

# MINUTES



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## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

7:00 P.M.

In Council Chamber

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### ROLL CALL:

Mayor Vince R. Williams  
Mayor Pro Tem Christina Hobbs  
Councilmember Angelette Mealing  
Councilmember Brian K. Jones  
Councilmember Lawanna Owens-Twaites  
City Attorney - Dennis Davenport  
City Manager - Sonja Fillingame  
Assistant City Manager - Tarsha Calloway  
City Clerk - Shandrella Jewett

### Present:

Court Services Director - Kristie Tucker  
Community Development Director - Anthony Alston  
Finance Comptroller - Francis Harley  
Human Resources Director - Brittany Sainnatus  
Operations Director - Cindy Givens  
Park & Recreations Director - Lee Blich  
Police Chief - Cassandra Jones  
Public Services Director - Lonnie Ferguson

### Absent:

Fire Chief - Joe Maddox

### I. CALLED TO ORDER:

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

### II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Invocation by Mayor Williams

### III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

*On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council approved the Agenda. Vote was unanimous.*

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

Jermaine Young spoke regarding the following: tax increase, hoarders in the neighborhood, grass growing uncontrollably, and litter at a specific location in neighborhood.

### V. PRESENTATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Acknowledgement & Recognition of Employee of the Month (July and August 2023)

Donnie Moore (Firefighter/Paramedic) - Employee of the Month (July 2023)  
Amanda Andersen (Marketing Specialist) - Employee of the Month (August 2023)

- Presentation of the Brian Poe Humanitarian Award

The Brian Poe Humanitarian Award was present to Mayor Williams.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS:

None

#### VII. CONSENT AGENDA:

*All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine 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.*

- A. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Mayor & Council Planning Retreat Minutes dated 06/01/2023.
- B. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Mayor & Council Planning Retreat Minutes dated 06/02/2023.
- C. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Mayor & Council Planning Retreat Minutes dated 06/03/2023.
- D. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Mayor & Council Planning Retreat Minutes dated 06/04/2023.
- E. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Work Session Minutes dated 06/20/2023.
- F. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Regular Council Minutes dated 06/20/2023.
- G. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the Budget Work Shop Minutes dated 07/24/2023.
- H. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the reappointment of Councilmember Angelette Mealing to the South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail Authority regarding her unexpired term running January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026.
- I. Council to accept the submittal of a request to approve the reappointment of Police Chief, Cassandra Jones to the South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail Authority regarding her unexpired term running January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024.
- J. Council to approve the submittal of a request to enter into the Right of Way Mowing and Maintenance Agreement by and between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Union City.
- K. Council to accept the submittal of a request to enter into an agreement between First Net and the City of Union City to migrate all city cellular services.

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

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

None

**IX. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND/OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:**

- A. A **Public Hearing** for Council to approve the submittal of a request for a city-initiated text amendment regarding Article III Interpretation and Definitions of the Zoning Ordinance of Union City to amend current definitions and add new definitions to the Ordinance.

Alfred Cassidy, Senior Planner of Community Development led the discussion.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak

Public Hearing Closed

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hobbs and carried, Council approved the request. Vote was unanimous.***

- B. A **Public Hearing** for Council to approve the submittal of a request regarding a city-initiated text amendment to amend *Section 6-11* of Article VI of the Zoning Ordinance of Union City, to revise provisions pertaining to permitted uses in the GC, General Commercial zoning district.

Janna Keller, Assistant Director of Community Development led the discussion.

Assistant Director Keller stated Smoking Lounges would be added to the current Zoning Ordinances as a Conditional Use and that staff had made a recommendation to add Smoke and Tobacco Shops with the same criteria as the Smoking Lounge.

Council agreed that Community Development change the distance methodology of measurement from property line to property line for Smoking Lounges and Tobacco Shops.

Addition of Smoke and Tobacco Shops were added to the Conditional Use with same criteria as the Smoking Lounges. This addition was included with Smoking Lounges.

Addition of Tobacco Shops to number 22 on page 5. Smoking Lounges and Tobacco Shops. All of the Conditions will apply to both.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak

Public Hearing Closed

***On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council approved the amended request with the following Conditions:***

***Addition of Tobacco Shops to number 22 on page five (5). Smoking Lounges and Tobacco Shops. All of the Conditions will apply to both.***

***Methodology for measurement from property line to property line (for number 22) regarding Smoking Lounges and Tobacco Shops. Vote was unanimous.***

- C. A **Public Hearing** for Council to approve the submittal of a request regarding a city-initiated text amendment to amend *Section 9-4* of Article IX of the Zoning Ordinance of Union City, pertaining to Tree Preservation and Landscape Enhancement, and *Section 10-6* of Article X, pertaining to Off-Street Parking and Service Requirements, to revise provisions pertaining to tree preservation, replacement and planting.

Chanelle Campbell, City Planner of Community Development led the discussion.

Council inquired about the caliper and tree height and agreed that each tree shall be a four (4) inch caliper DBH instead of 2 inches, and 12 feet minimum tree instead of 8 feet.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak

Public Hearing Closed

***On motion of Councilmember Owens-Twaites, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council approved the request with the following amendments: Each tree shall be a four (4) inch caliper DBH instead of 2 inches, and 12 feet minimum tree instead of 8 feet. Vote was unanimous.***

- D. A **Public Hearing** for Council to approve the submittal of a request regarding a city-initiated text amendment to amend *Section 6-13* of the Zoning of Ordinance of Union City to revise provisions pertaining to permitted uses in the M-1, Light Industrial zoning district.

Director Alston led the discussion.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak

Public Hearing Closed

***On motion of Mayor Pro Tem Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council approved the request. Vote was unanimous.***

- E. A **Public Hearing** for Council to approve the submittal of a request regarding a city-initiated text amendment to amend *Section 6-14* of the Zoning of Ordinance of Union City to revise provisions pertaining to permitted uses in the M-2, Heavy Industrial zoning district.

Director Alston led the discussion.

Public Hearing Opened

No one came forth to speak

Public Hearing Closed

***On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, Council approved the request. Vote was unanimous.***

**X. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Thanked Director Alston and his team regarding the text amendments
- Thanked the Legal Team and Atlas for supporting the Community Development Department
- Thanked all of the departments for a successful "Light up the Night" event

**XI. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:**

Executive Session

**XII. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL:**

**Comments by Councilmember Jones:**

Congratulatory acknowledgements and remarks extended to:

- Donnie Moore (Firefighter/Paramedic) - Employee of the month (July 2023)
- Amanda Andersen (Marketing Specialist) - Employee of the month (August 2023)

Remarks:

- Light up the Night event was outstanding
- Multiuse Trail is in progress - Encourage everyone to do the survey
- Community Art Show - "The art on the wall is amazing"
- July 16, 2023 - Back to School Backpack Giveaway
- August 3, 2023 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Tour of the Fulton County Election Hub & Operations Center located at 5600 Campbellton Fairburn Road, Fairburn, GA 30213
- August 18-19, 2023 - Grand Opening of the 1804 Pizza Bar & Lounge

**Comments by Councilmember Owens-Twaites:**

Congratulatory acknowledgements and remarks extended to:

- Donnie Moore (Firefighter/Paramedic) - Employee of the month (July 2023)
- Amanda (Mandi) Andersen - Employee of the month (August 2023)

Remarks:

- Shout out to the budget team for being good stewards of the taxpayers money
- "Ditto to everything my colleague, Councilmember Jones shared with everyone"

**Comments by Councilmember Mealing:**

Congratulatory acknowledgements and remarks extended to:

- Donnie Moore (Firefighter/Paramedic) - Employee of the month (July 2023)
- Amanda Andersen (Marketing Specialist) - Employee of the month (August 2023)

Remarks:

- Thank you Staff for making Union City a place to live work, play, and stay
- "Ditto to everything my colleague, Councilmember Jones shared with everyone"

**Comments by Mayor Pro Tem Hobbs:**

Congratulatory acknowledgements and remarks extended to:

- Donnie Moore (Firefighter/Paramedic) - Employee of the month (July 2023)
- Amanda Andersen (Marketing Specialist) - Employee of the month (August 2023)
- Happy belated birthday to Councilmember Jones
- Alfred Cassidy (Senior Planner for Community Development) for joining the UC Team
- Congrats to UC Police Recruit, LyDarius Williams

Remarks:

- Thanked staff for coming to the meeting
- Prayers for everyone in Maui, Hawaii regarding the wildfires
- "Ditto to everything my colleague, Councilmember Jones shared with everyone"

**Comments by Mayor Williams:**

Congratulatory acknowledgements and remarks extended to:

- Donnie Moore (Firefighter/Paramedic) - Employee of the month (July 2023)
- Amanda Andersen (Marketing Specialist) - Employee of the month (August 2023)

Remarks:

- "Ditto to everything my colleague, Councilmember Jones shared with everyone"

At 8:18 p.m., City Attorney Davenport stated he needed to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following: three (3) threatened litigations, one (1) pending litigation, and the review of the Executive Session Minutes dated May 16, 2023.

*On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hobbs and carried, Council entered into Executive Session to discuss the following: three (3) threatened litigations, one (1) pending litigation, and review of the Executive Session Minutes dated May 16, 2023. Vote was unanimous.*


*On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hobbs and carried, Council came out of Executive Session and entered into Regular Council Meeting. Vote was unanimous.*

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, Council adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Vote was unanimous.*

  
Shandrella Jewett, City Clerk

  
Vince R. Williams, Mayor