

UNION CITY MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
7:00 P.M.

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

Absent: Councilmember Angelette Mealing

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Williams.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Invocation by Pastor Sedrick Hamner

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

At this time Mayor Williams began to hear public comments.

Public comments were made by the following:

Keith King of 4306 Ravenwood Drive presented Police Chief Odom with a proclamation of gratitude.

Bonnie Hinton of 6354 Shannon Parkway spoke regarding the bulk trash pick-up from condominiums and poor construction and striping of Shannon Parkway.

Pastor Sedrick Hamner of 3725 Flat Shoals Road spoke regarding the removal of political signs from the City right-of-way. He then asked where his signs were and why were they removed.

Mayor Williams recommended that Pastor Hamner check with Code Enforcement for his signs and informed him that all signs in the right-of-way will be removed.

Yvonne Barber of 6385 Church Street thanked the Council for all that they do. She then thanked the paramedics, EMS, the good Police Officers. She continued to thank MARTA's CEO, Keith Parker for transportation and bus sheds. She then spoke regarding the West Nile virus and septic tank waste on Church Street.

Mrs. William Bohach of 5060 Alexander Avenue spoke regarding speeding vehicles on Alexander Avenue, the lack of assistance from the water department to verify the location of her waterline and the ability to post yard sales on the City's website.

III. PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Presentation by Mr. Allen of National Sign Plazas Inc. regarding the Uniform Homebuilders Directional Sign Program for Union City

Community Development Director Nicole Dozier introduced Mr. Allen of National Sign Plaza Inc. She informed the Council that this presentation is for information purposes. She added that this presentation is to give the Council the informational services provided by National Sign Plazas Inc. She concluded that if the Council is interested staff will work with him and move forward with this program.

Mr. Allen provided the Council with a presentation regarding the Homebuilders Kiosk Program. Mr. Allen informed the Council that National Sign Plaza Inc. is a national recognized environmental design company that specializes in municipal branding, directional way finding and place making. He explained that all signs are custom designed for each municipality. He stated that he provided a summary proposal for Union City with a custom design format that would allow homebuilders in Union City to promote sales of real estate in the City. He added that he also provided Mrs. Dozier with packets for each member of the Council containing a complete description of the program and how it functions. He continued stating that he also included a schematic design that he created for Union City, which must be approved by the Mayor, Council and Community Development Director. He further added that he has recommended 12 structures for the City, customized with toppers, and has offered to provide an additional four structures, free of charge, for the sole purpose of promoting City facilities such as the parks, library, and City Hall or market businesses in the historic district. He continued stating that National Sign Plazas would provide all of the materials and manage the program. Mr. Allen stated that on behalf of the City he would lease the panel on those structures to the homebuilders. He added that for each of the panels on the structures he would collect an additional administrative fee in the amount of \$10 that would go to the City. He further added that he has projected that over the course of one quarter that Union City would earn from \$1200 to \$1500 in revenue from this program and as the program expands, the revenue share would increase. Mr. Allen stated that the program is free of charge to the City and taxpayers, no upfront cost and no cost in the maintenance service of the program. He then recommended that the City authorize a pass through agreement to allow other homebuilders outside of the City to advertise on Union City's structures which increases revenue to the City. He concluded that he provided Mrs. Dozier with a complete outline of the program including cost estimates, maps that would identify where the structures would be located and other cost estimates for the program.

Councilmember Jones asked if the sign program could be expanded towards the interstate and get additional structures.

Mr. Allen responded, "Absolutely". He added that the purpose of this program to act as an initiation to an over directional way finding program for the City. He further added that he hopes to eventually merge the Kiosk Program for Homebuilders into a directional program for directional signage throughout the City.

Mayor Williams stated that there are several other businesses and places of worship that have expressed an interest in signage directing them to various areas in the City. He then asked Mr. Allen if there was an opportunity for them as well.

Mr. Allen responded, "Absolutely". He added that anybody that the Mayor and Council would see fit to have advertisements could do so on those structures which would also increase revenue to the City. He further added that if at any point he finds that there are more businesses or community organizations that are interested in marketing that he has provisions for, we can always expand the number of structures.

Councilmember Robinson asked Mr. Allen if she heard him correctly when he stated that this program will cost the City nothing.

Mr. Allen responded, "It will cost you absolutely nothing". He added that he would design the system for the City as a marketing tool for the City. He further added that the purpose of the program is to eliminate the use of weekend directional signage and temporary signs that are in the median.

Councilmember Robinson stated that she was having difficulties believing that the signs are free because nothing is free. She then asked what he would get out of it.

Mr. Allen stated that the intent of the Homebuilder Program is to initiate a Civic Branding program within Union City. He added that he believes that if he provides the City with the option to manage the homebuilder signs, the City would give him the opportunity to work with the City regarding its civic brand to develop the City's gateways, directional way finding system to help remove some of the signage that the City has at the entrance to the City and help to beautify the City to do some place making. He concluded that he hopes that this is a carrot to get the City to work with him on future projects.

Councilmember Robinson asked if the City accepts the carrot, how long will this last.

Mr. Allen stated that the contract proposes a five year arrangement.

Councilmember Nealy asked Mr. Allen to provide the names of any jurisdictions that have done this in the past and what has been the overall result based on a revenue standpoint.

Mr. Allen stated that the most visible projects are with Fulton County. He added that this project has been in place for eleven years. He further added that the process was initiated with 388 structures and over 1200 panels. Mr. Allen stated that the program was instituted during the height of the housing boom, but the program was administered for Fulton County by the Airport Area Chamber, but over a ten year period, that program generated over \$325,000 for the County. He added that he would suggest the community commit project as it allows the City to utilize the proceeds from the administrative fees to go back to specific projects that beautify the City, so those funds would go directly to create a new gateway project to develop a new sign program for the City for the entry area off of the interstate. He continued stating that the funds could be utilized for anything that the City likes, but he has

found that there are many communities that like to have targeted programs to utilize the proceeds.

Councilmember Nealy asked if Mr. Allen uses Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) services for a connectivity model for everyone.

Mr. Allen responded, "Yes". He added that even though the programs are designed individually to meet the civic need of each individual city, he tries to use a uniformed approach to signage for all of the communities. He further added that he has tried to work with all of the Southern Crescent cities to identify programs that will give a unified look. He concluded that he is working with ARC, the Board of Aerotropolis Alliance and a number of other agencies and organizations to try and develop a uniformed sign program.

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. Council to consider an extension of the Engineering RFP to be awarded by the end of August 2015 and extend the current contract. (This items was deferred on April 21, 2015 to return on September 15, 2015)

2. Approval of the Minutes:
 - 1st Millage Rate Hearing, 8/11/2015
 - FY2016 Budget Presentation, 8/11/2015
 - 2nd Millage Rate Hearing &
 - Public Hearing- FY2016 Budget, 8/11/2015
 - Worksession Meeting &
 - FY2016 Final Millage Rate Hearing, 8/18/2015
 - Regular Council Meeting &
 - Adoption of the Millage Rate & FY 2106 Budget, 8/18/2015

3. Council to consider approval of a request to appoint Mr. Duke Bradley, III to the Tourism Board.

4. Council to consider approval of an Ordinance to revise provisions pertaining to pawnbrokers; to revise provisions pertaining to dealers in precious metals and gems; to enact provisions pertaining to secondhand dealers; to enact provisions pertaining to secondary metal dealers.

5. Council to consider approval of a Resolution to adopt a schedule of fees for secondhand dealers; to adopt a schedule of fees for pawnbrokers; to adopt a schedule

of fees for precious metals dealers; to adopt a schedule of fees for secondary metals recyclers.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved.

V. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VI. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

1. Council to consider approval of a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment to Article V General Provisions regarding exterior residential building materials and exterior commercial building materials. (Planning Commission Recommends Denial)

Community Development Director Nicole Dozier led this discussion and stated that on August 31, 2015 the Planning Commission recommended denial of this particular amendment because they would like the opportunity to receive additional information as it relates to the materials that could be utilized as a part of this amendment. She then requested that the Council return this item to the Planning Commission for further consideration and reconsider their recommendation to the Council.

Public Hearing Opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing Closed.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, the Council returned the aforementioned item to the Planning Commission to return when the information has been received. Vote was unanimous.

City Manager Reports:

Mrs. Fillingame reported the following:

- Fire Department Personnel Update

At this time City Manager Fillingame asked Fire Chief Joe Maddox to address the Council regarding a departmental personnel update.

Chief Maddox led this discussion and stated that he would like to introduce his selection for the Assistant Fire Chief position. He added that after careful consideration and a background check he selected Battalion Chief Mike Clark. He further added that Battalion Chief Clark was one of the youngest persons to be certified as a firefighter in the State of Georgia at the age of sixteen and that special permission was obtained to swear him in. He added that Battalion Chief Clark served as a volunteer fireman for the City of Palmetto and worked

his way up to Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department. He further added that he has no doubt that Battalion Chief Clark will fully support him, the fire department as well as the City and any goals and objectives that the Council has in mind. At this time Chief Maddox introduced Assistant Fire Chief Mike Clark.

Assistant Fire Chief Clark thanked the Mayor, Council and City Manager for supporting Chief Maddox's decision and to let him know if there is anything that he can do to assist them.

- Breast Cancer Awareness 5K
- Union City Arts and Crafts Festival

City Manager Fillingame reminded the Council that the Breast Cancer Awareness 5K and the Union City Arts and Craft Festival are scheduled for October 24. She added that several home coming events are coming up including the Coronation on September 24 at Banneker High School and the first game for homecoming will take place on September 26 following the coronation at Ronald Bridges Park where the King and Queen will be crowned.

At this time Mayor Williams recognized the men and women in the fire department that were present.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilmember Robinson spoke regarding the following:

- Many thanks were extended to the Fire Department
- Congratulations were extended to Assistant Chief Clark
- Thanks were given to the residents for attending the meeting
- Recognition and thanks were given to Ms. Barber and Ms. Hinton
- Thanks were given to staff
- Thanks and gratitude were extended to Police Chief Odom
- Thanks were given to the citizens for allowing her to be on the City Council
- An invitation was extended to the residents to attend the Arts and Craft Festival

Councilmember Nealy spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks were given to the residents for coming out and staying engaged
- Special thanks were given to Councilmember Nealy's neighbors for coming out
- Thanks were given to the residents for giving staff accolades
- Thanks were given to the Police Department for responding timely and handling issues with finesse

- Thanks were given to the Community Development Department for the business newsletter
- Recognition was given to the Public Services Department for getting the stormwater projects underway
- Congratulations were extended to Dr. Duke Bradley, III for his appointment to the Tourism Board and to Assistant Chief Clark for his new appointment

Councilmember Jones spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks were given to Reverend Love for inviting him to the candidate forum
- A request was made to keep the Jones and Devore Family in our prayers
- Congratulations were extended to Assistant Chief Clark for his appointment
- An announcement was made to the residents that Buffington Road is open
- Thanks were given to the residents for coming out
- Thanks were given to staff for all that they do daily

Mayor Williams spoke regarding the following:

- Congratulations were extended to Assistant Chief Clark for his appointment
- Acknowledgement was to the opening of Buffington Road and the positive effect that it has on the City
- An announcement was made that Union City is on the rise
- Thanks were given to the residents for supporting what is going on in the City
- Thanks were given to the residents for coming to the meeting
- Greetings were given to Mr. Lewis Helvey

City Attorney Davenport stated that he needed to enter into Executive Session to discuss one item regarding pending litigation and review the Executive Session Minutes from August 18, 2015.

On motion of Councilmember Nealy seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss one item regarding pending litigation and review the Executive Session Minutes from August 18, 2015. Vote was unanimous.

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

At this time City Attorney Davenport informed the Council that he has heard that the Council has the ability to try and resolve some litigation that we have had with Service Delivery Strategy in Fulton County. He added that the terms and conditions are laid out with respect to the local roads in Fulton County. He further added that Fulton County agreed to pay for the maintenance upkeep of the construction of the local roads of the special service tax district fund. Attorney Davenport stated that all other roads will be paid for out of the general fund. He added that this is acceptable to Fulton County and the County wants to know if it is acceptable to all cities and all of the cities are looking at the terms and conditions. He concluded that all indications are that every city is favorable with the terms and conditions. He then asked the

Council for the Council's pleasure with respect to resolving the law suit under the current terms and conditions.

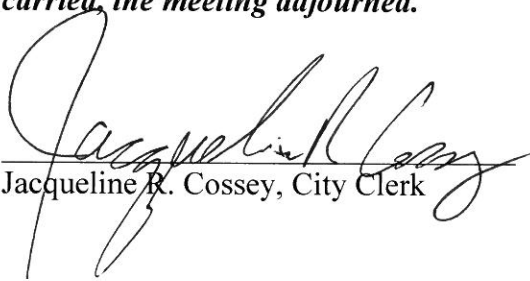
Mayor Williams stated that he attended a couple of meetings where there were very spirited conversations, but he believes that we have reached a place where we all can live with this decision that is going to benefit everyone involved. He then recommended that the Council support the term and conditions to resolve the matter.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, Council agreed to approve the Service Delivery Strategy Settlement with Fulton County. Vote was unanimous.

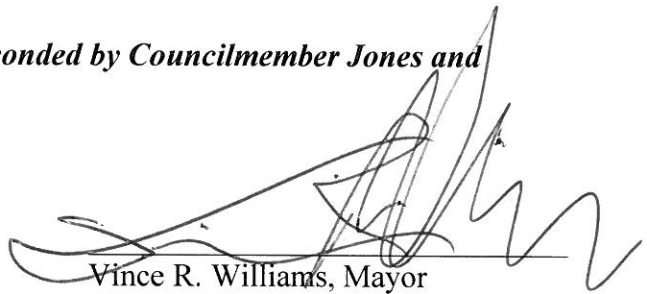
On motion of Councilmember Nealy seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the Executive Session Minutes from August 18, 2015 were unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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



Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk



Vince R. Williams, Mayor