

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville met on Monday, January 16, 2023 in Unionville 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 Chad Simpson led the prayer of invocation.

Mayor Baucom welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

In public comments, resident Wendy Griffin of 603 Ivah Lee Way, asked if the Council could clarify the possible annexation of Noel Williams Park and what benefit it would have on the Town and the park for this annexation to be approved.

Mayor Baucom then recognized Mrs. Julie Gregg, Director of the Miss Unionville Pageant, which is sponsored by Samuel F. Keziah Unionville American Legion #535. Mrs. Gregg introduced the 2023 Miss Unionville Court:

Savannah Marchand, Tiny Miss Unionville
Audrey Self, Little Miss Unionville
Saylor Cruz, Young Miss Unionville
Ellie Latham, Junior Miss Unionville
Maggie Keziah, Teen Miss Unionville
Amber Helms, Miss Unionville
Arden Lee, Unionville Legion Queen

Mrs. Gregg also pointed out that Miss Unionville has won a \$1,000 college scholarship, and the pageant raised almost \$7,000 toward the American Legion Post #535 building fund. She stated that the girls are actively involved in community events and are willing to help the Town at events this year. Miss Unionville, 2023 Amber Helms, shared her Patriotic Speech with the Council. Mayor Baucom thanked Mrs. Gregg for her hard work on the pageant and congratulated all of the young ladies on their accomplishment.

Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the December 19, 2022 public hearing and regular meeting.

Mayor Baucom recognized Finance Officer Darrell Baucom for the financial report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom reported that the Certificate of Deposit will be maturing in March and he will research higher interest rates. Regarding Collections, income is \$350,000 largely due to property taxes and franchise taxes. On the Expense Side, in Actual versus Budget, total expenses are \$105,000 and income is \$244,000. In Activity Since Last Month, significant items are Helms Bennett Attorneys of \$1,235 while the remainder except

expense reimbursements are less than \$1,000. Pending Bills include the final bill for surveying the Town Hall property totaling \$2,827 and a progress bill from Wolf Trail Engineering for the Town Hall renovations. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mayor Baucom recognized Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell , who drew Council's attention to the quote for a Historic Marker of \$4,116.93 and a mock-up from Signs Now. This would be a wall-mounted plaque at the entrance of Unionville Elementary School honoring the historic bell. Commissioner Benton questioned the size of 42" x 30", which Mrs. Braswell confirmed is the same size as the first historic marker. She suggested that we eliminate some of the verbiage and could make the plaque smaller, or seek other quotes. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously tabled this quote to seek other comparable quotes.

Mayor Baucom recognized Mr. Mike Weeks, President and Mrs. Ashley Pyle, Fundraising Head of Piedmont High School Marching Band. Mr. Weeks thanked the Town for last year's donation which bought a new sousaphone. He reported the band consists of 225 middle- and high-school students and 15 support staff. Their total annual budget is \$75,000 - \$80,000, most of which comes from band dues of \$450 per student annually. They no longer attend away football games due to expenses. This year, they need 140 shakos (hats), many of which are in disrepair. The \$8,000 request would cover this expense. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to Town of Fairview. Mrs. Pyle stated that they have asked but have not received any funding from them. Jaren Simpson made inquiry as to last year's Town donation. Mr. Baucom reported that the Town donated \$10,000 last year. Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$8,000 to Piedmont High School Marching Band.

Mayor Baucom recognized Attorney Ken Helms, who stated that on October 17, 2022, the Council adopted a resolution directing him to contact our N.C. House Representative, Dean Arp, to seek passage of a local bill to voluntarily annex a non-contiguous property—Noel Williams Park. This resolution is requesting Rep. Arp to bring a bill to exempt Town of Unionville from the requirement we cannot meet—our tax rate is not high enough. Voluntary annexations to non-contiguous properties are only allowed if the tax rate is \$.05/\$100 valuation. This prevents Unionville from annexing the park, but a local bill would exempt the Town from this regulation, which is rather common. There are a few requirements, such as a survey and a metes and bounds description of the park. If the bill is successful, Piedmont Recreation Association must come before the Board to request voluntary annexation. The local bill would allow the Town to voluntarily annex the park into the Town limits. The resolution presented tonight is compliant with the resolution approved by the Board at the October 17, 2022 meeting. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously elected to move forward with the local bill to allow non-contiguous annexation of Noel Williams Park, as the written resolution is in compliance with the resolution adopted October 17, 2022.

Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously appointed Matt Price for a second term as member of the Planning Board, as recommended by Planning Board.

In considering participating in Union County Parks and Recreation's Movie Night and upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously agreed on the following three nights in order of preference:

July 28 at 8:15 p.m.
October 27 at 6:45 p.m.
June 30 at 8:15 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously adjourned into Executive Session to confer with their attorney regarding pending litigation.

Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously adjourned Executive Session.

In other business, Andrew Benton requested that staff investigate replacing the 20-year-old Automatic Electronic Defibrillator in Town Hall, as batteries are hard to find, prices are going up and the software is outdated. He suggested that staff bring quotes to the February 20, 2023 regular meeting for consideration. There was no opposition to 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