

UNION CITY, GEORGIA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Mayor Vince Williams
Mayor Pro Tem, Shayla Nealy
Councilmember Brian Jones
Councilmember Angelette Mealing
Councilmember Christina Hobbs
City Manager - Sonja Fillingame
Assistant City Manager - Tarsha Calloway
City Clerk - Shandrella Jewett

Human Resources Director - Linda Goodman-Warren
Parks and Recreation Director – Lee Blich
Public Services Director - Lonnie Ferguson
Police Chief - Cassandra Jones
Fire Chief – Joe Maddox
Court Services Director - Kristie Collier
Finance Comptroller – Crystal Lazarus
Community Development - Director Ellis Still

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Trey Bennings

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

Tonya Isles, 5147 Rapahoe Trail – Spoke regarding the following:

- Fatal Car Accident of Emanuel Mosely at Majestic Place & South Fulton Parkway January 16, 2020
- Making South Futon Parkway a safer road

Herdy Menina, 4701 Flat Shoals Road – Spoke regarding the following:

- Additional signage at intersection of Buffington Road and Flat Shoals Road
- Airbnb Policies

III. PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Swearing in Ceremony of Councilmembers Brian Jones and Christina Hobbs
Councilmembers Brian Jones and Christina Hobbs were sworn in by Attorney Davenport
- Proclamation regarding Brandon McCrary
- Announcement and Recognition of Employee of the Year for 2019
Deondre Baxter, Police Officer, was selected as 2019 Employee of the Year
- Announcement and Recognition of Employee of the Month
Jovonnie Freeman, Code Enforcement Officer, was selected as January 2020 Employee of the Month
- Recognition of Joe Carn (County Commissioner representing District 6)
- Presentation by The Collaborative Firm – Michelle Alexander

Ms. Alexander thanked Mayor and Council for allowing The Collaborative Firm to assist with analyzing Union City’s Town Center Mixed Use District (TCMU). She provided a brief chronology order regarding the history of TCMU. and her approach to reviewing TCMU. Also, she stated her approach to reviewing TCMU and that her primary concern was for South Fulton Parkway. The following items were discussed:

- Scope and Impact of any changes
- Existing Conditions and Options
- Adopted Policy and Comprehensive Plan
- Recommendations and Discussed language possible for adoption

Mayor and Council told Ms. Alexander that she had done a phenomenal job with the short timeframe she was given to work on the project. Councilmember Mealing requested a copy of the presentation.

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.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of the Minutes:
 - 12/17/19 - Work Session
 - 12/17/19 - Regular Council Meeting
- B. Council to consider approval of a request to grant the Housing Authority a waiver of its Payment in Lieu of Taxes (P.I.L.O.T) for 2019.
- C. Council to consider a request for the Union City Municipal Court to hold an Amnesty Program.
- D. Council to consider a request to approve and adopt the “City of Union City Policy for Competitive Negotiation Qualification-based Selection of Projects Using Federal Aide Highway Program (FAHP) Funding” resolution.
- E. Council to consider approval for Atlas (formerly Moreland Altobelli) to conduct an Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) study for Union City Sanitary Sewer System.
- F. Council to consider a request for approval to enter into an agreement with SD&C Incorporated for Lester Road Pedestrian Improvements (RFB-PS-20-03).
- G. Council to consider a request for approval to enter into an agreement with Pittman Construction Company for Oakley Industrial Boulevard Resurfacing (RFB-PS-20-02).
- H. Council to consider approval of a resolution to provide a homestead tax exemption; to request that the general assembly for the State of Georgia pass a local act providing for the aforementioned exemption; to provide for a referendum for the aforementioned exemption.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council approved the Consent Agenda. Vote was unanimous.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Council to discuss current residential (Waste Industries) and commercial (Advanced Disposal) sanitation agreements.

Assistant City Manager Calloway requested a 60 day extension. She stated the final negotiations are close to being settled.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council agreed to extend the negotiations for 60 days. Vote was unanimous.

- B. Council to consider a request for approval of a text amendment to revise the TCMU Zoning District. *PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.*

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nealy and carried, Council agreed to go with the recommendations of The Collaborative Firm, post the revisions of the TCMU ordinance on the website by February 10, 2020, and advertise the Public Hearing for February 18, 2020 Council Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council agreed to extend the TCMU Moratorium until February 18, 2020. Vote was unanimous.

- C. Council to consider the "Removal of Industrial Uses" from the Town Center Mixed Use Zoning District. The issue was remanded back to the Planning Commission for consideration per 09/17/19 Council Meeting. *PLANNING COMMISSION AND STAFF RECOMMENDED REMOVAL OF INDUSTRIAL USES.* (The item was tabled until January 21, 2020.)

City Attorney Davenport said the motion made for item "B" encompass item "C" and that the emergency moratoriums over-ride the tabled items.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council agreed to extend the TCMU Moratorium until February 18, 2020. Vote was unanimous.

VI. REGULAR NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Council to consider the reappointment of the City Attorney, Dennis Davenport (Law Firm of McNally, Fox, Grant & Davenport).

On motion of Councilmember Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council reappointed Attorney Dennis Davenport as the City Attorney. Vote was unanimous.

- B. Council to consider the reappointment of the City Clerk, Shandrella Jewett.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council reappointed Shandrella Jewett as the City Clerk. Vote was unanimous.

- C. Council to consider the reappointment of the City Engineer, Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC.

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council reappointed Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC (formerly known as Moreland Altobelli, Inc.) as the City Engineer. Vote was unanimous.

- D. Council to consider the reappointment of the Fire Chief, Joe Maddox.

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

- E. Council to consider the reappointment of the Police Chief, Cassandra Jones.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council reappointed Cassandra Jones as the Police Chief. Vote was unanimous.

- F. Council to consider the reappointment of the Medical Director, Dr. O. Michael Obiekwe.

Dr. Obiekwe was not present due to an emergency at work.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council reappointed Dr. O. Michael Obiekwe as Union City's Medical Director. Vote was unanimous.

- G. Council to consider the reappointment of the Public Services Director, Lonnie Ferguson.

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nealy and carried, Council reappointed Lonnie Ferguson as the Public Services Director. Vote was unanimous.

- H. **Public Hearing** to consider a request to approve an Alcoholic Beverage License (ABL) application submitted by Hussaini Jivani for package sales of spirituous liquors for Whitesburg Investment, Inc. d/b/a ATL Food Mart located at 5036 Union Street, Union City, GA.

Public Hearing Opened

The following spoke in favor or against the matter:

- Rhonda Jones, 8813 Lakecrest Way – Inquired as to the exact location of the Food Mart and how spirituous liquors is defined.
- Petitioner Hussaini Jivani stated the convenient store would sell beer, wine, cigarettes, and sodas.

Assistant City Manager Calloway said according to the application submitted, it indicated spirituous liquors, not beer and wine. She requested the item be tabled.

Attorney Davenport advised Mayor and Council the packet indicates a packaged license. He was not sure if that included beer and wine. He further stated if it is on-premises, it would have to be both (beer, wine, and spirituous). He stated he would go back and review the packaged license. He requested the item be tabled.

Public Hearing Closed

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council agreed to table the item for 30 days. Vote was unanimous.

- I. Council to consider approval of a resolution supporting locally-established building design standards for residential dwelling.

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council approved the adoption of the resolution supporting locally-established building design standards for residential dwelling. Vote was unanimous.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

None

VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- A. Council to consider a request for approval to move forward with the admission of two applications for the following grants:

- **The Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant**

Nydia Akins (Union City's Grant Specialist) provided an update regarding the Federal Grant funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The purpose of the grant is to promote the development of the Traffic Enforcement Program which helps reduce precious injuries and fatalities in the community. The City can request up to \$300,000.00 and no match is required. Two officers will be needed to run a successful program should the City receive the award. The application deadline is February 21, 2020 and the matter will be brought back before Mayor and Council for final approval.

- **The Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council Fireworks Tax Grant**

Ms. Akins provided a brief updated regarding the grant. The grant is funded from the fireworks tax sales. The maximum award amount is \$25,000.00, and requires a 10% match of \$2,500.00. Fire Chief Maddox requested four new portable radios, which costs \$5000.00 each. The application deadline is February 21, 2020.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council gave approval for the submission of both (above mentioned) applications. Vote was unanimous.

- B. UC App – Update provided by Assistant City Manager Calloway

Assistant City Manager Calloway thanked the Information Manager, Trey Bennings, and the Operations Team (Cindy Givens, Vivian, Lett, and Xavier Walker) for the implementation and launch of the UC App. The project was led by Mr. Bennings. She stated everyone did a phenomenal job and encouraged everyone to download the free UC App.

IX. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Comments by Councilmember Hobbs

Congratulatory remarks and acknowledgements extended to:

- Staff for pursuing grants
- Deondre Baxter, Police Officer – Employee of the Year
- Jovonnie Freeman, Code Enforcement Officer I - Employee of the Month
- Mayor & Council for support shown over the years and look forward to working together in 2020

Remarks:

- Thanked her family and Judge Freeman for being present at the Swearing in Ceremony
- Thanked Mayor and Council for their support during the passing of her mother
- Thanked the citizens for attending the Council Meeting

Comments by Councilmember Mealing

Congratulatory remarks and acknowledgements extended to:

- Staff for supporting the family of Brandon McCrary
- Staff for everything they do for the City
- Deondre Baxter, Police Officer – Employee of the Year
- Jovonnie Freeman, Code Enforcement Officer I - Employee of the Month
- Councilmembers Jones and Hobbs on their re-election
- IT and Operations Department (The Dream Team) for launching the UC APP
- Parks and Recreation for a successful M.L.K. Basketball Tournament
- Public Safety (Fire and Police) for connecting with the residence in the community

Remarks:

- Thanked the citizens for attending the Council Meeting
- Thanked everyone for the love and support shown to the family of Brandon McCrary
- Thanked everyone for wishing her a happy birthday
- “Meet Me at the Park” – Enjoyed walking with Mayor Williams and the residence
- January 19, 2020 - “2020 Map the Vision”

Comments by Councilmember Jones

Congratulatory remarks and acknowledgements extended to:

- Staff for everything they do for the City
- Congratulations to those who were reappointed
- Team UC for launching the UC App
- Deondre Baxter, Police Officer – Employee of the Year
- Jovonnie Freeman, Code Enforcement Officer I - Employee of the Month
- Michelle Alexander of the Collaborative Firm for the wonderful zoning presentation
- Mayor & Council for support shown over the years and look forward to working together in 2020

Remarks:

- Thanked family for their support during his campaign. Looking forward to another four years
- Thanked the president and members of “100 Black Men Chapter” for attending the Council Meeting
- Accidents on South Fulton Parkway

Comments by Mayor Pro Tem Nealy

Congratulatory remarks and acknowledgements extended to:

- Staff for everything they do for the City
- Staff for attending the funeral service of Brandon McCrary
- Human Resources for providing site-care during the passing of Brandon McCrary
- Councilmembers Jones and Hobbs on their re-election

- Deondre Baxter, Police Officer – Employee of the Year
- Jovonnie Freeman, Code Enforcement Officer I - Employee of the Month
- Michelle Alexander (The Collaborative Firm) for a great presentation
- Team UC for launching the UC App
- Councilmember Mealing – Happy Birthday

Remarks:

- Thanked Commissioner Carn for attending the Council Meeting and for providing an update of the budget from the County
- Condolences to Councilmember Hobbs and her family regarding the passing of her mother
- Attended the Home-going Service of Reverend Albert Love
- 2020 Vision and Goals
- 2020 Census
- January 19, 2020 - “2020 Map the Vision”
- January 20, 2020 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Happy Founder’s Day to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
- Happy New Year

Comments by Mayor Williams

Congratulatory remarks and acknowledgements extended to:

- Staff, Directors, and Judge Freeman for everything they do for the City
- Deondre Baxter, Police Officer – Employee of the Year
- Jovonnie Freeman, Code Enforcement Officer I - Employee of the Month
- Councilmember Mealing – Happy Birthday
- Councilmembers Jones and Hobbs on their re-election

Remarks:

- Condolences to Councilmember Hobbs and her family regarding the passing of her mother
- Prayers extended to Congressman John Lewis as he battles pancreatic cancer
- January 20, 2020 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

At this time (9:03 p.m.), Attorney Davenport stated that he needed to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following items: two (2) threatened litigations.

On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss the following items: two (2) threatened litigations. Vote was unanimous.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council agreed to come out of the Executive Session and reconvene to the Regular Council Meeting. Vote was unanimous.

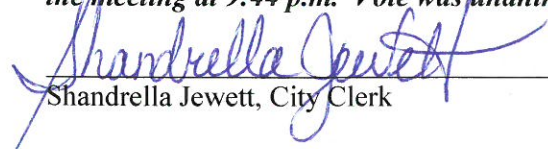
On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council approved Judge Ronald Freeman’s salary in the amount of \$84,000.00. Vote was unanimous.

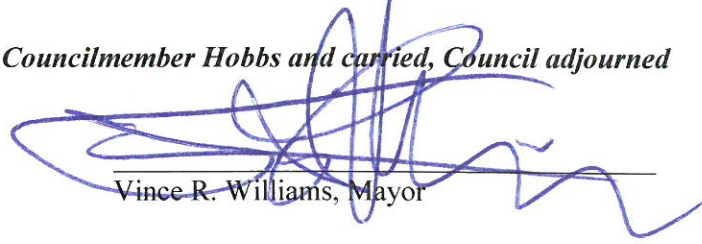
On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Nealy, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council approved both Executive Session Minutes from December 17, 2020. Vote was unanimous.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs and carried, Council adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m. Vote was unanimous.


 Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk


 Vince R. Williams, Mayor

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 **21st** day of **January**, 2020.

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 **21st** day of **January**, 2020 at 9:03 p.m., which was closed for the purpose(s) of **two (2) threatened litigations** 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
21st day of **January**, 2020.


Shandrella Jewett, Notary Public

