

UNION CITY MINUTES
WORKSESSION MEETING &
FY2016 FINAL MILLAGE RATE HEARING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015
6:30 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

Directors: Tarsha Calloway - Finance, Rhonda Jones – Human Resources, Cedric Clark – Public Services, Chuck Odom – Police Chief, Nicole Dozier – Community Development, Lee Blich – Parks & Recreation and Trey Bennings – Information Technology, Joe Maddox - Fire Chief

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Williams.

At this time Mayor Williams turned the meeting over to Finance Director Tarsha Calloway.

Mrs. Calloway stated that this would serve as the final public hearing for the adoption of the millage rate. She added that the Council has seen the presentation several times, but she would like to provide a quick overview once more. She then shared the following

- Property Tax and Budget Calendar
- Definition of Property Tax Rate
- Millage Rate and Rollback Rate
- Calculation of Property Taxes

She then asked if there were any questions.

There were no questions.

Public Hearing Opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing Closed.

- 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:
 1. Swearing-in of Municipal Court Judge Ronald Freeman
 2. Presentation of a Proclamation Recognizing the American Payroll Association

3. Life Save Award Presented to Paramedic Micah Wallace, Firefighter/EMT Wendy Glover, Firefighter/Paramedic Jose Montez and Police Officer William Thomas

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.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Public Hearing** to consider closure of the railroad crossing a Westbrook Place and TA Davis. (This item was deferred on June 16, 2015 for 60-days)

Public Services Director Cedric Clark led this discussion and stated that this item was heard on June 16 and was deferred to obtain additional information from Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and CSX. He added that the additional information has been obtained and the Council was presented with a letter from GDOT and CSX. Mr. Clark stated that a team diagnostic meeting occurred with all parties and it was determined, due to a consensus of the group, that the best alternative for this crossing is closure. He then referred to photos that were provided to the Council and compared the crossing located at T.A. Davis to the Crossing at Gresham Street. He stated that the issue with the crossing at T.A. Davis is those motorists do not have the site distance to see over the crossing. He further added that in order to alleviate that issue, CSX added pavement to patch the area. Mr. Clark concluded that GDOT and CSX have stated that there is nothing more that they can do to improve the crossing.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she was curious as to how the crossing would look closed because she does not have a visual.

Mr. Clark stated that GDOT and CSX were supposed to have a representative present tonight and he does not want to speak on their behalf, but he is sure that a barricade would be involved and possible removal of the track.

Councilmember Nealy asked if there were any culverts. She stated that the City would receive a financial incentive after providing the closure signage. She clarified that GDOT and CSX will be responsible for the closure aspects, the culvert replacement or closure and the financial component.

Mr. Clark responded, "That is correct". He added that GDOT and CSX would provide \$7,500 to close the crossing so that would be a total of \$15,000. He further added that to his knowledge, there is no culvert in the vicinity, but one is located further down highway 29 but it would be CSX's responsibility.

Councilmember Nealy asked if there was a timeframe to when the City would receive the funds once we post the closure signage or an investigative procedure to verify that we have done our part.

Mr. Clark stated that once the crossing has been taken out of service, half of the \$15,000 is available immediately and the other half is eligible for safety projects.

Councilmember Robinson asked how the train would function if the track is removed.

Mr. Clark stated that the train track would remain but the bed would be altered. He then added that he would rather have CSX to speak to this point.

Councilmember Mealing asked if the results of the team diagnostic meeting were shared with the surrounding neighbors.

Mr. Clark responded, "No". He added that that meeting was not open to the public, but they did communicate with the public while they were on site. He further added that residents did not have an issue with the crossing because they know how to maneuver over it, but it is the people who do not live in the City that are experiencing the issues.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she was concerned about the churches.

Mr. Clark stated that he received a letter from the church and the letter stated that they would like for the crossing to remain open.

Public Hearing Opened.

Roslyn Crider of 5037 Dixie Lake Road spoke in opposition of closing the crossing.

Public Hearing Closed

2. Council to consider approval of a Resolution to allow the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta (AHA) and the Housing Authority of Fulton County (HAFC) to operate within the City Limits of Union City. (This item was deferred on July 21, 2015 for 30-days)

Edrick Harris of the Benoit Group addressed the Council and stated that this development is the third and final phase for the Parkway Village redevelopment project. He added that this is an active adult senior facility which is very similar to the Woodridge Property Development which is operational. He further added that with regards to the Providence at Parkway Village, they are currently under construction and looking to be complete with the first building near the end of October with the full completion of buildings one and two in November for a total of 150 units. Mr. Harris stated that this request is to allow for 50 additional public project based rental assistance units to be placed in that building which is very similar to what was put into Woodridge as well as Arcadia in 2009. He then asked if the Council had any questions.

Councilmember Jones asked for the item to be held because he was concerned about the language regarding the relationship with the Atlanta Housing Authority and whether they will get an allotment of spaces within the development and if they are bringing Section 8 vouchers with them. He further added that he was concerned that

we were going to have vouchers from Atlanta and not from Fulton County that were living in the development and he just wanted clarity.

Mr. Harris stated that with this project based assistance program, it opens up the affordability for the project for the seniors in conjunction with the Atlanta Housing Authority. He added that it allows him to allocate those additional 50 units to anyone who can be placed on the list. He added that the seniors of Woodridge have friends that are in the area or close to the area that want to live there and most of those people are on waiting lists to use those vouchers and they will have that opportunity to, so instead of going through the Fulton County Housing Authority they can go through the Atlanta Housing Authority. He then stated that the seniors would receive assistance from his management company to help navigate them where to go to get on that waiting list.

Councilmember Mealing asked for the age to live in the facility.

Mr. Harris responded "62 and over".

Councilmember Mealing asked how many units were in the development.

Mr. Harris stated that there are 150 units in the development, but 50 units are set aside for vouchers.

This item was placed on the Consent Agenda.

3. Council to consider approval of a Resolution to adopt an application fee for right-of-way encroachment permits, to adopt a rate sheet for the calculation of cash bonds pursuant to right-of-way encroachment permits. (This item appeared on the July 21, 2015 Agenda and returned at the request of Public Services Director Cedric Clark)

Public Services Director Cedric Clark led this discussion and stated that this item is here for a correction. He added that last month we discussed a fee associated with the encroachment application and the fee was in the amount of \$100, but during the Council Meeting the fee was reduced to \$25. He further added that after discussing the matter with his staff he realized that the fee should have remained \$100. He then asked the Council to reconsider the item with the appropriate fee of \$100.

Councilmember Mealing asked if the amount on the resolution should be \$100 instead of \$25.

Mr. Clark stated that is correct.

This item was added to the Consent Agenda.

4. Council to consider an extension of the Sanitation RFP to be awarded by the end of August 2015 and extend the current contract. (This item was deferred on April 21, 2015 for 6 months -September 15, 2015. This item is returning one month early due to a consensus by Mayor and Council)

is set up so that they can slow down while approaching that intersection; that will give those trucks time to negotiate that.

Councilmember Jones asked if we had plans for striping on Derrick Road at a certain distance from the stop sign so that drivers are aware of the upcoming stop sign.

Mr. Clark stated that there will be some advance signage to alert the drivers that the stop sign is ahead.

Councilmember Mealing asked if there has been any activity since the temporary stop condition was put in place.

Mr. Clark stated that there have been no issues. He added that Wal-Mart opened a few days ago and there have been no issues to date.

Mayor Williams stated that there has not been a large impact on the traffic and it should not be because this is going to be a fulfillment center and not a Wal-Mart Super Store.

This item was added to the Consent Agenda.

3. Council to consider approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the cities of Fairburn, Union City, Chattahoochee Hills, and Palmetto and counties of Fulton County and Douglas County for quality transit oriented development along South Fulton Parkway and Capps Ferry Road.

Mayor Williams led this discussion and stated that this is an opportunity for those cities and counties that are impacted by South Fulton Parkway to agree to work together to make sure that we are focused on transit opportunities that come through and impact us all. He added that this does not require any money and it is just an agreement stating that we are working together.

Councilmember Jones asked if any other agencies agreed to this yet.

Mayor Williams stated that Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) has also agreed.

Councilmember Jones asked if we believe in the future that all of these organizations can come together and pool money together that goes along with cutting the parkway or anything along those lines for beautification purposes.

Mayor Williams responded, "Exactly". He added that ARC has agreed and MARTA is being courted because it involves true transportation.

Councilmember Jones asked if any other city has approved the resolution or has an issue with the language.

Mayor Williams stated that we are the only city that has not approved the resolution. He added that he wanted to make sure that the language was clear.

This item was added to the Consent Agenda.

4. Council to consider approval of a request to enter into a contract with Mullins Brothers for the total Base Bid and the Alternate A Bid in the amount of \$578,634.90 for the Shannon Parkway Resurfacing and Sidewalk Project.

Anna-Marie Robinson-Berry led this discussion and stated that she would like to request approval to enter into a contract with Mullins Brothers, who is the lowest bidder, for the Shannon Parkway Resurfacing and Sidewalk Project.

Councilmember Jones asked if we have used Mullins Brother before, with no issues.

Ms. Robinson-Berry responded, "Yes".

Councilmember Jones asked, from the time that the Council approves this, how long will it be before the contracts get started. He added that there are a lot of people who want to see that road paved relatively quick.

Mr. Clark stated that typically once the contract is signed there is a 30-day mobilization period, but he is going to try to increase that due to the issues that we have currently on Shannon Parkway.

This item was added to the Consent Agenda.

5. Final Millage Rate Hearing for FY2016. (Budget Books provided separately)
6. Final adoption of the FY2016 Millage Rate and FY2016 Budget. (Budget Books provided separately)

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

City Manager Reports: None.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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