

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town of Unionville Town Council held its regular meeting Monday, June 21, 2021 in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom and Commissioners Andrew Benton, Jeff Broadaway, Ken Brown and Jaren Simpson were present. Town Attorney Ken Helms was also present. Commissioner Gene Price was absent.

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

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

During Public Comments, resident Pamela Ward, of 1603 Sikes Mill Road, Monroe, addressed Council and distributed a packet of information to them. She issued a complaint about the resident at 1519 Sikes Mill Road target-practicing toward her home. She has spoken to the neighbor to no avail. She has contacted Union County Sheriff's Office, spoken with the deputy in our area, and has been told they can do nothing unless she produces a bullet indicating where his shots are falling. She has not called 911 because she has been told they can do nothing. She encouraged Town Council to adopt an ordinance like other Union County municipalities' which requires the shooter must be 600 feet from an occupied home in the city limit. Mayor Baucom referred to Attorney Helms, who indicated that the Town is allowed to adopt an ordinance, and he will investigate it. Mayor Baucom recommended continuing to allow hunting and indicated that the Town would keep Ms. Ward updated.

Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Ken Brown, Town Council unanimously approved the minutes of the May 17, 2021 regular meeting, adjusting the narrative to show a revenue neutral rate of \$.0144 for Unionville and \$.0145 for Fairview.

Mayor Baucom recognized Finance Officer Baucom, who reviewed the Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Budget for 2020-2021, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Significant changes include lower investment income by \$23,600 due to lower interest rates; higher advertising fees by \$500 due to more public hearings; higher capital outlay by \$12,000 for furniture and copier; lower contributions by \$4,000 due to fewer requests; health insurance includes annual health exams not covered by insurance; maintenance and repairs includes the repair of the Town Hall ramp; miscellaneous includes the use of Benton's Cross Roads Church and security; office supplies are lower than normal; zoning increases from \$8,000 to \$9,500 due to a recent bill; added \$100 to retirement; added \$13,000 to internet, website design and server hosting; \$500 for Community Center utilities and water is higher than normal. We have not added as much to savings as normal due to Fund Balance appropriations. Any overages will be added to savings. Payroll increases by \$1,000 as he overlooked Melody's May and June hours. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved the Ordinance to Amend the Fiscal Budget for 2020-2021.

Mr. Baucom reviewed the current Balance Sheet, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. He stated that the Certificate of Deposit balance is shown. The cash level is strong. The budget reflects changes mentioned on the previous document. The Town is \$77,000 over on the income side; \$55,000 is related to fund balance appropriated. The Town is favorable \$10,000 in sales and use taxes. The Expense side shows \$6,300 lower in contributions; Insurance is \$1,400 under budget and maintenance and repairs does not include quarterly lawn mowing. For Payroll, please add \$1,000 for the Deputy Clerk; add \$1,500 for professional fees for zoning; utilities overall are \$2,300 favorable. Overall, we had a good year even with purchasing a copier, office furniture and making improvements to the internet and website. Contributions include \$54,000 for the Volunteer Fire Department air packs. In Transactions by Account, large expenses since last month include \$10,000 to Unionville Lions Club, NFocus \$3,100; Old Republic \$1,000 and Holloways \$1,800. Income since last month includes \$29,000 alcohol and beverage taxes, \$57,000 franchise taxes and \$4,600 sales taxes. In Pending Bills to be Paid, large items include the Town Hall ramp repair, \$8,000 for Piedmont Waste site and cyber liability insurance. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mr. Baucom then reviewed the Proposed 2021-2022 Budget, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. This budget is based on continuing the \$.02/\$100 valuation ad valorem tax rate. Commissioner Brown reported that N.C. House Representative Dean Arp is in the process of another \$50,000 grant for the Volunteer Fire Department for training and burn building, which will come through the Town. Mr. Baucom stated that this budget may be adjusted when that happens. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the 2021-2022 budget, along with a \$.02/\$100 valuation ad valorem tax rate.

Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Ken Brown, Council unanimously approved Text Amendment #TC-21-01, which reflect changes to our Land Use Ordinance required by N.C. G.S. 160(D).

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$3,000 to Turning Point Women's Shelter.

Council will consider the Council on Aging, American Red Cross and Heritage Festival basket donation at the July 19, 2021 meeting.

Mayor Baucom recognized Mr. Jeremy Howard, Sales Manager with Seedspark, an Information Technology company. Krysta Cathy is their Account Representative. Seedspark has been in Charlotte for 15 years hosting IT services, computers, networks, onsite and remotely, website host/design and application development. Jason Williams with Piedmont Computers accepted an offer with another company and has vetted reputable local service providers for his customers. Currently, Seedspark has 300-400 managed IT service clients in Charlotte, Union and Gaston Counties. Their owner is from Pageland, SC. They are currently putting together pricing and contracts to take over our IT services. They will recommend more

security measures on emails, which will be reflected in the cost. They will have a user-friendly support remotely or on-site to address any issues. Their terms are 60-day contracts. Currently, the Town is paying \$600 per month, and he is projecting \$695 per month for their contract. He will be back in touch soon with more information. He and Krysta met with Sonya and Melody and had conversations about driving more traffic to our website, creating fillable forms and email blasts for the Town. Attorney Helms reported that NC General Statutes may require the Town to enter the bidding process again for these services. He will research it and advise at the July 19, 2021 meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved the 2021-2022 contract with NFocus for land use backup with Richard Flowe and code enforcement with John Ganus.

Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell stated that she and Darrell Baucom attended a webinar introducing the American Rescue Plan Act and advised that federal funds are available to municipalities, counties and states. Unionville can apply for funding of \$2,100,000 and these funds must be used to offset issues incurred due to the pandemic. Since Unionville had no tax revenue losses and no public health issues, she and Darrell recommend infrastructure improvements--specifically, broadband funding, since it would benefit the largest swath of our residents. We would need to partner with the state or county to receive and apply these funds. Funds must be expended by 2026 and appropriated by 2024. Unionville is currently in the application process, but they need direction from the Council. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously directed Deputy Clerk Braswell to investigate this funding to be applied to the building up of broadband in the Town.

Deputy Clerk Braswell also addressed the Town's Records Retention Policy, stating that NC Department of Cultural and Natural Resources will be updating their schedule in the next month and she will bring it before Council for adoption once it has been updated, as each update must be approved separately prior to disposal of records.

Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously agreed to table the Town's Farm Structure Affidavit to agree with Union County's form. Attorney Helms will report his findings at the July 19, 2021 meeting.

Mayor Baucom reminded everyone of the Municipal Election Filing dates of July 2 through July 16, 2021.

There being no motion regarding the Resolution Supporting a Citizen Referendum on Transportation Funding, the issue failed.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously entered into Executive Session with their attorney for an update.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously closed Executive Session.

In other business, Clerk Gaddy reported that Betty Hinson of Unionville Lions Club has requested that they set up their July 4th chicken barbecue take-out on Town Hall property this year. Commissioner Brown stated that the Union County Sheriff's Office Command unit will be parked in the Town Hall yard, and he does not think there is room for the take-out tent. Council suggested they set up in the Unionville Grocery parking lot, as it will be closed for renovations.

In other business, Deputy Clerk Braswell reported that she has met with Amy Porter, who will provide a proposed landscape drawing for the Town Hall building and sign for the fall.

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