

UNION CITY MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015
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

Directors: Rhonda Jones – Human Resources, Cedric Clark – Public Services, Joe Maddox - Fire Chief, Nicole Dozier – Community Development, and Trey Bennings – Information Technology

Absent: Tarsha Calloway – Finance, Lee Blich – Parks & Recreation, Chuck Odom – Police Chief

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 by Mayor Vince Williams

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

Public comments were made by the following:

Charissa Reedy of 3508 Devon Chase Road stated that she would like to comment on the public hearing.

Cherokee Hill of 5141 Dixie Lake Road spoke regarding great things that are happening in the City.

Yvonne Barber of 6385 Church Street thanked the Council for all that they do as the City is looking lovely. She then read aloud a Letter of Commendation for the acts of Officer Ben Pace from Palmetto, Georgia.

Lewis Helvey of 4900 College Street thanked the Fire Department for their great response and assisting his wife. He then thanked the Council for doing a superb job.

III. PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. Bob Crutchfield, Retiring CEO of Christian City, to introduce Len Romano, Incoming CEO of Christian City (effective December 1, 2015)

Mr. Crutchfield provided the history of Christian City, a 500 acre campus and one of Metropolitan Atlanta's largest retirement communities with nearly 1,000 residents. In addition Christian City has a Children's Village for abused and abandoned children. He also shared his work experience of over 23 years with Christian City and the great relationship that he developed with Union City's Mayor, Council and Staff. He then introduced Mr. Len Romano, the incoming CEO of Christian City.

At this time Mr. Crutchfield received a standing ovation.

Mayor Williams presented Mr. Crutchfield with a key to the City followed by a photo with the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Williams asked Mr. Romano to offer a few words.

Mr. Romano addressed the Council and stated that he is looking forward to being a part of this community and doing what he can to help Union City to be the kind of place that people want to come and live, work and play.

2. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – Award of Financial Reporting Achievement

This item will be presented in December

3. VC3 Update presented by Ryan Wilson

Ryan Wilson of VC3 stated that he appreciates the opportunity to do business with the City. He added that the City is moving to a cloud based environment for its entire infrastructure, servers and hosted desktops. He added that he has ordered the new internet link for the City, so that it will be in place and the estimated timeframe for that coming in is December 10th. He further added that he has shipped a physical server on site to the City where all of the City's new infrastructure will be built out and that is actually complete as it has been built out already and began testing yesterday. Mr. Wilson stated that there are 28 pilot users throughout the City who are testing the various applications and making sure that everything is working as it should. He added that we have a go live date of December 14th. He further added that that is a tentative date because he will not go live until every pilot user has tested and made sure that everything is working appropriately and as long as that is the case, we will go live on December 14th and take everybody into the cloud. Mr. Wilson stated that staff will then utilize the on premise server that he provided and if everything is working fine throughout the holidays; after the first of the year, he will deploy all of the new computer systems. He added that once the computers have been replaced the physical server that is on site will be moved to his data center which will be done over one weekend.

Councilmember Jones asked what will happen to the existing computers.

Mr. Wilson stated that it is up to the Council. He added that others have redeployed them within the City for particular uses such as GIS. He further added that other cities have donated the computers or sold the devices.

City Manager Fillingame informed the Council that the City is approved through GovDeals which is another option.

Councilmember Jones stated that he is glad to see that it will be online sooner rather than later. He added that we may have a harsh winter so it is good to know that we can still operate even if we are closed.

Mr. Jaffer responded, "It is".

Councilmember Robinson asked what was the dialog with Pastor Hamner.

Mr. Jaffer stated that he had the impression that Pastor Hamner was satisfied after their discussion. He added that they discussed security in the community. He concluded that he gave Pastor Hamner his personal cell phone number to call him if any issues arise.

Councilmember Robinson stated that she just wanted comments from their discussion on the record so that it will not come back on the Council in an unpleasant way. She then thanked Mr. Jaffer for reaching out to Pastor Hamner.

At this time Mayor Williams thanked Mr. Jaffer for reaching out to Pastor Hamner per his suggestion.

Public Hearing Closed.

On motion of Councilmember Robinson seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, the aforementioned item was approved by a three-to-two (3- to- 2) vote. Councilmembers Jones and Mealing voted in opposition.

2. **Public Hearing** to consider rezoning 4.5 acres of land on Buffington road into Union City. **(Planning Commission Recommended Approval)** *(This item was deferred for 30-days)*
3. **Public Hearing** to consider annexing 4.5 acres of land on Buffington Road into Union City. **(Planning Commission Recommended Approval)** *(This item was deferred for 30-days)*

Community Development Director Nicole Dozier led this discussion and stated that the applicant has requested to withdraw his application at this time but it will be submitted at a later date.

On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the request to withdraw the rezoning and annexation 4.5 acres of land on Buffington Road unanimously approved.

VI. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS: None.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

City Manager Reports:

- Ball fields Update

City Manager Fillingame stated that there were funds appropriated to improve and enhance the ball fields so Director Clark will provide a status report.

Public Services Director Cedric Clark reported that the project team has had two meetings where they discussed the project. He added that the first meeting was to

discuss and agree upon a limited scope of work based on the number that was approved by the Mayor and Council in the budget. He further added that while he appreciates that work that was done by Georgia Tech, he realized that their report was a concept master plan and not a detail design which we need to have in the form of solicitation. Director Clark stated that staff is working through that to determine the best vehicle to put that solicitation out for procurement. He concluded that this is an ongoing discussion and the Public Services Department is working diligently with the Finance Department to come up with a recommendation.

Mrs. Fillingame stated that Parks and Recreation Director Lee Blich is also working with them.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilmember Robinson spoke regarding the following:

- She announced that she is coming close to the end of her term
- Recognition was given to Dr. Christina Hobbs
- Congratulations were extended to Fire Chief Joe Maddox for obtaining his Masters Degree
- Condolences were extended to Director Clark for losing his Grandmother
- Many thanks were given to the residents for coming out and being engaged
- Thanks were given to the Police Department and Fire Department
- The comment was made that she will continue to be active once her term is over
- Thanks were given to her colleagues

Councilmember Mealing spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks were given to everyone for coming to the meeting
- An explanation was provided as to why she voted against Circle K's liquor license
- Recognition was given to Bob Crutchfield and he will be missed
- Thanks were given to the residents for their positive comments regarding the Police and Fire Department
- Thanks were given to staff for all that they do
- Best wishes for a happy holiday was extended to all
- Recognition was given to the Finance Department for working extended hours, but should go home
- Many thanks were extended to the residents for coming out and staying engaged

Councilmember Jones spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks were given to Bob Crutchfield for his leadership and service to Christian City and Union City over the past 23 years
- Thanks were given to staff for a great Fall Festival, Arts Festival, 5K Run and Veterans Day Ceremony

- He announced that the Union City Job Fair will be held on December 8th from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at the Etris Community Center
- He announced that he is supporting “No Shave November” and donating the funds to Cancer Research
- He announced that 780 voters participated in Union City’s 2015 Election, but 8500 are registered voters, so we all need to go out and vote
- Public Works, Code Enforcement, Police Department and the Fire Department were put on notice regarding cleanup throughout the City
- A Happy Thanksgiving was extended to everyone

Councilmember Nealy spoke regarding the following:

- She expressed her appreciation for all of the high commendations and great remarks made regarding the service of our staff
- Thanks were given to the residents and staff
- Thanks were given to Bob Crutchfield for his service to Christian City and Union City as well as a warm welcome to Len Romano
- Congratulations were extended to Parks and Recreation staff for a great job with the Fall Festival
- She announced that she was able to bring updates to the South Fulton Democrats regarding the great things happening in Union City and how it will affect the South Fulton Region
- Thanks were given to City Manager Fillingame for her support in the aforementioned endeavor
- Recognition was given for a great Veterans Day Ceremony
- She informed Community Development Director Nicole Dozier that she would like to carve out some time to discuss the Studio, Look Books and support documents for the businesses that are looking to come to the area
- She expressed gratitude for being an American
- Bountiful Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving was expressed to all

Mayor Williams spoke regarding the following:

- Recognition was given to staff for supporting GMA’s Mayors’ Christmas Motorcade, established in 1959 at the request of First Lady Betty Vandiver as a way to provide holiday gifts to the patients of Georgia’s Mental Health and Retardation Hospitals
- Thanks were given to Bob Crutchfield for introducing Len Romano and for his service in Christian City and around Metropolitan Atlanta
- Commendations were extended to the Union City Team and Councilmember Robinson for an outstanding job with the Arts and Jazz Festival
- He announced that the Oakley Industrial Boulevard Ribbon Cutting was October 23rd

At this time Mayor Williams stated the following, “To my Council colleagues, I am so proud we are on the same team. We owe this City professionalism at its best at all times. Councilmen Jones, huge congratulations on being reelected by the voters of Union City as well as congratulations to Councilwoman elect Dr. Christine Hobbs. We look forward to you joining this crazy marriage. Let me say this, the outcome of an election doesn’t determine the status of this marriage.

Councilwoman Robinson, congratulations on your job as a member of this body and we salute all of your hard work and contributions over these past two exciting years of you serving Union City. You will always be Councilwoman Joyce Robinson. To Mr. Blich, he is not here, but anyway we know that Lee Blich and his team do a wonderful job with keeping the Parks and Recreation Programs exciting and relevant for our children and our adults by providing tremendous recreational sports and exercise opportunities and also bridge. I know somebody who plays regularly, I live with her. We are so proud of the numerous accomplishments and the notoriety the teams are receiving in all of the various competitions such as basketball, baseball, cheerleading, football and the Miracle League. Thanks for a fun event with the UC Fall Festival that was one of the most outstanding shows that we have had in a long time. I really appreciate it; it is always great to see our young people having fun. I want to give a mention to one of UC's supportive advocates and she certainly expressed that earlier with our Parks and Recreations because of much of what you see in our programming is because of her undying commitment, Councilwoman Angelette Mealing thank you for being a Parks and Recs Queen. We appreciate you. I would like to also take this time to congratulate Councilwoman Shayla Nealy on being appointed to serve on the Stormwater Policy Committee for (SESWA) and it is the South East Stormwater Association, for those of you who don't know. It is a prestigious appointment with distinction, not only for Councilwoman Nealy but for Union City as well. Her assigned territory includes not only Georgia, but Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Part of her duties will be giving guidance and oversight of the association's activities relating to Congress and Federal Agencies; they interact greatly with EPA and all of those folks so certainly she is a stormwater expert so certainly we will be able to arm-wrestle many folks who have a problem with us regarding stormwater. This certainly speaks volumes of the caliber of people we have on our Union City team and this is a very celebrated designation, so congratulations to you. Chief Chuck Odom and all of the folks over there, well you don't look like Chuck, but to our entire Union City Police Department, thanks for all of your hard work with keeping the city safe. Chief Joe Maddox, congratulations on your other degree, but also just thank you for your leadership, you have done an outstanding job this year. How many of you remember Martin and Lewis, Amos and Andy, Sam and Dave? Have you ever heard of Terry and Richard? That's Code Enforcement, we thank them they are some hilarious guys and they are very musical, for many of you who don't know, but certainly we thank them for being the duo that they are and we have requested help for them and I know it is on the way and we will continue to put the pressure on to make sure that help gets to them because they do an outstanding job by going the extra mile. Mrs. Jaki Cossey and Ms. Porscha Washington, our City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk, thanks for always hitting a homerun. Ms. Ashley Minter, the UC Arts Jazz Festival and our 5K Breast Cancer event were over the top. Ashley, I don't have words for you and I am not going to even try right now. You are like my own, you are phenomenally amazing and we appreciate you, thank you for all that you do. Mrs. Cindy Givens, she came in as a shining star and thanks for all of your support. I know I can get crazy and get on your nerves, but thank you. Mr. Trey Bennings, we thank you for keeping us connected to the world and we also welcome VC3 to our team. Chief Council, Dennis Davenport, it is rare that we get an opportunity to recognize you, but I want to thank you and Attorney Patrick

Stough from the Firm of McNally, Fox, Grant and Davenport, thank you for all that you do. Mrs. Nicole Dozier and the entire Economic Community Development/Planning team, Cheryl and Tuyanna, you three are the Supremes, outstanding work and we know you have some great things happening and we thank you. Mrs. Rhonda Jones' outstanding leadership, in our H.R. Department, is simply amazing. Your job sees many of the team when we are at our lowest and certainly sometimes at our highest. Keep doing what you are doing, the workshops, seminars, lunch and learns and health fairs are extremely informative and the Union City Human Resources Newsletter is truly making a difference. I would like to welcome the new addition to your team, Ms. Chandra Lewis, thank you. Mr. Cedric Clark, it goes without saying, you and the entire public services team, thanks for a job well done. In her absence Mrs. Tarsha Calloway with her Finance and Water team are always working quietly behind the scenes, we owe you a great big thank you always. We know that you put up with a lot. Thanks to the entire Water Department and The O'Jays of water, Jim, Kenneth and Johnny. Please keep Tarsha and her family in your prayers. City Manager Sonja Fillingame, you are blessing and anyone I may have missed you know I love you and there is nothing that you can do about it. I thank you for being on the Union City team. Our neighborhoods are constantly changing and there will be more City interaction from a true community policing effort moving forward, that is the request of this body, so City Manager make sure that you share that. Assistant Police Chief, share that with the Chief. We want true community policing and that means parking your cars, getting out, walking, shaking hands and saying hello and penetrating the community. We have got to let folks know that we are part of the community, we can't continue to stay separated or segregated so with that said this is a warning to those who think we will be held hostage in our community, not gonna happen. We know what we need in and from our Union City team of professionals while supporting the City's vision for a clean and inviting community for the infrastructure to sustain growth for increased community amenities and activities for vital public safety, for capital projects, illustrating smart development, a strategy that effectively markets our community and planned growth while maintaining a rich historical integrity and community character. With this vision we can continue to make Union City a place where you can live, work, play and stay. To the citizens of Union City, you are absolutely awesome and I thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be at your service. God is good and we thank you."

City Attorney Davenport stated that he needed to enter into Executive Session to discuss one item regarding threatened litigation and review the Executive Session Minutes from October 20, 2015.

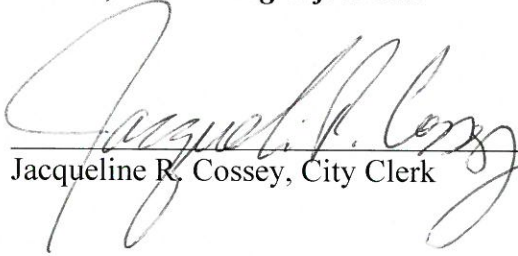
On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss one item regarding threatened litigation and review the Executive Session Minutes from October 20, 2015. Vote was unanimous.

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

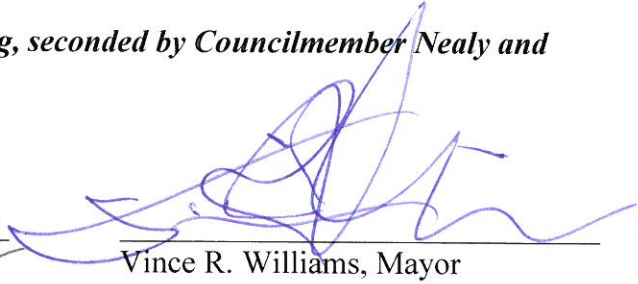
On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the Executive Session Minutes from October 20, 2015 were unanimously approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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



Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk



Vince R. Williams, Mayor