

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Unionville Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in Unionville Volunteer Fire Department #22, 3229 Concord Highway, 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 Gene Price led the prayer of invocation.

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

There were no public comments.

Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Jeff Broadway, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the May 20, 2024 regular meeting and Executive Session.

Mayor Baucom recognized Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom stated that the Balance Sheet indicates that the Town has applied for and received the second \$250,000 grant, and these monies have been applied to the renovations at Town Hall. This will close out this grant and is the main change since the last meeting. There is \$443,000 in checking. In Actual Income versus Budget, prior to amendments, Investment Income is \$155,000, which is more than ad valorem taxes. Total Income is \$679,000. Capital outlay is \$146,000 and reflects \$250,000 coming off due to the grant received. Contributions total \$84,000; payroll is \$95,000; total expenses are \$477,000 an excess of \$202,000 revenue over expenses. In Transactions Since Last Month, the \$250,000 grant was received on June 7, 2024. The Town made the \$60,000 contribution to the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department and \$15,000 to Unionville Lions Club recently. Pending Bills include the \$8,000 for Piedmont Convenience Site, which is the normal yearly amount, and the purchase of a new postage meter for \$2,313. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mr. Baucom then addressed the Budget Ordinance for 2024-2025 Profit & Loss Overview. He stated that this is the same document which was reviewed last month. He deleted the Urban Forester expense, which increased the fund balance. This assumes a \$.02/\$100 valuation tax rate. Total income for 2024-2025 is \$610,950, which allows a balance of \$29,000 in the bank account after all expenses. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously set a \$.02/\$100 valuation tax rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Mr. Baucom then addressed the Budget Amendment for 2023-2024 and stated that every year expenses should stay within budget restraints. Adjustments are adopted at the end of every fiscal year. Investment adjustments are \$15,000 due to higher interest rates. Sales and use taxes are less than estimated. Capital outlay on the expense side is the \$250,000 state grant, which covers most of the renovation cost at Town Hall. Other adjustments are office supplies, plaques and the postage meter purchase. Payroll is higher due to healthcare reimbursement. Zoning is less due to code enforcement is less than anticipated. Utilities show a \$2,000 adjustment. We changed income from \$860,900 to \$630,050 with the main difference being the \$250,000 grant. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved the 2023-2024 Budget Amendment. A Transaction Detail by Account indicates a list of contributions for the last five years, as requested by Commissioner Broadway.

Tax Collector Gaddy gave an updated delinquent tax amount of \$3,291.21 for real property. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the advertisement of 2023-2024 Delinquent Real Estate taxes in the Saturday, June 29, 2024 edition of The Enquirer-Journal for no more than \$369.36.

Mayor Baucom recognized Ms. Linda Robinson with Unionville Heritage Festival, which is held annually the second Saturday in September. She reported that this year's festival will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at Unionville Elementary School. She thanked the Town for their financial and participation support last year, and reported they no longer need the Town's financial support, but they will request our participation and attendance. She requested Mayor Baucom or his designee to speak again this year. They will have Heritage Hall in the cafeteria and would like for the Town to have a display there. She also invited everyone to the Randy Clontz Spaghetti fundraiser Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the American Legion Post #535 building at 5:00 pm for \$12 per plate. There will be a 50/50 raffle and other raffle items. Mr. Clontz is a 21-year veteran who suffered from multiple strokes recently. All proceeds will be donated to him.

Mayor Baucom recognized Mr. Andrew Friend with Union County Council on Aging. Mr. Friend also introduced Mrs. Michele Sarno in attendance tonight. He is asking for \$10,000 support for our older neighbors to allow them to stay in their homes as long as they can. Union County is second in North Carolina for over 65 population. In the next few years, they anticipate a 125 percent increase. Over 85 growth is anticipated at 267 percent in the next 20 years. In 2023, Council on Aging gave 20,000 hours of free in-home care, distributed 1,200 pieces of free durable medical equipment, provided 8,000 packages of incontinence and 8,000 hours of respite care to 6,000 seniors and families in Union County. They have supported caregivers by giving away \$20,000 and saved seniors over \$250,000 on prescriptions. Their new SLIP Program—Seniors Living in Place, is an innovative stay-safe fire and fall prevention program which provides free medical alert buttons and installs smoke detectors, fire stop extinguishers, reflective address signs and bathroom grab bars. They were awarded the ARP funding for the pilot program but must sustain it with local support. Town of Indian Trail provided \$45,000—roughly 50 percent of the cost. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$7,500 to Council on Aging.

Mayor Baucom recognized Mrs. Sheila Crunkleton with American Red Cross and Mrs. Michele Sarno, who is a Board member. They work alongside the Council on Aging and agree that fires don't discriminate. Many older citizens don't invest in new smoke alarms, so they also help provide them to seniors. They also have provided some hard-of-hearing alarms. Any support the Town provides for disaster relief goes directly to emergency victims. They are sponsoring two blood drives—July 26 at the Ag Center or Armory in Monroe. Also, in memory of her mother's birthday a blood drive will be held July 2, 2024. More information on both will be forthcoming. On the disaster front, a very active hurricane season is predicted for this year. They are getting ready; training volunteers. They appreciate the Town's past support and confirmed that income and insurance do not factor in when they assist those in need. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Chad Simpson, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$3,500 to American Red Cross.

Mayor Baucom recognized Mrs. Annette Harris of Piedmont High School Student Government. She thanked the Town for their support over the years with the school community. She had students make the presentation seven years ago, but this year the students are not available. Those previous students are all stellar adults. Student Government provides a host of opportunities for other students. Piedmont High is the state president school for the NC Association of Student Councils and will host a three-day event in March, 2025. This summer, they will travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico and Mars Hill University, thus the request for funding tonight. Two of the student representatives are twins who really need assistance with travel expenses. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to funding for travel expenses only. The overall anticipated budget is \$25,000 and the students will be expected to raise those funds. Mayor Baucom thanked these representatives for volunteering at our recent Movie Night and suggested we might use them in the future. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$4,000 for these students' travel expenses as an investment in the future.

Commissioner Gene Price reported that the NCDOT has installed the 40-foot driveway tiling on Mr. Danny Philemon's field on Unionville Road to be used for parking for the July 4th event. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved a load of rock on the driveway portion of this field, in case there is rain near the date of the parade. Clerk Gaddy also reported that she will drive

the Council in her Suburban for the parade again this year. The Town will recognize three Unionville citizens as Persons of the Month during the opening ceremony.

Clerk Gaddy read a letter to the Council indicating her retirement date of December 31, 2025. Attorney Ken Helms stated that it is Council's decision whether to advertise and include a salary range. Commissioner Broadaway suggested wording such as "commensurate to experience". Mayor Baucom suggested a committee be formed to make recommendations to the Council, and asked if Attorney Helms, Commissioners Benton and Broadaway and Clerk Gaddy would serve on the committee. All agreed except Attorney Helms, who stated that it might be difficult to serve on the committee since he serves in an advisory role to the Council. Commissioner Benton suggested that this committee meet and determine interview questions approved by Attorney Helms among other items to consider prior to reporting to Council. Finance Officer Baucom suggested that the Town might consider allowing Union County to collect our taxes as it could be less costly. The committee will bring a recommendation at the July 15, 2024 meeting.

Mayor Baucom drew Council's attention to a Noel Williams Park Master Plan provided by Daniel Dodd, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Commissioner Broadaway reported that the design costs will be covered entirely by Union County grant funds specifically received for these types of items, along with tobacco awareness. Attorney Helms made inquiry as to whether the entire contract is covered and what method will be used. Commissioner Broadaway stated that there is no limit to the coverage and we could pay and be reimbursed for the funds through the grant. Attorney Helms requested that the proposal be made between Fit Fields and Town of Unionville, rather than Mayor Baucom and Fit Fields. Commissioner Broadaway also reported that Piedmont Recreation Association subcommittee will meet tomorrow and will report added details at the July or August meetings. Mayor Baucom also reported that an appraiser is currently working on the appraisal of the park and equipment. Commissioner Jaren Simpson made inquiry as to the limitation of 30 days for the contract. Attorney Helms suspects that the opportunity will still be there beyond the 30 days.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney