

TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Unionville Town Council met on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom, Commissioners Chad Simpson, Gene Price, Andrew Benton, and Jaren Simpson were present. Absent were Commissioner Jeff Broadaway, Town Attorney Ken Helms, Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, and Clerk Sonya Gaddy.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag, after which Commissioner Andrew Benton led the prayer of invocation.

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Mayor Baucom opened the floor for public comments. At that time, Steven Myers introduced himself. He said he had recently moved to the Bickett Ridge neighborhood and was interested in getting involved in the Town. There were no other public comments.

Next, Mayor Baucom brought forward the consideration of the approval of the minutes of the September 16, 2024 regular meeting. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the September 16, 2024 regular meeting.

Mayor Baucom then directed Council to review the Financial Report prepared by Finance Officer Baucom. He noted the balances and expenses for the current month. Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell noted that two additional bills, one for Helms Law Group in the amount of \$2240 and another for Baucom's Lawn Maintenance in the amount of \$2500 had been received since Finance Officer Baucom's financial report had been prepared. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the payment of pending bills.

Deputy Clerk Braswell also mentioned the quotes for Internet providers left from Seedspark/Spark Nav, Compunetworld, and Wordpress. She said that Clerk Gaddy is scheduled to meet with Seedspark/Spark Nav on Friday morning to determine any consequences for canceling service and to also hear their counteroffer. Upon a motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously agreed to table the quotes for the November meeting.

Mayor Baucom then recognized Commissioner Andrew Benton to speak about the Piedmont Recreation Association lease agreement. Commissioner Benton said that he thought everything looked good for the most part. He said that Commissioner Jeff Broadaway was waiting for more up to date valuations of the mowing equipment at the park. Mayor Baucom said that it would continue to be fine-tuned until next month's meeting.

Then, Mayor Baucom recognized Turning Point to present their request for Charitable Contribution. Kristen Dickenson introduced herself as a representative of Turning Point. She said they were asking for contributions on behalf of trauma-focused counseling for their youth program. They are estimating this counseling will cost \$35,000 for the year, and they do not ask survivors to pay for the counseling they receive from Turning Point. These survivors are at higher risk for many illnesses, dropout of school, and at risk for unemployment. They see the counseling piece as an essential part of

the healing process, and they are asking for Unionville's assistance in this. Mayor Baucom asked how long counseling would be offered, and Ms. Dickenson said that it would be ongoing until they no longer needed the services. Mayor Baucom called for questions of the Council. There being none, he called for a motion. He advised Council that last year's funding contribution was \$3,000. Upon a motion by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, the Council unanimously agreed to a contribution of \$3,000.

Next, Mayor Baucom brought forward Annexation Petition #29, noting the Certificate of Sufficiency received by Clerk Gaddy. He advised Council that they needed to set a public hearing for the Annexation. The public hearing was set for 7:15 PM on Monday, November 18th.

Next, Mayor Baucom directed Council to review the quotes for indoor rug, outdoor rug, dais wording, Town seals, and dais surface repairs for consideration. Deputy Clerk Braswell presented the quotes from Logos Plus by Lynn. Jaren Simpson said the seals and dais wording was something he would like. Commissioner Benton said he was fine with the indoor rug. Upon a motion by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved the Town Seal and wording on the dais. Upon a motion by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved purchasing the indoor rug. Upon a motion by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously agreed to not proceed with the outdoor rug. Councilman Gene Price said that he would like to see a quote for a stone slab to replace the dais countertop. Andrew Benton also said he would like to see the price for total replacement of the existing countertop, including removal and replacement. Deputy Clerk Braswell said she would work on gathering those quotes for the dais countertops.

In other business, Planning Board member Steve Outen sent an email requesting charitable contributions for Ashe County in Western NC. Mayor Baucom said that the American Red Cross is working with recovery efforts in the mountains to support heating and air conditioning work. He asked Council their thoughts on giving American Red Cross another \$1,000 for their efforts to help with heating and air conditioning support in Ashe County. Upon a motion by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved an additional \$1,000 contribution to Union County's American Red Cross to be distributed to the Hurricane Helene efforts in western North Carolina.

Councilman Gene Price said that if he understood correctly, the historic marker had been posted at Union Grove Church. He said that he would like to set a date for a photo with the Mayor, Commissioners, and members of the congregation. Mayor Baucom directed Deputy Clerk Braswell to set up a time for that.

There being no other business, Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melody S. Braswell
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney