

UNION CITY MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Vince Williams, Councilmembers Brian Jones, Christina Hobbs, Angelette Mealing and Shayla Nealy; City Attorney, Dennis Davenport; City Manager, Sonja Fillingame; Interim City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett

Dept. Heads: Finance - Tarsha Calloway, Police Chief - Cassandra Jones, Fire Chief - Joe Maddox, Public Services - Lonnie Ferguson, Parks & Recreation - Lee Blicht, Community Development - Maurice Ungaro (The Collaborative Firm)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Mayor Williams.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Councilmember Angelette Mealing.

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

Public comments were made by the following:

Judith Bowles of 4701 Flat Shoals Road spoke regarding Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) funding. Ms. Bowles expressed interest in Shannon Villas serving as a part of the program.

PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

Union City "Employee of the Month" plaque was presented to Cindy Givens, Operations Coordinator, for the month of January 2017.

This presentation was followed by a photo with Ms. Givens and the City Council.

III. 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:

12/20/2016 Worksession Meeting
12/20/2016 Regular Council Meeting
2. Council to consider the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem for 2017.
3. Council to consider approval of a request to fix and publish qualifying fees for Mayor and Councilmembers for the 2017 Election. Qualifying fees for Mayor, \$450.00, and qualifying fees for Councilmembers, \$292.00. *(3% of the Total Gross Salary – Fees must be Published no later than February 1, 2017.)*
4. Council to consider the reappointment of Department Directors:

City Attorney:	McNally, Fox, Grant & Davenport, P.C.
City Engineer:	Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.
Police Chief:	Chief Cassandra Jones
Fire Chief:	Chief Joe Maddox
Medical Director:	Dr. Kenneth E. Jones
Public Services Director:	Lonnie Ferguson
Interim City Clerk:	Shandrella Jewett
Community Development Director:	Zachary Montgomery
5. Council to consider approval of an application for a federal grant: Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER).
6. Council to consider approval of a request to enter into an agreement with A1 Landscaping and Lawncare, LLC for Pedestrian System Phase III at three locations; Project - P.I. No. 0010729.
7. Council to consider approval of a request to enter into an agreement with Romtec for the purpose of installing a restroom facility at the Ronald Bridges Park – Highway 29 Ballfield location.

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

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Council to consider changes to the current ordinance regarding the use of vehicle immobilization devices (Section 10-28 of the Code of Ordinances). This item was tabled for 30-days.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, the Council approved the recommendation of Chief Cassandra Jones to establish the signage size as 18" x 24" within the ordinance. Vote was unanimous.

V. REGULAR/NEW BUSINESS:

None.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

City Manager Reports:

- Community Development Director position.

City Manager, Sonja Fillingame, advised Council that a vacancy in the Community Development Director's position has existed for quite some time. She expressed that interviews were conducted to assess potential candidates for the position. The candidacy of Zachary Montgomery was recommended to Mayor and Council.

City Manager Fillingame shared that Mr. Montgomery maintained approximately 16 years of experience at the Director's level. This experience included economic development, planning and zoning, working with ordinances, writing ordinances, and working with developers.

Mr. Montgomery was present and shared his background and work experience with the City Council.

Councilmember Nealy asked Mr. Montgomery if he had any experience in the television and film industry. Mr. Montgomery stated that he does have experience.

Councilmember Hobbs welcomed Mr. Montgomery and inquired about his vision for Union City. Mr. Montgomery replied that he views Union City as having more potential than cities he has worked with for many years.

Councilmember Mealing asked if Mr. Montgomery was certified through the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Mr. Montgomery replied that he was certified in the past and is willing to become certified again if necessary. Councilmember Mealing said she would like to see Mr. Montgomery become certified if he is selected as an employee.

Councilmember Jones thanked Mr. Montgomery for coming to the meeting. He asked for Mr. Montgomery's recommendation regarding situations where businesses want to do something different from the comprehensive plan. Mr. Montgomery responded to Councilmember Jones' question and shared his experience in working with developers while simultaneously protecting communities through the comprehensive plan, development codes, and zoning ordinances.

Mayor Williams stated that he was impressed with Mr. Montgomery and his resume'. He noted that the Community Development Director's position is an appointed position.

On the motion of Councilmember Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, the Council appointed Zachary Montgomery as Community Development Director.

- Active Georgia Challenge

Union City won the Active Georgia Challenge. City Manager Fillingame thanked everyone for their participation.

Mayor Williams advised that the award/presentation will be held at the GMA Conference on Sunday, January 22, 2017.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

VIII. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Councilmember Hobbs spoke regarding the following:

- Staff and all of their hard work.
- The great turn out on MLK, Jr. Day for the "One Block At A Time" Community Clean Up initiative; Recognition of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, V103, and all Union City staff.
- Popeye's Chicken and One Stop Auto Spa as new businesses in the community.
- Recommendation regarding a summer youth job fair; City leaders should have a discussion with youth on careers, public safety, etc.
- Recognition of the Fire Department regarding the SAFER Grant.
- Welcoming remarks for Zach Montgomery and his position as the City's new Community Development Director.
- Acknowledgement of Ms. Cindy Givens becoming the first employee to receive the "Employee of the Month" award.

Councilmember Mealing spoke regarding the following:

- Staff and their hard work during the "One Block At A Time" Community Clean Up initiative on MLK, Jr. Day; Acknowledgement of V103, the Book Bank Foundation, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.
- Recognition of Councilmember Elizabeth Hurst and Councilmember James Whitmore from the City of Fairburn; Recognition of Ms. Joyce Robinson.
- Renovation of the ballfields on Highway 29 and the development of the Union City Community Center and the excitement for the project.

- Acknowledgement of Fulton County Commissioner Emma Darnell for her assistance in helping to equip the Etris Building as a new Senior Center.
- Welcoming remarks for Zach Montgomery and his position as the City's new Community Development Director.
- Acknowledgement of Ms. Cindy Givens as a recipient of the "Employee of the Month" award.
- Acknowledgment of meeting participants for being engaged and attending the Council meeting.

Councilmember Nealy spoke regarding the following:

- The excitement surrounding Union City and all that the New Year will bring.
- Recognition of neighboring colleagues from the City of Fairburn; Recognition of Ms. Joyce Robinson.
- Gratitude and appreciation for collaborative efforts in pushing Union City forward.
- Acknowledgement of Cindy Givens for being the first employee to receive the "Employee of the Month" award; Gratitude to staff for their hard work
- Congratulatory remarks to all Directors on reappointments.
- Welcoming remarks for Zach Montgomery and his position as the City's new Community Development Director.
- Acknowledgment of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Quote – "Our lives begin to end the day that we become silent about the things that matter." Acknowledgment of residents for caring about Union City, for attending Council meetings, and for not staying silent.
- Recognition of Principal, Dr. Duke Bradley, III, and Banneker High School for obtaining a \$1.2 million State Grant; The grant will support instructional design. Nearly 30 schools applied across Georgia and only five schools were awarded; Banneker was the only Metro Atlanta School chosen.
- Acknowledgement of the City's social media campaign and the impact it will have in pushing the City forward.
- The privilege of serving as Council; Participants were asked to keep the Council lifted as the body pushes Union City forward.

Councilmember Jones spoke regarding the following:

- Best wishes for a Happy New Year.
- Acknowledgment of meeting participants for their attendance.
- Recognition of neighboring colleagues from the City of Fairburn. Recognition of Ms. Joyce Robinson.
- The great turn out on MLK, Jr. Day for the "One Block At A Time" Community Clean Up initiative.
- Recognition of the Highway 29 Ballfield renovation project and the great progress that is occurring.

- Popeye’s Chicken as a new business in the community; Union City is prime real estate for a sit down restaurant.
- Acknowledgement of Cindy Givens for receiving the “Employee of the Month” award.
- Reference to the number of people running for office for the City of South Fulton. Staff was asked to ensure that signs are placed properly.
- Staff and their hard work; Staff was encouraged to continue to help Union City shine.

Mayor Williams spoke regarding the following:

- The work involved in operating a City.
- Recognition of Union City’s new sister city - The City of South Fulton
- Acknowledgement of Councilmembers from the City of Fairburn and Ms. Joyce Robinson.
- Youth Job Fair –It is time to work together; The spirit of collaboration was underscored.
- Welcoming remarks for Zachary Montgomery and his position as the City’s new Community Development Director.
- Acknowledgement of Ms. Jewett for becoming the new Interim City Clerk.
- Recognition of the “One Block At A Time” Community Clean Up initiative and staff for being present at the event.
- Best wishes for a Happy New Year.
- Acknowledgement of the new services at the Etris Senior Center and the additional resources that are now available.
- Development of the new Community Center which will include a gymnasium; Citizens were thanked for their support.
- Birthday wishes for Councilmember Mealing.
- Reflections regarding the passing of Bishop Eddie Long.
- Lighting on Highpoint Road was discussed.
- Staff responsibilities and duties; Department heads and all staff were encouraged to be respectful of not only their duties and responsibilities but also those of the elected officials. Staff is selected either by the elected officials or a department head that was selected by the elected officials. When job responsibilities are neglected, such as smoking in uniform while on duty, smoking while at the gas pumps, wasting city resources (like gas), it raises concerns. Staff was advised to take advantage of health resources and encouraged to assist in curbing health care cost and health risks. The City is responsible for tax payers’ dollars and tax payers’ equipment.
- Parks and open spaces and the fact that the areas should be deemed a smoke free environment.

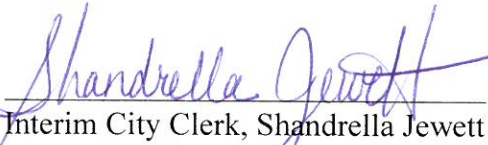
On motion of Councilmember Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Nealy and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss one item regarding threatened litigation and to review the Executive Session Minutes from December 20, 2016. Vote was unanimous.

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

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, the Executive Session Minutes from December 20, 2016 were unanimously approved.

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

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



Interim City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett



Mayor Vince Williams