

UNION CITY MINUTES
WORKSESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
6:30 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, Nicole Dozier – Community Development, Lee Blicht – Parks & Recreation, Trey Bennings – Information Technology and Joe Maddox - Fire Chief

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:35 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:

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

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. 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)

Anna-Marie Robinson-Berry led this discussion and stated that she was present on behalf of the Finance Department with a request to release the RFP 16-01 for Engineering Projects to the Union City website and the Georgia Procurement website.

Councilmember Nealy asked Ms. Robinson-Berry to review the timeline.

Mrs. Robinson-Berry stated that if approved this evening the Finance Department would like to release the RFP to the aforementioned website beginning tomorrow. She added that questions are due by October 9, 2015, a pre-bid proposal meeting will be held in Council Chambers on October 15, 2015 and all questions will be posted on

both websites on October 15, 2015. She concluded that bids will be due October 27, 2015 and a bidder should be awarded by January 1, 2016.

Councilmember Jones asked if the City's procurement rules allow for us to bid the award to multiple contractors.

Mrs. Robinson-Berry responded, "No, only one".

Councilmember Jones asked if we have ever considered, "Union City First" where points are allotted to businesses located within the city limits of Union City. He then asked if there was a law prohibiting such. He added that this is something that Fulton County does and he is trying to piggyback off of that.

City Attorney Davenport stated that he is not aware of a prohibition from doing so.

Councilmember Nealy stated that Clayton County has a small business forum where additional incentives are provided to businesses within the county limits.

Mrs. Robinson-Berry stated that this is something that the Finance Department will consider.

VI. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS:

1. 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

Mayor Williams asked if there were any corrections or issues with the minutes.

No corrections were made.

The minutes were added to the consent agenda as written.

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

Community Development Director Nicole Dozier led this discussion and stated that staff is recommending Dr. Bradley to replace Mr. Greer on the Tourism Board. She added that Mr. Greer is unable to participate fully on the Board and Dr. Bradley expressed an interest. She concluded that Dr. Bradley is the principal at Banneker High School.

Mayor Williams stated that this would bring a level of continuity to the Board.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

3. 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.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard led this discussion and stated that burglaries are a real problem in Fulton County. He added that for several years the District Attorney's office has worked with Police Departments all across the county to try and reduce the burglaries. He further added that he set up a burglary task force in 2009 with a goal to reduce burglaries by 30% and after a three year period, the burglaries were reduced by 29%. Mr. Howard stated he is trying to go to the next level and he believes that the next level is to set up a system that will require all pawn shops and secondhand shops in the county to utilize an internet reporting system. He added that there are two prominent systems, LeadsOnline and BMI. He further added that statistics show that about 42% of stolen items in our community are sold at pawn shops. Mr. Howard stated that this means that if someone burglarizes a house in Union City, shortly afterwards the person may take the property to a pawn shop in Atlanta, Alpharetta, East Point or some other community. He added that by installing this internet reporting process, when the property is sold, the transaction is immediately made available to the Union City Police Department so that they can identify the stolen property, the defendant and possibly recover the stolen property. Mr. Howard stated that a number of jurisdictions across the county have already done this. He added that Tucson, Arizona was considered the burglary capital of America and when they put this system in place, within a period of two years; they reduced burglaries by 18% and reduced property crimes by 43%. Mr. Howard stated that the city that has probably had the greatest result is Dallas, Texas. He added that Dallas, Texas put this into effect and have been able to reduce property crime by 53%. He further added that he believes that if he can get all of the jurisdictions in Fulton County connected, we could have a percentage reduction around 40%. Mr. Howard stated that in order to get this done, we have to get an ordinance passed in every municipality. He then reiterated that when a pawn shop transaction takes place, the internet process will take a photo of the person, a copy of the driver's license, the person's fingerprint, and a description of the property. He added that the transaction will be placed on a database and the database can be compared against burglary databases in every jurisdiction across the country. He further added that he submitted an ordinance, but a few things may need to be changed. Mr. Howard explained that in one part of the document he asked that a part of the ordinance include the regulation of scrap metal shops, but this is one of the parts of the bill that Union City would not need to pass because the state has passed a law requiring the scrap metal dealers to use LeadsOnline. He added that hopefully the scrap metal dealers can be connected.

Mayor Williams stated that Union City is currently using LeadsOnline and have been doing so for approximately three years.

Councilmember Jones asked if a serial number is required to get an effective result.

Mr. Howard stated that a serial number will not be required because LeadsOnline sends out a description of the property and on many occasions, you can determine that it was stolen due to the uniqueness of the item.

Councilmember Nealy asked what is the timeline for all municipalities solidifying the document and putting it into play.

Mr. Howard stated that he is hoping that the City of Atlanta will come on board in October and if they become a member we could look to have at least 80% of the municipalities in our County connected through one system by January 2016. He added that the cost has been an issue for the smaller municipalities, but he is hoping that once the City of Atlanta comes on board that the payment for LeadsOnline by the City of Atlanta will also cover the cost for the smaller jurisdictions.

Councilmember Jones asked if we would get an annual report on how the system is working.

Mr. Howard stated that he is envisioning a countywide pawn desk that will produce an annual report for all of the municipalities in our county that are connected with the system because he is interested in how it will drive down burglaries and property crimes all over the county.

Mayor Williams stated that this will become very effective if everybody comes on board.

Councilmember Robinson asked for clarity.

Mr. Howard provided a brief explanation of the process again.

Councilmember Robinson then asked what ordinance will ensure that the pawn shops are entering the information into the system.

Mr. Howard explained that under this ordinance, the Chief of Police would have the authority to decide which services he uses, Union City is already using LeadsOnline, but the ordinance also sets up a schedule that requires the pawn shops to use it and if they do not use it; they are subject to fines and having their business licenses removed.

Councilmember Nealy asked if Union City has the provision to modify the ordinance as we deem necessary for our jurisdiction as long as we have the bulk of the components similar to the others.

Mr. Howard responded, "That is correct". He added that the document that he drew up is most appropriate for the City of Atlanta and the City of College but Park East Point wants to consider something on a smaller scale.

Mayor Williams stated that we only have one pawn shop in the City.

At this time Police Chief Odom stated that he strongly supports the ordinance and insisted that the pawn shop use LeadsOnline and they graciously did so and he has experienced great results. He added that if the Council adopts this ordinance any

future pawn shops will be forced to play by the same rules and that would benefit all of us greatly.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

4. 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.

Mr. Howard also led this discussion and stated that this resolution sets the fee for the transactions, but the ordinance extends, not just to pawn shops but to gold and silver shops, secondhand dealers and any place where someone would usually come in to pawn property. He added that Cobb County passed the same law, but they limited the passage to pawnshops, but Cobb County found that they made a big mistake because a lot of the property is taken to other locations and this extends it to other locale.

Councilmember Jones asked if the fee is paid to the City.

Mr. Howard explained that the fee is paid to the City and the fee is set for the police to pay for maintenance for LeadsOnline. He added that right now it is probably being paid out of the general fund, but once the fee is collected; that would pay for the LeadsOnline.

This item was added to the consent agenda.

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 the Planning Commission heard this item on August 31, 2015 and recommended denial due to a lack of information regarding additional materials. She added that the amendment added changes to allow a few extra materials such as vinyl and metal in certain instances for commercial structures. She further added that the primary recommendation in the amendment was concerning the mixture of the use of brick, stone, vinyl and cemented siding on the front façade. Mrs. Dozier stated that currently the Zoning Ordinance only allows it within a residential district for it to be 100% brick or stone. She added that in order to allow a bigger variety to the home builders the recommendation is to allow home builders to have a little more variety, in terms of the materials that they could use, on the front of the facades. She further added that they would be able to use a 50/50 mixture with stone or brick, depending on their selection, and the rest of the building would be the standard brick or stone façade treatment that they chose. Mrs. Dozier stated that with regards to commercial development, 80% of the front of the façade typically has to be either brick or stone and this amendment would allow them to get more of a 50/50 utilization of a variety of siding on the exterior of the buildings. She added that she wanted to provide a little more diversity as it relates to the aesthetic design of the structures in the City to give Union City more of a unique look versus the standard/typical stone and brick facades that we see throughout Georgia. Mrs. Dozier

explained that this was the reason that staff made the recommendation, however the Planning Commission denied the recommended amendment and are awaiting additional information.

Councilmember Jones stated that he would like to hear more information from the Planning Commission and allow them to get all of the information that they need.

City Attorney Davenport asked for clarity. He then asked if the Planning Commission position is to as the Council not to consider this item tonight.

Mrs. Dozier explained that when she advertised for items that are going to be heard by the Planning Commission, she also advertised for them to be heard by the City Council simultaneously. She added that due to the fact that the item was advertised in the newspaper to come before the Council tonight, there must be a public hearing tonight. She further added that as it stands tonight this is more of a status report than a recommendation.

City Attorney Davenport asked Mrs. Dozier if she was looking for a decision of approval or denial from the Mayor and Council or if she wants the Mayor and Council to send the item back to the Planning Commission for additional information.

Mrs. Dozier stated that it would be ideal for the Mayor and Council to send the item back to the Planning Commission due to the fact that they denied the item due to a lack of information.

City Attorney Davenport stated that since the item has been advertised for a public hearing the Council has to hear it tonight, but the desire of the Planning Commission is to have the item to return to them.

Public Hearing Opened.

No one came forward.

Public Hearing Closed.

City Manager Reports:

- Fire Department Personnel Update
- Breast Cancer Awareness 5K
- Union City Arts and Crafts Festival

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS:

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.