

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Unionville Town Council met Monday, September 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom and all Commissioners were present. Town Attorney Ken Helms was also present.

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

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were no public comments.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the August 19, 2024 regular meeting.

Mayor Baucom then recognized Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom stated that the Town's cash balance is strong; \$3.9 million with a 4.6% interest rate. The Town received the \$15,000 county grant for Noel Williams Park design. Significant expenses include dues and subscriptions, liability insurance, payroll and office supplies for total expenses of \$61,000. This results in excess of revenue over expense of \$80,000. Transactions Since Last Month include North Carolina League of Municipalities dues. Pending Bills to be Paid include Seedspark of \$1,082; Southdata for ad valorem taxes and NFocus Planning of \$1,400 for code enforcement. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Finance Officer Baucom drew Council's attention to a comparison of Internet provider costs. Last month Seedspark had an increase of \$150 per month, which results in an annual total of almost \$13,000. CompuNet World would be \$450 per month for an annual total of \$5,400 plus \$850 for initial configuration and migration. This does not include webmaster services, so we have one quote from WordPress of \$780 annually plus hosting migration of \$600, totaling \$6,180 annually, plus upfront costs of \$1,450. We are awaiting two other quotes from CivicPlus and Spectrum Government, so the Council will review this again at the October 21, 2024 meeting.

Mayor Baucom recognized JoAnn Connell with Piedmont Breast Cancer Walk. She thanked the Council for their past support and invited them to attend the annual walk on October 19, 2024 in Piedmont High School football stadium. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. She is requesting a contribution of \$3000 to the program, which will assist families who are underinsured or uninsured in Union County. In ten years, they have raised \$244,000 for this program. Commissioner Jeff Broadaway made inquiry as to whether there are programs through the Union County Health Department to assist in the same manner. Ms. Heather Horne stated that they have educational programs available through the Health Department. Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$3,000 and thanked Mrs. Connell for her hard work on this project over the years.

Mayor Baucom recognized Ms. Heather Horne, who gave a Power Point presentation regarding Tobacco Prevention and Awareness, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Ms. Horne stated that tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable disease in North Carolina. School administrators now confiscate vapes from high school, middle school and even elementary school students. They encouraged Town of Unionville to pass a policy or adopt an ordinance for Tobacco-Free and Smoke-Free grounds, buildings and parks. An ordinance is stronger than a policy. She shared a map of Union County, indicating what areas have smoke-free and tobacco-free policies. Local governments have the authority to enforce these policies and ordinances. Union County can help with signage through grant funding. Commissioner Broadaway made inquiry to Mr. Jarred McCraw from Union County Public Schools as to whether they will be addressing these issues. Mr. McCraw stated that they work with the Health Department trying to educate students that just because it doesn't smell like a cigarette it is still bad for you. They have also updated their curriculum to emphasize the importance of declining from this practice. Town Council made no decision at this time.

Mayor Baucom recognized Union County Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Heintel and Union County Public Schools Jared McCraw, who reviewed a presentation regarding the upcoming school bond vote on November 5, 2024 for \$39.4 million. Funds from this bond will relocate East Union Middle School, which was built in 1942, to the old Forest Hills High School for \$27.6 million. Forest Hills High, which was built in 1950, is now being replaced with a new facility. It will also include \$10.7 million to design a new Parkwood High School. The next bond will include new facilities for Piedmont High and Sun Valley High Schools and renovations for Piedmont Middle School. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to whether the two Piedmont schools will remain on the same campus. Ms. Heintel said they will try to do that. The estimated tax increase is \$8.00 per \$100,000 valuation. Early voting begins October 17th. There will be other community meetings at Parkwood High School and East Union Middle School. Commissioner Broadaway stated that fifty percent of many residents' tax bills currently goes to schools and they don't have children in the school system; they are concerned regarding the return on investment. Mr. McCraw stated they are trying to be good stewards with the inventory they have, such as remodeling Forest Hills High for East Union Middle School. Future plans for East Union include possibly an upgrade for an elementary school, but it is still to be determined. They thanked the Council for their time and attentiveness.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously directed Clerk Gaddy to investigate Voluntary Annexation Petition #29, one parcel located on Stump Lake Drive.

Mayor Baucom recognized Commissioner Jeff Broadaway, who stated that he and Commissioner Benton represent the Town on the Piedmont Recreation Association Board. The Council has before them the updated one-year lease agreement with all the considerations addressed in it. This one-year lease agreement ensures that the Town will pay for mowing, building upkeep and all utilities at this time. As the PRA grows and has more families involved, they will pick up additional utilities at that time. Currently, the PRA handles all sports aspects and the Town can put a walking track or whatever they deem useful for the entire Town. Deputy Clerk Braswell made inquiry as to whether PRA is aware of this contract information, per Item #6. PRA actually schedules and the Town pays for the mowing currently. At this time, there will be a contractor who mows and repairs items in need of such services.

Currently, Attorney Helms advised that it was fine the way they are doing it. However, Finance Officer Darrell Baucom needs to review their insurance policy and come to some agreement regarding liability and insurance coverage. He also should be named as an additional insured on the PRA policy. Attorney Helms stated there are still a few blanks to fill in and bring a revised copy to the October 21, 2024 meeting to review. Commissioner Broadaway asked the Council approve the current agreement and we can add other items at the next meeting. Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the lease agreement with Piedmont Recreation Association at this time. Finance Officer made inquiry as to the inventory and value of PRA's existing equipment. Commissioner Broadaway will follow up with PRA President Dallas Greene for those details.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Chad Simpson, Council unanimously approved the Constitution Week Proclamation. It will be displayed in Town Hall.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously adjourned to Executive Session to approve the August 19, 2024 meeting minutes, to discuss personnel issues and to further discuss Town Hall renovations.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously adjourned Executive Session.

In other business, Commissioner Andrew Benton stated that a local veteran and former Fairview Town Council and American Legion Post member, Arnold Price, passed away today.

In other business, Deputy Clerk Braswell called Council's attention to the quote from Kirkwood Designs for an epoxy finish on the writing surface and top surface of the dais for \$980.00. She asked if the Council needed additional quotes. Attorney Helms did not require additional quotes. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the quote for Kirkwood Designs to perform the work.

In other business, Clerk Gaddy requested vacation days of October 7-10 and 21-23. Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway and seconded by Chad Simpson, Council unanimously approved this request.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney