

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008
CITY OF UNION CITY
7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Ralph Moore, Councilmembers Shirley Jackson, Vince Williams, Angelette Mealing and Brian Jones, City Attorney Dennis Davenport, City Administrator Richard Bray, City Planner Ann Lippmann, City Clerk Jacqueline Cossey, and Assistant City Clerk Tapreka Thomas

I. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Invocation by Councilmember Jones

II. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

- Cathy Villard of 5234 Alexander Street requesting additional police presence in her neighborhood
- Carl Bullard of 6354 Shannon Parkway regarding a miscellaneous charge in the amount of \$5,444.03 on Old Virginia's master meter bill in June 2008

At this time Mayor Moore stated that he would like to utilize the chairman's prerogative and introduced Bob Crutchfield from Christian City to present some information to the Council with regards to funding the Charrette for Lifelong Communities Initiative.

Mr. Crutchfield addressed Council and stated that he attended a meeting with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) along with Mayor Moore and from that meeting came an interesting opportunity for Christian City and the City of Union City to participate with the ARC in Senior Housing Charrette. He added that this is a unique opportunity that was put together and coordinated by the ARC and planning for the senior population in a comprehensive way. Mr. Crutchfield stated that from that came an expression of interest by ARC in concert with DPZ & Co. which is connected with Andres Duany, an internationally known architecture and regional planner. He added that the Charrette will take place beginning February 10 - 17, 2009. He further added that of the applications that were submitted, Union City was selected to participate. He added that he has received a memorandum of agreement which he is prepared to sign. Mr. Crutchfield stated that Christian City considers Union City to be a partner on this project and he is looking for a joint sponsorship. He stated that it is contingent on all six of the invitees participating and if one does not participate and is not replaced, it kills the entire deal for the whole region. He added that Christian City is ready to move forward, but it is contingent upon the participation of Union City for the initial \$30,000.00.

Mayor Moore stated that during the budget process he spoke with Ms. Lippmann and noted that we may have over budgeted for planning studies which would include

5. Approve an ordinance related to the enforcement of the City's code as it pertains to occupation taxes.
6. Approve modified contract with Ann Almond as Union City's Newsletter Consultant.
7. Approve changing the GDOT grant application for SR 138 at Buffington Road from operational improvement to a safety improvement project.
8. Approve request to waive penalty and interest accrued on the 2005-2007 taxes for 09F-2207-0087-0263. *(Total approximately \$358.35)*

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the aforementioned items were approved. Vote was unanimous.

V. REGULAR AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Public Hearing** to consider a petition by Airport Center III at Oakley Park, LLC for variance from the Stream Buffer Protection Requirements as it relates to stream buffer setback and buffer for Majestic Airport Center III at the end of Oakley Industrial Boulevard. *(This item was tabled for 30 Days on September 8, 2008)*

City Planner Ann Lippmann led this discussion and stated that she has been contacted by EPD but the visit has not been scheduled at this point. She added that she would not be requesting another referral but she is going to re-advertise it for November.

Mayor Moore stated that Council has to act tonight.

On motion of Councilmember Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the request to bring the aforementioned item off of the table for action was approved. Vote was unanimous.

Mayor Moore asked that the item be postponed for 30 days.

On motion of Councilmember Jones, seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, the aforementioned item was postponed for 30 days. Vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve request to appoint Neil Koebl to the South Fulton Community Improvement District (CID) Board.

Mayor Moore asked if Mr. Koebl was present.

Mr. Bray stated that he was not.

Mayor Moore stated that if there were no additional questions he would entertain a motion to appoint Mr. Neil Koebl to the South Fulton Community Improvement District (CID) Board.

On motion of Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Jackson and carried, the aforementioned item was approved three-to-one (3 to 1). Councilmember Jones cast the descending vote.

2. Approve request to advertise bid opening dates for the Highpoint Road Paving Project.

Sylvester Alexander of Keck & Wood led this discussion and stated that the purpose of this project is due to increased development and traffic on Highpoint and Dodson Roads and this has created a need to resurface the road and improve pedestrian crossings and sidewalks. He added that the recommended advertising date is October 29, 2008 and the bid opening date will be December 4, 2008. He further added that Highpoint Road from Roosevelt Highway to Dodson Road will be repaved and the header curb from Roosevelt Highway to Wellington Subdivision will be replaced. Mr. Alexander stated that sidewalks will be added on the west side of Highpoint Road from Wellington Subdivision to Valley Lakes.

On motion of Councilmember Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried, the aforementioned item was approved. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alexander added that since the last meeting he spoke with Bron Cleveland Associates about the pedestrian bridge and was informed that the City could not place the pedestrian bridge on this project and receive reimbursement later because of Department of Transportation (DOT) guidelines. He added that Bron Cleveland stated that they expect the pedestrian bridge to be out for bid by the first of the year and they anticipate completion of the project around June/July 2009. He concluded that both projects should be completed by next summer.

3. Reappointment of Phyllis Brown to the Housing Authority Board. *(Term expires October 31, 2008)*

Mayor Moore asked if Ms. Brown has expressed that she would be interested in serving again.

City Attorney Davenport responded in the affirmative.

Mayor Moore asked if there were any other nominations.

No other nominations were made.

On motion of Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Mealing and carried, the aforementioned item was approved. Vote was unanimous.

4. Approve revised donated leave and bereavement policy.

City Administrator Richard Bray led this discussion and stated that he took 2 sections of the personnel policy and updated them. He added that these sections are the donated leave policy and the bereavement policy. He added that he revised the bereavement leave policy to clarify what constitutes the ability to take that leave. Mr. Bray stated that he expanded the donated leave policy using the family medical leave act to include four different situations to obtain donated leave if you are an employee who has exhausted all of your leave and your fellow employees want to donate leave to you. He stated that the old policy was unclear. He added that the only other change was

made to the bereavement leave which included eliminating probationary employees for bereavement time and only regular full-time and regular part-time are eligible for bereavement leave. He concluded that these policies were revised so that the employees can understand them and Human Resources can administer the policies in a fair and equitable way.

Councilmember Mealing stated that with regards to the donated leave policy, section B, she did not like having a cap on how much time can be donated.

Mayor Moore recommended that anything over 10 days must be approved by the City Administrator.

Councilmember Jackson stated that she would like for the City Administrator to approve anything over 10 days.

On motion of Councilmember Williams, seconded by Councilmember Jones and carried, the aforementioned item was approved. Vote was unanimous.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Bray stated that he invited Mr. Corbin of Keck and Wood to update Council regarding the 2006 Bond Road Program and the storm sewer ordinance.

Mr. Corbin addressed Council and stated that per Mayor Moore's request, he put together the steps needed to deal with the storm water utility. He then provided Council with an ordinance to create the storm water utility which would set up an enterprise fund that would deal with storm water issued within the City. He then provided Council with an ordinance that would deal with the rate structure that would be put in place for the storm water utility. Mr. Corbin asked that Council review the two ordinances, revise them if needed, and adopt them in order to set up the internal machinery to actually operate the additional utility within the City.

At this time Mr. Corbin provided Council with a three-page report reflecting all of the street improvement/paving projects under the 2006 Bond Series and the cost associated with paving the streets. He then stated that the actual construction cost for Highpoint Road was \$811,745.46. Mr. Corbin concluded that he has done everything that was considered first priority as well as a lot of the work that is considered second priority and he still has \$2,353,743.00 of bond money that has not been obligated that can be put on streets and much of the credit goes to Sylvester Alexander. He added that in the next few Council meetings a list of what he would like to do with the remaining \$2,353,843.00 will be presented to the Council for approval.

Mayor Moore stated that he is hoping that the third tier would address any standing waters that are in the city on some of the streets and drainage issues. He added that he is hoping that it is prioritized with that in mind.

Mr. Bray stated that he was notified by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) that they are ready to pave the Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) streets. He added that the City has to pay for the preparation of the streets and getting

them ready for the paving will entail taking bids for contractors and being ready to get the work done. Mr. Bray stated that the Council will not meet again until November, therefore he recommends that Council give permission to accept bids not to exceed \$50,000.00 in order to move forward.

On motion of Councilmember Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Williams and carried, the aforementioned recommendation was approved as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Bray informed that he met with the Marta Board on October 14 about route 189. He added that the Marta Board deferred action on that route until they could get information to him about the route. He added that he was informed that there would be a maximum of 10 buses on the route everyday and the route includes Londonderry, Lancaster and Shannon Parkway. He added that he stressed to them that Shannon Parkway will not support the bus activity daily. He concluded that he does not know if there are any alternatives but they have deferred action until they can provide him additional information. He then stated that he would take any message from Council to the Marta Board.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she would like for the Marta Board to consider an alternative route.

Mr. Bray stated that they want to put a layover point on Lancaster and the bus will stay there for 15 to 20 minutes so that the bus driver can eat because they do not get one hour lunch breaks.

Mayor Moore stated that eventually he would like to see Shannon Mall to be a park-n-ride.

Councilmember Mealing stated that she does not think that Shannon Parkway could sustain that kind of traffic from the buses.

Mayor Moore instructed Mr. Bray to forward a letter to Ms. Hinton regarding the status of the Marta bus route.

Mr. Bray asked that Council confirm the number of people attending Council's Annual Retreat. He added that he currently has 18 people attending.

Mayor Moore asked that he invite the Chairman of the Planning Commission to attend.

Mrs. Cossey stated that there are currently 18 people attending. She then asked if Council would like to round the number up to 20.

Mayor Moore agreed to increase the number of attendees to 20.

At this time Mr. Bray announced the following:
Halloween Fun House is scheduled for October 31, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
UCAA is hosting a pep rally on October 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Bray asked if Council could provide a date for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Mayor Moore suggested from this point forward the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Union City would take place on the first Monday in December.

Mrs. Cossey asked Council to mark their calendars and note that the employee Christmas Party has been scheduled for December 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Green Manor.

Mr. Bray asked Council to provide a date to begin hanging the Christmas decorations.

Councilmember Jackson stated that she would like for the decorations to be up before Thanksgiving but they will not be lit until after Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Mealing recommended hanging Christmas decorations the day after the Veterans' Day.

Mr. Bray stated that he was asked to get an estimate of the footbridge that was destroyed. He then provided Council with a picture of the footbridge in its current state. He then stated that it would cost \$420,050.00 to repair the bridge.

Mayor Moore asked if Mr. Bray could get Mr. Bryant to provide the City with two additional bids. He further stated that should this board decide to compensate Mr. Bryant for any damages; we need language in the document that the City will not be responsible for any further damages. He added the repairs should be able to withstand the worst.

VII. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Councilmember Jones thanked all of the employees for a job well done for their contributions during the Centennial event.

Councilmember Mealing concurred with Councilmember Jones. She then thanked Mr. Helvey for working diligently with the school board.

Mayor Moore stated that November 4, 2008 will be a monumental time for the County, the State and Union City because we have a issue on the ballot that addresses the senior citizens and property taxes. He added that the question consists of anyone 65 years or older would be exempted from City ad valorem taxes.

Mr. Bray added that the Veterans' Day Ceremony will take place in Mayors' Park at 6:30 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

Jacqueline R. Cossey, City Clerk

Ralph Moore, Mayor