked on the project was present to provide a presentation with the project results.

John Warner and James Gray, Engineers with GCA Incorporated Transportation Engineering Firm provided the Council with a brief presentation regarding the Metro Atlanta Arterial Traffic Signal Timing Program administered along State Route 138 and opened the floor for questions.

Councilmember Jones asked how we keep the timing current if the lights should go out.

Mr. Warner stated that GDOT provides battery back-up to keep the signals running.



Councilmember Robinson asked for the name of the non-profit organization.

Mr. Mundt stated that he was not aware of the name of the non-profit organization.

Public Hearing opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing closed.

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the Council accepted the aforementioned recommendation unanimously.***

Attorney Davenport asked if a part of the recommendation was to have the property owner to take care of the issues that Mr. Mundt described within a 30-day period and if they do not, the City will do the work and place a lien on the property.

Councilmember Mealing and Jones responded, "Yes."

2. **Public Hearing** to consider an application submitted by Tasia Murrille for a license for on-premise consumption of malt, vinous and spirituous liquors with Sunday Sales for Legends Sports Bar located at 5851 Buffington Road.

City Planner Shayla Harris led this discussion and stated that the applicant is the new owner of Legends Sports Bar and they are required to complete an application. She added that the Police Department and City Attorney have approved the application and staff also recommends approval.

Public Hearing opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing closed.

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

3. **Public Hearing** to consider a petition submitted by Ibrahim Musleh for malt and vinous liquor license for package sales for Shell Food Mart located at 4597 Jonesboro Road.

City Planner Shayla Harris led this discussion and stated that this is a new applicant for an existing property. She added that the City Attorney and Police Chief have approved the application and staff recommends approval.

Public Hearing opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing closed.

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

4. **Public Hearing** to consider an application submitted by Sohil Charania for malt, vinous and spirituous liquor license for package sales for Shannon Beverage Outlet located at 6900 Londonderry Way.

City Planner Harris also led this discussion and stated that this is an existing property with a new applicant and the City Attorney has provided staff report in the form of a memo and recommends that the Council follow the recommendation per the memo. She added that the Police Chief has approved the application and staff recommends approval.

Public Hearing opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing closed.

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

5. ~~Council to consider the adoption of the updated 2012 State Minimum Standard Building Codes. (This item was removed from the agenda)~~
6. ~~Council to consider removing "Exemption K" from Section 11-33 of the Union City Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Ordinance. (This item was removed from the agenda)~~

VII. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Worksessions and Council Meetings

Mayor Williams stated that he is aware that this was discussed a few months ago and decided to go to one meeting a month and he thinks that it has worked well for everyone with the Worksession beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the Regular Council Meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. He added that he is sure that staff appreciates it and it is another cost savings that we can share with our taxpayers. He further added that if we need to change it as we move forward, we can revisit it at that time. Mayor Williams concluded that we will continue with one meeting a month until further notice.

- Jail Authority Membership

Mayor Williams also led this discussion and stated that everyone may not be aware that Mr. Croom has resigned from the Jail Authority. He added that with everything that we have going on with the Jail, we need to have the Jail Authority Members in place. He further added that Councilmember Jackson agreed to stay on the Jail Authority, but we need one more person. He then recommended Police Chief Odom to serve on the Jail Authority.

***On motion of Councilmember Robinson seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, Police Chief Charles Odom was appointed to serve on the Jail Authority. Vote was unanimous.***

City Manager Reports:

- Inflow Infiltration – Project Update

City Manager Fillingame reported that this project is currently 25% complete and she is anticipating that a final report for the project will be complete in 30 to 60 days. She added that the preliminary results have warranted discussions with the County regarding the flow in terms of originating from Union City or the County and Mr. Clark is scheduling a meeting for that.

- Community Development Update

Mrs. Fillingame also reported that there is a vacancy with the director's position in Community Development. She added that currently there is one staff person assigned to handle permits, license and taxes. She further added that our goal is to strengthen customer service and responsiveness as well as balance the workflow; she is assessing that division and found that it is best suited to be under the Finance Department because a lot of what is done ties back to our revenue. She continued stating that she is looking at streamlining that by bringing the staff in the Water Department to Permits License and Taxes as they both use the same system, Incode, in order to maximize the space and cross train staff to provide a one-stop service center for our residents and businesses. Mrs. Fillingame stated that currently we have one person in Permits, License and Taxes working the window, monitoring the revenues and returning phone calls and she feels that this would help the City to be more responsive with regards to customer service.

Councilmember Mealing asked if the Planning Department would fall under Finance.

Mrs. Fillingame clarified that it would be Permits, License and Taxes portion. She reiterated that currently there is one person in that section and she is looking at moving the staff in the Water Department to Permits, License and Taxes to cross train so they can provide assistance.

Mayor Williams stated that this is certainly a Human Resources hazard because this one person cannot get sick or take breaks. He added that we have been doing well with monitoring that up until now, but we have to look at how we do business more efficiently and effectively and he feels that this is an opportunity for us to move in a positive direction.

Mrs. Fillingame stated that continuity of operations is foremost with respect to sick and vacation time and this will help to alleviate that.

Councilmember Jones stated that as we move into the New Year and we are speaking about efficiencies and departments because we do have departments that have one person. He then asked if this would be discussed that next year.

Mayor Williams responded, "Yes." He added that we have some areas that we really need to examine because we do not want anyone to feel over burdened.

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilmember Robinson stressed her efforts to visit every department so that staff can be acquainted with her personally so that they feel comfortable around her and not intimidated by her. She then thanked Councilmember Jackson for her time and tenure.

Councilmember Mealing praised staff for a wonderful Christmas Tree Lighting. She also thanked staff for their contributions for the Mayors' Motorcade as well as Dendreon and Nissan for donating a Christmas Luncheon for staff. She concluded by stressing that it has been a pleasure working with Councilmember Jackson as she has been a great mentor and a rock for her and she will be greatly missed.

Councilmember Jones recognized the Union City Football Teams and staff for a wonderful year. He added that he hoped staff enjoyed their Luncheon. He then stated that Councilmember Jackson has been a great mentor and thanked her for her 20 years of service and stated that she will be missed. He concluded that he will be happy to see the building with her name on it up and running.

Mayor Williams shared a letter from the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) thanking him for the City's participation in GMA's Delinquent Insurance Business License Collection Program. He then presented a check in the amount of \$4,875.00 for delinquent and previously undiscovered license fees due to the City from insurance companies. He then thanked each department head staff individually according to their respective departments for their great efforts as well as the staff. At this time Mayor Williams expressed this gratitude to Councilmember Jackson as she has been an elected official, colleague, business owner, confidant and a friend. He added that the entire body is proud of Councilmember Jackson. Mayor Williams concluded that if we stick together, there is no mountain that we cannot move. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

At this time Councilmember Jackson introduced her family. She then thanked the citizens who voted for her without question, the Police Department, Fire Department, Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation, Administration and they are second to none. She further thanked the City Manager for a great job; City Attorney Davenport as he is not just the City Attorney but he is also her friend for life. She also thanked the City Clerk for looking after the Mayor and Council in every sense of the word with class. Councilmember Jackson stressed that she appreciates serving on the Jail Authority. She then welcomed the newly elected City Councilmembers and charged Council Elect Shayla Nealy with looking after the Public Works Department. She

then addressed her colleagues and stressed what a pleasure it has been working with them. In conclusion she wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

At this time City Attorney Davenport stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve Councilmember Jackson. He then stated that the Council needed to enter into Executive Session for the following six items: Four items regarding threatened litigation and two items regarding pending litigation.

***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the Council entered into Executive Session to discuss four items regarding threatened litigation and two items regarding pending litigation.***

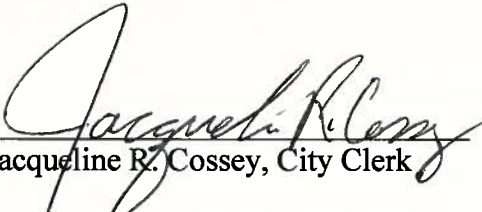
***On motion of Councilmember Jackson seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the Council reconvened to Regular Session.***

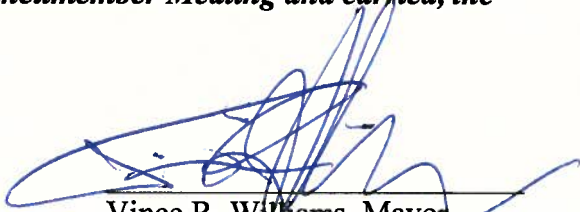
***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Jackson, Council amended the motion entering into Executive Session to include review of the Executive Session Minutes from November 19, 2013.***

***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, the Executive Session Minutes from November 19, 2013 were unanimously approved.***

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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

  
Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk

  
Vince R. Williams, Mayor