

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR VIRTUAL MEETING**

The Town of Unionville Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. both in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC and virtually, in compliance with Governor Cooper's Executive Order. Mayor Randy Baucom and Commissioners Andrew Benton, Ken Brown and Gene Price and Finance Officer Darrell Baucom and Attorney Ken Helms attended the meeting virtually via a Zoom meeting. Commissioners Jeff Broadaway and Jaren Simpson attended the meeting in Town Hall, along with Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell and Clerk Sonya Gaddy. This meeting was streamed live on the Town's Facebook page, and the public was given opportunity to call in with their comments.

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

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order.

Unionville Volunteer Fire Chief Ken Brown, Board of Directors Chairman Everette Medlin and Board member Charlie Griffin made a presentation to the Town Council. Mr. Medlin expressed his thanks to the Town for their support of the fire department, and this has allowed the department to make capital purchases. Chief Brown stated that, as the result of an unexpected 2018 guideline by the National Fire Protection Agency, they need to upgrade all 36 of their air packs. These air packs were upgraded in 2015 using a Federal Grant of \$250,000 and typically upgrades are only required every fifteen years. The upgrade is \$3,000 per air pack, which equates to \$108,000 for 36 air packs. The upgrade includes a different connection for buddy-breathing and a major change to the First Stage Regulator. The upgrade is not mandatory, but the residents would suffer on their homeowner's insurance rates and worker's compensation rates if they continue to use the outdated air packs. Their main concern is the buddy-breathing change. Both Fairview and Monroe have upgraded their devices. Since Unionville shares call with them very often, our air packs would not be compatible if we do not make this change. The air pack vendors are the only ones authorized to perform the upgrades and they will not allow just the buddy-breathing connection to be changed. Additionally, the new truck that is due to arrive later this year will be built to the 2018 guideline, making them incompatible for buddy-breathing with the existing air packs. Due to Covid-19, Representative Dean Arp states there is no state funding available. Union County is also unable to provide assistance. Air packs are essential equipment. No firefighter is allowed into a structure without one. Firefighters Erica Greene and Sara Baucom demonstrated the buddy-breathing procedure. Chief Brown asked that the Town consider any amount of donation. He also stated that the department would not have planned a new building if they had known these funds would have been needed. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved the upgrade for 36 air packs at a total cost of \$108,000--\$54,000 from the 2019-2020 fiscal budget and \$54,000 from the 2020-2021 fiscal budget, with a budget amendment. Commissioner Ken Brown did not vote but expressed his thanks on behalf of the department for the Town's continued support.

Mayor Baucom then drew Council's attention to the minutes of the March 16, 2020 regular meeting. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Ken Brown, Council unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

In considering the upcoming Planning Board meeting, and upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Andrew Benton, Town Council unanimously found that the Planning Board's meeting is an essential government function and promotes the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and directed the Board to schedule its virtual meeting May 4, 2020.

Attorney Ken Helms also confirmed that Town Council's future monthly regular meetings should be in the same virtual manner until Governor Cooper gives clearance otherwise.

There were no public comments called in.

In other business, Land Use Administrator Sonya Gaddy recommended the release of Letter of Credit #600774130 for \$50,718 for roadway construction in The Oaks at Camden North Phase, as the Town has received a letter from North Carolina Department of Transportation stating that the roads meet their construction standards. The developer, Ron Rushing, maintains a Letter of Credit for \$51,451, which will remain in place until July 16, 2020 or until the Town receives a letter from NCDOT stating that they have assumed maintenance of these roads. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved the release of Letter of Credit #600774130 for \$50,718.00.

Mayor Baucom recognized Budget and Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom stated that not much has changed since last month. The total of all checking accounts and Certificate of Deposit is over \$3,000,000. In the Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual, the Town is favorable to income by \$5,843 and \$16,112 favorable in expenses due to professional fees and maintenance and repairs. Transactions by Account are normal. Pending Bills to be Paid include Baucom's Lawn Maintenance of \$2,150, Zurich American worker's compensation insurance of \$1,014 and NFocus Planning of \$1,578 for February and March. He asked that the Council also add the Union County Urban Forester bill of \$2,489. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Ken Brown, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mayor Baucom expressed his thanks for everyone working together tonight. There being no other business, Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as to form:

Sonya W. Gaddy, Clerk

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney