

UNION CITY MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014
7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Vince Williams, Councilmembers Brian Jones, Angelette Mealing, Shayla Nealy and Joyce Robinson, City Attorney Dennis Davenport City Manager Sonja Fillingame and City Clerk Jacqueline R. Cossey

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Williams.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Invocation led by Councilmember Shayla Nealy.

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

Public Comments were made by the following:

- Rosalyn Murphy of 9527 Lakeview Road Union City, Georgia spoke regarding Section 8 vouchers.
- Kathleen Jones of 8829 Lakecrest Way Union City, Georgia spoke regarding the lack of communication among staff and poor employee response time.
- Karolen Mazyck of 5638 Liberty Road Union City, Georgia spoke regarding the inadequate time allotted for the public to speak, Code Enforcement, street signs down, cable wires down, poor car dealership marquee in the community and abandoned buildings in the City.
- Bonnie Hinton of 6354 Shannon Parkway Union City, Georgia spoke regarding on-going water bill issues.
- Jean Borum of 7129 Woodridge Lane Union City, Georgia spoke regarding water bill issues.
- Helen Turner of 7165 Woodridge Lane Union City, Georgia spoke regarding water bill issues and expressed her gratitude to the Public Services Department for repairing her street.
- Joann Scott of 7137 Woodridge Lane Union City, Georgia spoke regarding water bill issues.
- Elizabeth Patrick of 6012 Kahiti Trace Union City, Georgia spoke regarding water bill increases and adjustments needed.
- Rochell Farrell of 6237 Hickory Lane Circle Union City, Georgia spoke regarding water bill increases.

III. PRESENTATIONS/ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Presentation by Cedric Clark regarding Capital Projects in Union City

Public Services Director Cedric Clark provided the Council with an update on all capital projects in the City.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forward.

Public Hearing Closed.

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

2. **Public Hearing** to consider a petition submitted by Dilli Ram Paudel on behalf of Rocket Business, Inc. for malt and vinous liquor license for package sales for Shell Food Mart located at 5022 Roosevelt Highway.

City Manager Sonja Fillingame led this discussion and stated this location currently has a valid alcohol beverage license. She added that this request is relative to a change of ownership and staff has reviewed the application including the Police Department and City Attorney's office. She further added that all administrative requirements have been met, the public hearing has been advertised as required and staff recommends approval.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forward.

Public Hearing Closed.

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

VI. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

City Manager Reports: None

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilmember Robinson thanked the public for coming out and spoke regarding the following:

- Ensured the residents that the water issues will be addressed with staff due to inconsistencies
- The October Arts and Crafts Festival was great: Ashley Minter, Tara Clark, Keyania Richardson, Carlos Gonzalez and Kevin Sesberry went above and beyond to assist her with the festival
- Kevin Sesberry was in an automobile accident over the weekend and is currently in the hospital
- Friends from Buffalo, New York were in attendance tonight
- Sister and brother-in-law were also in attendance tonight

- She requested that every department head send emails to the Mayor and Council, in a timely fashion, when employees are injured

Councilmember Mealing thanked the public for coming out and spoke regarding the following:

- The Arts and Crafts Festival, Breast Cancer Walk and Cheer Competition were all great
- She then stated for the record that the Council has heard the public with regards to the water billing issues and they will be addressed sooner rather than later
- Requested prayer for a speedy recovery for Kevin Sesberry
- An invitation was extended to everyone to come out and join the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 1, 2014 in Mayors' Park from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thanks was given to staff for all that they do
- Thanks was given to Teaa Allston for the Health Fair
- Possible Flash mob in the City
- Potential Biggest Looser contest for the community

Councilmember Nealy thanked the public for coming out and spoke regarding the following:

- The Council shares the concerns regarding the water billing and are working for a speedy recovery
- All October activities were stellar including the Breast Cancer Walk
- Thanks was given to Christian Wiggins for the vision for the Breast Cancer Walk
- Thanks was given to staff for running with the vision and ensuring the success of the event
- Thanks was given to the sponsor, North Star
- The Arts and Crafts Festival, vendors and entertainers were outstanding
- Thanks was given to Councilmember Robinson for her tenacity and ensuring the success of the Arts and Crafts Festival
- Groundbreaking of Atlanta Metro Studios of Union City
- Thanks was given to Public Services for taking care of her concerns on Rock Road
- Thanks was given to Shayla Harris, in her absence, for all that she did for the City as well as best wishes and much success in her future endeavors
- Thanks was given to Tareka Peeks, in her absence, who recently resigned from the Planning Commission and Planning Board of Appeals and wished her the best and much success in her future endeavors
- Congratulations were extended to Councilmember Jones on the new addition to his family

Councilmember Jones thanked staff for all that they do and spoke regarding the following:

- Shared a photo of his daughter, Addison Jones
- Demolition of the Mall and Steak and Shake is coming to the City
- Progress is being made in the City

- He thanked the leadership in place, City Manager Fillingame and Mayor Williams
- Water and road improvement issues will be worked out

At this time Mayor Williams thanked the Union City team and spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks was given to Councilmember Robinson for a successful Arts and Craft Festival
- Congratulations were extended to Councilmember Jones and Mrs. Jones on the new addition to their family
- Mayor and Council are also residents and share some of the same issues as the public
- Coach Lee Blich and his team were praised for a phenomenal job with Parks and Recreation
- Recognition was given to Councilmember Mealing for her undying commitment to the youth and Parks and Recreation
- Recognition and congratulations were given to Councilmember Nealy for appearing in the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of Atlanta's '40 Under 40' next generation leaders of the Metro Atlanta area
- Thanks was given to Police Chief Odom for his leadership
- Neighborhoods will be receiving more city interaction from a community policing effort
- Thanks was given to Fire Chief Leasher
- Thanks was given to Code Enforcement
- Thanks was given to Finance Director Calloway and her team
- Thanks was given to the City Manager
- 24 hours is applicable for disseminating information to Council from staff
- The Union City vision

At this time Mayor Williams presented Police Chief Leasher with a retirement plaque from the City followed by a photo with the Mayor and Council.

Chief stated that he has been with the City for 22 years. He then thanked the Mayor and Council for their support with his staff and his family, but it is time to turn a new chapter in his life and spend time with his wife and 13 grandchildren. He then thanked staff, City Manager Fillingame, Dennis Davenport and Jacqueline R. Cossey. He then gave a special thank you to Teaa Allston for always being there for him and never letting him down. He concluded that he is looking forward to his retirement.

City Manager Fillingame addressed Chief Leasher and stated that she appreciates all of his assistance as he has always supported her. She added that Chief Leasher leaves with all of our love, respect and friendship. She concluded that her greatest wish for Chief Leasher is to be happy.

At this time Mayor Williams stated that with November 30th being Chief Leasher's last day, we need to keep continuity and recommended Assist Chief Joe Maddox as Interim Fire Chief.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Assistant Fire Chief Joe Maddox was appointed as Interim Fire Chief. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Williams stated that as a point of good housekeeping and recognizing that Shayla Harris has moved on to another opportunity. He added that the City has been searching for a Director of Community Development and now we will be searching for a director and a Planner. He then stated that this gives us a unique opportunity to address how we will continue the day to day for the Community Development Department. He continued stating that we have worked closely with The Collaborative Firm and we can move forward with bringing them on a month to month basis, three months or until we hire someone. Mayor Williams stated that with the momentum that we have, we cannot have an empty Community Development Department. He then asked for a motion from the Council.

Councilmember Jones asked for the budget range that the City is willing to spend.

Mayor Williams stated that we should leave that up to the City Manager and Finance Director to work that out. He added that there is money in the budget because we do not have a director or a planner.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she would like to piggyback off of Councilmember Jones. She added that she does not have a problem with The Collaborative Firm, but she does not want to approve anything without seeing the numbers.

Mayor Williams stated that he wants the Council to give City Manager Fillingame the freedom to negotiate with the Collaborative Firm and she will get back with the Council and inform them of the agreement. He added that because they are offering professional services, we do not have to put this out for bid, but if we were to put it out for bid; it would be from 60 to 90 days before we could secure someone.

Councilmember Robinson stated that she has no problem with The Collaborative Firm and she understands the need to have someone that we are familiar with to come in and assist us, but she would need to see the numbers.

At this time Councilmember Mealing asked for clarity. She then asked Mayor Williams if the Council was being asked to allow the City Manager and Finance Director to hire The Collaborative Firm for three months or meet with them.

Mayor Williams stated that he is recommending that the City Manager and Finance Director be given approval to negotiate a deal with The Collaborative Firm.

On motion of Councilmember Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the Council authorized the City Manager and Finance Director make an amenable agreement with The Collaborative Firm to move forward with our planning operations. Vote was unanimous.

At this time City Attorney Davenport stated that the Council needed to enter into Executive Session to review the Executive Session Minutes from October 21, 2014.

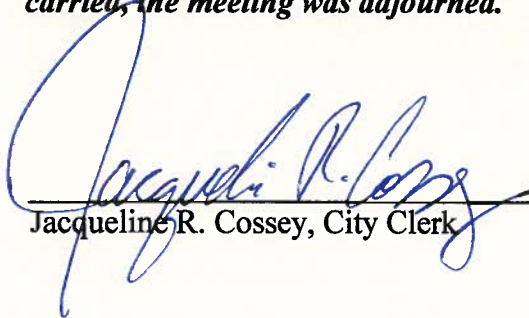
On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to review the Executive Session Minutes from October 21, 2014. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the Council reconvened to Regular Session. Vote was unanimous.

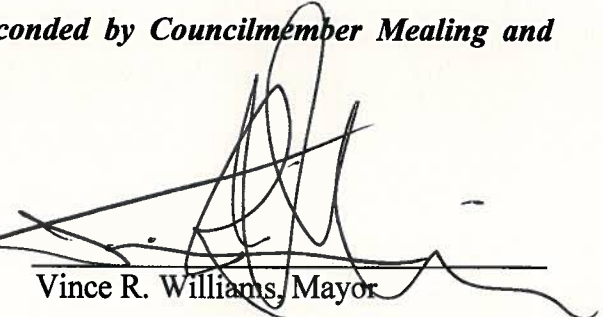
On motion of Councilmember Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the Executive Session Minutes from October 21, 2014 were unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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



Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk



Vince R. Williams, Mayor

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF FULTON

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT

Personally appeared before me, Vince Williams, 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 18 day of November, 2014.

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.

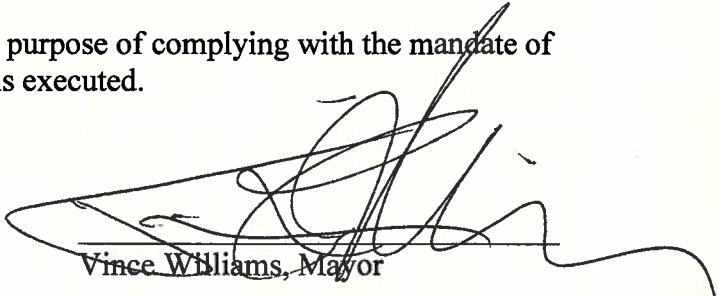
3.

The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 18 day of November, 2014, which was closed for the purpose(s) of Reviewing Executive Session Minutes from October 21, 2014 as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

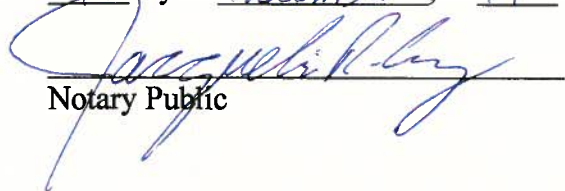
4.

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.


Vince Williams, Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18 day of November, 2014.


Notary Public