

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville met on Monday, September 19, 2022 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 Jaren Simpson led the prayer of invocation.

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order and opened the floor for public comments.

Mrs. JoAnn Connell addressed the Council and distributed information regarding the upcoming Piedmont Chapter Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. on the Piedmont High School track. The community has participated in this walk and fundraiser for twenty years, except for the last two years, due to COVID-19. The purpose is to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer survivors and to provide mammograms and other needs for those who need assistance in our community. In 2003, \$6,000 was raised; now a total of \$200,000 has been raised. Mayor Baucom asked that Mrs. Connell complete a request form and the Council can consider a contribution at the October 17, 2022 meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the August 15, 2022 regular meeting.

Mayor Baucom recognized Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Reports, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom stated that the Town has received the \$250,000 SCIF grant for Town Hall renovations and the certificate of deposit will mature on September 24, 2022. He is still searching for the best interest rate. In Actual versus Budget, franchise taxes and sales and use taxes have been received. On the Expense Side, liability insurance, dues and subscriptions and professional fees are the most significant items. This leaves an excess of \$12,890 excess income over expenses. The most significant item in Transactions Since Last Month are the \$250,000 SCIF grant and \$50,138 franchise taxes. Pending Bills include Seedspark and NFocus Planning for two months. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Ms. Jessie Lindberg of Turning Point was absent, due to an emergency. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$3,000.00.

Mayor Baucom recognized Mr. Doug Buchanan with Wolf Trail Engineering, who referred to the two documents which were emailed to the Town, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. This is a final facility assessment indicating two options for updates to Town Hall, including a paved parking lot, totaling \$435,223. Wolf Trail will oversee the entire project. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to automatic outside door openers. Mr. Buchanan stated that

current options will allow visitors to simply wave at the door and it opens automatically. Doors will be tied to the security system and can be programmed for automation during office hours or can be controlled manually. Commissioner Jaren Simpson made inquiry as to moving the ramp to the front door rather than the rear door. Mr. Buchanan stated that the existing floor, while is fine for residential, is not desired for commercial buildings. He recommends 2' x 2' carpet squares, as PVC emits cyanide gas if burned. Commissioner Benton made inquiry as to a tree in the parking lot. Mr. Buchanan stated this could be a tree or a row of shrubs to provide screening. Clerk Gaddy made inquiry as to the status of the existing Christmas tree and flagpole. Mr. Buchanan stated this should not be affected. Mr. Buchanan also stated that a survey of the property was not included in the original quote and will be approximately \$5,000. This project will be open for bids by the Town; they are not allowed to advertise. He hopes to have the design approved and ready for bids by January 1, 2023. Clerk Gaddy made inquiry as to moving the ramp to the front door for easier access, and Commissioner Broadaway agreed. He recognized resident Wendy Griffin in the audience and asked about her husband's electric wheelchair. Ms. Griffin stated that there are others in the community who would also be affected by the wheelchair ramp and making two turns to come into the building. She felt it would be easier to access through the front door. Deputy Clerk Braswell made inquiry as to the advertisement line item. Mr. Buchanan stated that it is not broken out in the quote. Commissioner Jaren Simpson made inquiry as to whether the Town will be required to vacate the building during construction. Mr. Buchanan thinks we will be able to hold office hours and meetings during most of the construction. Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously voted to move forward with the renovations.

Mayor Baucom recognized Union County Board of Education member, Mr. Gary Sides and Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Dr. Bashawn Harris, who presented a Power Point slideshow of the upcoming school bond project. Mr. Sides stated that the earlier bonds were designed to catch up with growth on the west side of the county. The 2016 bond provided a new athletic facility at Sun Valley High School. In 2026, they plan to rebuild Piedmont High School except for the gym and auditorium. This year's November 8<sup>th</sup> 20-year bond project includes a completely new school at Forest Hills High School except for the gym; moving East Union Middle School to the refurbished Forest Hills High location, and the refurbishment of East Elementary School. Forest Hills was built in 1960 and East Elementary was built in 1952. The total cost for East Elementary is \$38,592,589 and Forest Hills High is \$95,812,411. The school board election districts have been realigned and he now represents the Piedmont cluster. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to the ownership of the land. Mr. Sides stated that Union County Public Schools owns the land where these schools are and will be located. Commissioner Price made inquiry as to whether these schools will last 60 years, as the previous ones have. Mr. Sides stated that they are designed to last 60 years. Forest Hills will also have security measures such as cameras built in and SROs employed. They are working on including these measures in elementary schools also. Monroe Schools and South Providence School both have metal detectors.

Clerk Sonya Gaddy reminded the Council of the upcoming Christmas parade and tree lighting on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Festivities will begin around 3:30; the parade will begin at 4:00 and the tree lighting will follow. She is open to any new suggestions the Council might have also.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved adjourning to Executive Session to discuss some items with their attorney.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously adjourned Executive Session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy  
Clerk

Approved as to form:

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R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney