

UNION CITY MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2016  
7:00 P.M.

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

Dept. Heads: Cedric Clark – Public Services, Joe Maddox - Fire Chief, Nicole Dozier – Community Development, Trey Bennings – Information Technology, Tarsha Calloway – Finance, Cassandra Jones – Interim Police Chief and Lee Blich – Parks & Recreation

Absent: Rhonda Jones – Human Resources

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.)

Public comments were made by the following:

Curtis Bryant of 5485 Lakeside Drive spoke regarding problems with the homeless on closed road and dam of the former Upper Dixie Lake area.

Patrilla Hannah of 4055 Union Road spoke regarding the mail system.

Richard Schmidt of 5065 Riverlake Drive spoke regarding his concerns with the conduct of a Union City Officer.

III. PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

At this time Mayor Williams stated that he would switch it up and swear-in Interim Police Chief Cassandra Jones first.

Swearing-in of Interim Police Chief Cassandra Jones

At this time Municipal Court Judge Ronald Freeman performed the swearing-in of Interim Police Chief Cassandra Jones. The swearing-in was followed by a photo with the Mayor and Council.

Swearing-in of Councilmember Brian Jones

Municipal Court Judge Ronald Freeman performed the swearing-in of Councilmember Brian Jones. The swearing-in was followed by a photo with the Mayor and Council.

Swearing-in of Councilmember Christina Hobbs

Municipal Court Judge Ronald Freeman performed the swearing-in of Councilmember Christina Hobbs. The swearing-in was followed by a photo with the Mayor and Council.

Fulton County Chief Operations Officer, Todd Long, to discuss HB 170

This presentation was heard during the Worksession.

Presentation by Public Services Director Cedric Clark regarding Leak Detection

Director Clark stated that two years ago we made an aggressive push to take a hard look at our water system to see where improvement should be made and we have been moving aggressively on our meter replacement program under the direction of the Finance Director and City Manager. He added that he has also instituted calibration on the large meters which was phase I now he will move to phase II with calibration on the smaller meters. Mr. Clark stated that with regards to leak detection he has looked at the system and all of the leaks that were found were minor. At this time Director Clark turned the presentation over to the City Asset Manager Lonnie Ferguson.

Asset Manager Lonnie Ferguson shared a brief slide show/presentation and displayed equipment with regards to leak detection. He added that the equipment, provided by Match Point, allows the City to perform any further surveys in-house to decrease or eliminate water loss percentage throughout the year.

Councilmember Mealing asked if Mr. Ferguson's spreadsheet was as detailed as Match Point's spreadsheet with regards to the reporting.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he plans to mimic Match Point's spreadsheet, but he has not started yet.

Councilmember Mealing asked how many team members do we have on the leak detection program.

Mr. Ferguson stated that it will be addressed.

Mayor Williams stated that he is concerned that we are already short in that department.

Director Clark stated that once the devices are reading mobile, which will free up the water crew so when they are not fixing water leaks, they can assist with leak detection and they will alternate that between work orders.

Mayor Williams asked if Mr. Clark was aware of the accuracy from Match Point for the leading current percentages that they share with us regarding our 19.9% in leakage.

Mr. Clark stated that he has not had any discussion with Match Point on their historical data as it pertains to different cities that they are involved with and how they have improved the NRW, but he can have that conversation.

Councilmember Nealy requested the status of the meter replacement project and asked if we have received a cost savings with the changes.

Finance Director Tarsha Calloway stated that they have plans to be complete with the current meters that she has by the end of February. She added that meters will continue to go out and they will be replaced also, but we are getting much more revenue in.

Councilmember Jones asked how much does the logger cost and could we get more to use around the City.

Mr. Ferguson stated that he does not have the cost estimate with him, but they are expensive.

Councilmember Hobbs asked how are the addresses selected that are being monitored.

Mr. Ferguson stated that they have not come up with a game plan yet.

Director Clark clarified that the data that we are reviewing right now has already been completed for the entire system and that was outsourced to a contractor, so we have already surveyed the system one time. He added that going forward when we use our in-house equipment we will have to determine how we will strategically do that.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the contractor started from the northern part of the City and surveyed his way down to get the information that we have now. He concluded that Match Point determined that with all 38 leaks repaired, the City saved \$338,000 per year.

Mayor Williams asked how would this benefit areas like Shannon Villas and Old Virginia that have had serious issues with their water meters.

Mr. Clark stated that Shannon Villas has already asked him for the information from the contractor so that they can bring them in and monitor their system on a routine schedule and if that works he will do the same thing with Old Virginia as they are both private.

Mayor Williams stated that although they are private we want to share the news that we have someone that can help.

Presentation by Public Services Director Cedric Clark regarding GDOT Signal Timing for SR 138.

At this time Mr. Clark introduced Michael Govus of GDOT addressed the Council and stated that the signal timing project on 138 that identified several deficiencies. He added that overall the general scope of work with this project is fixing broken equipment. He added that there are issues with the pedestrian accommodations and everything needs to be brought up to ADA standards. Mr. Govus stated that the biggest notable change that the traveling public will see will be the conversion of the

traditional five section protect permissive signal head to the flashing arrow signal head. He added that there are numerous safety benefits in addition to reducing crashes. He further added that the flashing arrow signal head is the new standard from the Manual and Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Mr. Govus stated that there are many operational benefits with the use of this device. He added what he is proposing will take place on Goodson Connector, on the west side and over to the north side of Oakley Industrial Boulevard. At this time he provided a listing to all deficiencies and areas that he plans to repair. Mr Govus stated that he plans to use the state wide signal maintenance contract to do most of the work and he would like to have everything completed in six months. Mr. Govus stated that GDOT just finalized the contract to update their current signal software and it will offer substantial benefits with signal timing and he is also pushing for remote communications across the state which will help with trouble shooting and timing and that should make a huge difference with traffic operations.

Mayor Williams asked Mr. Govus to share the plans with the Council.

Presentation by Public Services Director Cedric Clark regarding Shannon Parkway

Director Clark led this discussion and shared a presentation and virtual tour regarding Shannon Parkway. He then provided the scope of the project and addressed the landscaping. He added that the project was complete in December 2015 and was 30% under budget. He then commended Lonnie Ferguson for managing this difficult project.

City Manager Fillingame stated that this was our oldest project which extended back to 2003. She then commended the entire team for a great job on the project.

Mayor Williams praised the team for a job well done.

#### 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. Approval of the Minutes:  
  Worksession Meeting, 12/15/2015  
  Regular Council Meeting, 12/15/2015
2. Council to consider appointment of Mayor Pro-tem for 2016. (According to the rotation Councilmember Shayla Nealy should serve as Mayor Pro-tem in 2016)
3. Council to consider re-appointment of City Clerk, Jacqueline R. Cossey
4. Council to consider reappointment of Jo Croom to the Planning Commission. *(Her term expires January 31, 2016)*

5. Council to consider approval of request to execute a Transportation Enhancement Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the Streetscape project on Baker Road, College Road, Union Road and Dodson Road.

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

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Public Hearing** to consider amendments to the Article XI Sign Ordinance in order to provide clarity and update the existing text. **(Planning Commission Recommended Approval)** *(This item was deferred during the December 15, 2015 Council Meeting to return January 19, 2016)*

Mayor Williams stated that we have met and we are going to meet again regarding amendments to the sign ordinance.

Community Development Director Nicole stated that we are meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

City Attorney Davenport stated that the Meeting will take place on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Dozier explained that the meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> is for the sign ordinance and February 8<sup>th</sup> is regarding Town Center Mixed Use (TCMU).

Mrs. Dozier stated that when we initially had the Called Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2016 we moved the meeting to February 1<sup>st</sup> because we will be having the TCMU Worksession on February 8<sup>th</sup>, but we can have two Worksession on February 8<sup>th</sup>, but according to her notes the sign ordinance meeting was scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilmember Mealing stated that according to her notes and her calendar the Sign Ordinance Worksession is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup>. She added that she would not be available on February 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.

City Attorney Davenport stated that he has a meeting in Palmetto on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Williams turned to City Attorney Davenport for direction.

City Attorney Davenport stated that the Council could handle the Sign Ordinance and TCMU in one setting if the Council wants to do so.

Mayor Williams stated that we should stay with February 8<sup>th</sup> with regards to the Worksession since everyone is prepared to be here on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

City Attorney Davenport stated that this will not be a public hearing, but a Worksession to discuss the sign ordinance and TCMU.

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, the Council reaffirmed a Worksession on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the sign ordinance and TCMU. Vote was unanimous.***

VI. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council to consider re-appointment of Department Directors:

City Attorney: McNally, Fox, Grant & Davenport

***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, McNally, Fox, Grant and Davenport was re-appointed as the City Attorney. Vote was unanimous.***

Interim Police Chief: Cassandra Jones

***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Cassandra Jones was appointed as Interim Police Chief. Vote was unanimous.***

Fire Chief: Joe Maddox

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Joe Maddox was reappointed as Fire Chief. Vote was unanimous.***

Public Services Director: Cedric Clark

***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Cedric Clark was reappointed as Public Services Director. Vote was unanimous.***

City Engineer: TBD

Mayor Williams stated that the Moreland Altobelli has been approved as the City Engineer and we need to get the name out so we can move forward.

***On motion of Councilmember Nealy seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Moreland Altobelli was reappointed as the City Engineer. Vote was unanimous.***

Medical Director: Dr. Kenneth E. Jones

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Dr. Kenneth E. Jones was reappointed as the Medical Director. Vote was unanimous.***

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

City Manager Reports:

- Engineering Transition Update

Finance Director Calloway led this discussion and stated that she met with Director Dozier and Clark and they developed a four month transition plan. She stated that the contract was being devised in January and it is currently in review with legal and she anticipates that it will be complete at the end of this month.

She added that there will be a kick off meeting in February with Moreland Altobelli to allow them to get acclimated and familiar with Union City. Mrs. Calloway stated that a joint working relationship between Moreland Altobelli and Keck & Wood will occur in March and the final close out with Keck & Wood will occur in April. She added that she spoke with Mr. Williams at Keck & Wood and he has agreed to keep the rate the same over this transition period. She further added that as long as the hours remain in the normal range we are fine, but if it starts to go over the normal amount then Mr. Williams would need to have a discussion with her and the City Manager.

Mayor Williams stated that we had a great run with Keck & Wood but again the City is moving forward.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

At this time Mayor Williams stated that he is excited because Union City is moving in a new direction and we need a fresh approach to law enforcement in our community and Chief Jones comes with a wealth of experience and we are pleased to have her on board and a part of the Union City team. He then asked Interim Police Chief Jones to come forward and share a few words.

Chief Jones stated that she was excited to be a part of Union City and she is into community oriented policing because the traditional style has not worked. She added that we need to work with our partnerships. She further added that she has an open door policy and if she is in the office she is never too busy to meet with the residents.

Councilmember Nealy spoke regarding the following:

- A warm welcome was extended to Councilmember Hobbs
- Congratulations were extended to Councilmember Jones
- A warm welcome was also extended to Interim Police Chief Jones
- Inspiration was given to her colleagues
- Thanks were given to staff
- Recognition was given to Public Services
- Thanks was given to Director Clark on Shannon Parkway

Councilmember Jones spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks were given to the residents for coming out
- Thanks were given to his team during the election season
- Thanks were given to his wife and daughter (Addison) for their support
- Thanks were given to the residents for entrusting in him for another four years
- A welcome was extended Councilmember Hobbs
- A welcome was extended to Interim Police Chief Jones
- Thanks were given to staff for all that they do to make Union City better

Councilmember Mealing spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks was given to the residents, friends and families for attending the meeting
- Congratulations were extended to Councilmember Hobbs
- Congratulations were extended to Councilmember Jones
- A welcome was extended to Interim Police Chief Jones
- Congratulations were extended to all department heads that were reappointed
- Recognition was given to the GDOT Representative (Michael Govus)
- Recognition was given to Todd Long, Fulton County Chief Operations Officer
- She added, for the record, that like Councilmember Jones, she wants the penny too with regards to transportation

Councilmember Hobbs spoke regarding the following:

- Thanks were given to God for being here
- Thanks were given to the citizens of Union City who showed confidence in her
- Thanks were given to her family
- A special thank you was given to her daughter (Arylle)
- Thanks were given to her colleagues
- Thanks were given to staff

Mayor Williams spoke regarding the following:

- The announcement was made for Union City to tell its own story instead of allowing others to do so
- The announcement was made that he is still grieving his mother and everyone's support means a lot to him
- The announcement that security and safety is vital in Union City
- Thanks was given to staff for what they do each and everyday
- Thanks was given to everyone for coming out

At this time City Manager Fillingame announced that the South Fulton Neighbor made Union City the Newsmaker of the Year.

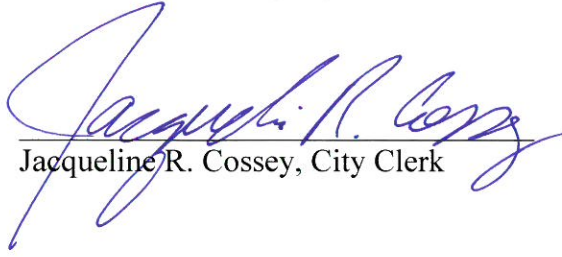
Mayor Williams stated that he is not going to let haters allow him to stop what he is doing for Union City.

***On motion of Councilmember Jones seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the Executive Session Minutes from December 15, 2015 were unanimously approved.***

X. ADJOURNMENT:



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

  
Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk

  
Shayla Nealy, Mayor Pro Tempore

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 19 day of January, 2016.

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.

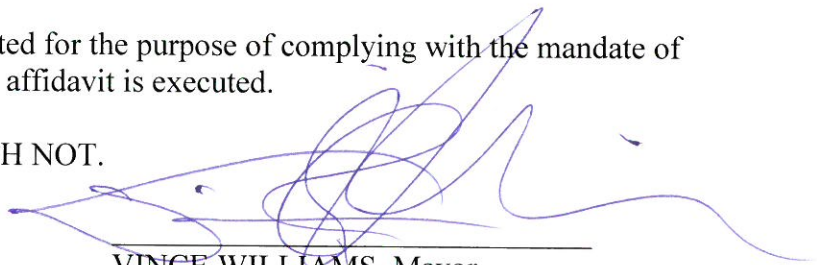
3.

The subject matter of the closed meeting or closed portion of the meeting held on the 19 day of January, 2016, which was closed for the purpose(s) of 2 items regarding threatened litigation & review Executive Session Minutes December 15, 2015 as allowed by O.C.G.A., Title 50, Chapter 14, was devoted to matters within those exceptions and as provided by law.

4.

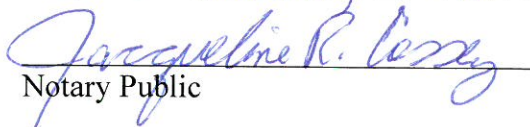
This affidavit is being executed for the purpose of complying with the mandate of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-4 (b) that such an affidavit is executed.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.



VINCE WILLIAMS, Mayor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19 day of January, 2016.

  
Notary Public

Notary Public, Fulton County, Georgia  
My Commission Expire Feb. 13, 2017