UNION CITY MINUTES WORKSESSION MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH18, 2014 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Vince Williams, Councilmembers Shayla Nealy, 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 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Williams.

- I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:
- II. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (2 MIN.)
- III. PRESENTATIONS/ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Presentation by Fulton County School Board Member Catherine Maddox

Board Member Maddox thanked the City for its assistance during the weather crisis. She then presented the Council with a proclamation on behalf of the Fulton County Board of Education, District 6.

Legislative Update from Kip Carr

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.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Council to consider approval of request to re-appoint Phyllis Brown to the Housing Authority Board.
- 2. Council to consider approval of request to appoint Tareka Peeks to the Planning Commission. (Ms. Peeks also serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals)

Council agreed to table items 1 and 2 for 30-days as the deadline for accepting applications is April 4, 2014.

V. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the Minutes:

Worksession Meeting, 02/18/2014 Regular Council Meeting, 02/18/2014

The minutes were added to the consent agenda as written

2. Council to consider approval of a resolution recognizing April 13-19, 2014 as Georgia Cities Week in Union City.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

3. Council to consider approval to proceed with negotiations with Interdev for IT Support services.

Comptroller Tarsha Calloway led this discussion and stated that this item was due to the recent change in IT staffing. She added that it is better to be proactive as it is critical that we get someone in place to assist our current IT staff as he is new. She further added that the City went through a process a few years ago and properly vetted Interdev for IT Support; however, we made some internal staff changes, so there was no need to act on the contract with Interdev. Mrs. Calloway stated that the contract with Interdev expired as of December 2013.

Mayor Williams asked if the contract was previously approved.

Mrs. Calloway replied, "Yes Sir".

Councilmember Jones asked for the length of the contract.

Mrs. Calloway stated that the contract with Interdev would run through this fiscal year and we can decide how to proceed thereafter. She concluded that at that time we may decide to hire internally.

Mayor Williams asked for the record, how new is the current Information Technology staff.

Mrs. Calloway stated that Mr. Bennings has been with us for three weeks.

Councilmember Robinson asked if Interdev would be assisting the current staff.

Mrs. Calloway replied, "Yes".

This item was added to the consent agenda.

4. Council to consider options regarding corrugated metal piping within Southwind Pod J, Unit 2.

Mayor Williams stated that this item would not be entertained tonight due to new information. He then asked City Planner Shayla Harris to provide an explanation.

Ms. Harris addressed the Council and stated that this item references the Southwind Development which was annexed into the City in 2006. She added that during that time, the property was under review from Fulton County's development standards and we have documentation stating that we have agreed to accept some portions of the development, but we may need time for further consideration. She then recommended tabling the item for 30-days.

Mayor Williams stated that he understands that we have information that give the Council reason to remove the item, but in the future we need to look at how we do business and how we will continue to do business.

Ms. Harris concurred.

Councilmember Jones asked for the City's stance on corrugated metal piping.

Ms. Harris stated that the City does not allow corrugated metal piping at all, but when the City annexed the property it was based on the Fulton County's standards and Fulton County allows corrugated metal piping.

Councilmember Jones asked what the City allows.

Public Services Director Cedric Clark stated that the City allows reinforced concrete.

Mayor Williams asked what the resolution reflects with regards to this matter.

Ms. Harris stated that the resolution states that we have allowed the annexations under the conditions of water and sewer services. She added that water is under the City of Atlanta and sewer is under Fulton County; however it does not state what is specified as stormwater.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she recalls this coming before the Board in 2006 and because the City was aggressive with annexing, we agreed to accept it and it should show in documents, but she is not sure about the specifications regarding water and sewer.

Councilmember Jones asked if there was a Grandfather clause.

Mayor Williams stated that it is possible that the corrugated metal piping will stay in place because the developers are ready to move forward and he is concerned with delaying this. He added that when you have people and trucks moving and working, you want them to continue to moving and working.

Ms. Harris stated that she has explained the process to the petitioner and he is present tonight.

Councilmember Robinson asked how does water and sewer play into the corrugated metal piping coming from Fulton County with regards to annexation.

Ms. Harris explained that corrugated metal piping is a very inexpensive material that erodes over time. She added that some of our roads have begun to cave in due to the corrugated metal piping; therefore, the City has decided to no longer allow this as a piping system.

Councilmember Robinson asked why are we agreeing to accept it now.

Councilmember Nealy explained that at the time, as a part of the annexation, we agreed to accept it, but it is not a part of Union City's practice as piping material for our system. She added that the resolution does not encompass stormwater.

Ms. Harris stated that the piping was already installed when we annexed the property.

At this time, David Brenings Chief Engineer with Joffe Land Company addressed the Council and stated that Ms. Harris is correct. He added that they have a phase in Southwind that is in the middle of construction originally started under Fulton County at the time of annexation. He further added that as part of the annexation, there are documents executed between Union City and Fulton County, although he has not had the opportunity to review the resolution that Ms. Harris

referenced. Mr. Benings stated that part of the conditions that were placed on the project were zoning conditions that are pretty clear and fall under Fulton County standards, but he has been notified that since he is not the original owner that those conditions no longer apply. He added that this is a bi-product of the recession and the property has changed hands. He further added that he has approximately 91 lots that they are trying to get platted and move forward. Mr. Bennings stated that there are builders ready to sign a contract right now and one of the comments that was generated was a recommendation that they replace all of the existing corrugated pipe, but they do not think that that is beneficiary to them or the City because there is already 2000 feet of pipe already in the ground that met the conditions when it was installed.

Councilmember Mealing asked City Manager Fillingame to make sure that the City Engineer is present for Council meetings. She added that she has questions and she is uncomfortable discussing some of these issues and he is not available to answer her questions. She added that she is aware that he is part-time but he needs to be available for something of this magnitude and he should be present to hear this discussion.

City Manager Fillingame stated that if the item is tabled, she will definitely ask the City Engineer to attend the following meeting. She concurred that the City Engineer attends the meeting by request and she will make sure that he attends the next meeting when the item is presented again.

This item was tabled for 30-days.

5. Council to consider removing "Exemption K" from Section 11-33 of the Union City Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control ordinance.

City Planner Harris stated that currently our ordinance only reference erosion and sediment control measures for projects over an acre and that is because we model the State regulations. She added that the change was made in 2011 so that we could mirror their measures. She further added that she believes that if we remove the exemption, we will be able to monitor projects over and under an acre because there are a lot of projects that come our way under an acre. She concluded that this will also ensure that Code Enforcement has an active document that supports their day to day work.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

6. Council to consider approval of a resolution supporting the Marketplace Fairness Act of 2013 without any amendments that preempt local taxing authority.

Councilmember Jones led this discussion and stated that he attended the National League of Cities Conference last week where they discussed the Marketplace Fairness Act. He explained that this speaks to the IRS law which states that when you purchase items online, you are to pay sales tax. He added that many of us do not track it, but there are millions of dollars Union City is missing as well as other cities. Councilmember Jones stated that in the State of Georgia the number is approximately \$900,000,000.00. He further added that in 2013, \$23 billion was not collected from purchases online. Councilmember Jones added that we have a number of retailers that are behind this as well. He concluded that this is not a tax on the internet, but it is taxes that we should be paying already. He then stated that we could all go to jail for not paying it.

Mayor Williams stated that this is a usage fee.

Councilmember Jones stated that he brought this before the Board to send it to the Georgia Municipal Association, National League of Cities and the Georgia Delegation in Washington D.C. asking for their support.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

7. Council to consider approval of a request to grant the Housing Authority a waiver of its Payment In Lieu of Taxes (P.I.L.O.T.) for years 2013-2014.

City Attorney Davenport led this discussion and stated that this is an annual request made by the Housing Authority for over the past 20 years. He added that they do not pay property taxes and this is a program that recognizes that you are waiving any payment in lieu of taxes.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

8. Council to consider approval of a resolution opposing any efforts by Congress and the President to eliminate or limit the federal tax exemption on interest earned from municipal bonds.

Mayor Williams stated that this is a recent addition to the agenda and Councilmember Jones will be leading the discussion.

Councilmember Jones led this discussion and stated that this resolution is asking our Congressional Delegation to oppose any restrictions on Municipal Bonds. He added that there are a couple of proposals that will put a cap on Municipal Bonds that cities, towns and counties can borrow and this resolution will also go to Washington D.C. supporting no caps on Municipal Bonds.

Mayor Williams stated that small cities rely on bond to take care of large projects and this is something that he supports.

Councilmember Jones stated that both resolutions that he presented tonight has bipartisan support in Washington D.C.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

- 1. **Public Hearing** to consider a map amendment to the Official Zoning Map for rezoning of 8.6 acres located along Stonewall Tell and Southern Road from Fulton County AG-1 to Union City TCMU by Majestic Airport Center.
- 2. Planning Commission to consider annexing the 8.6 acres of property into the corporate limits of Union City by Majestic Airport Center.

City Manager Reports:

Upcoming Events

Storm Water Open House – March 20th, 6 pm Mayor's Bike Race – March 15th – 16th; Opening Day Baseball-April 5th, 9 a.m. Easter Egg Celebration – April 19th, 10 a.m-1:00 pm

<u>Departmental Initiatives</u>
U.C. a Better U Initiative
Royal South Tire Clean Up
Personnel Policy Update
Courtware Solutions

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

• City Manager Annual Review

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

X. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.