

## **TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville held its regular meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in Unionville Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom and all Commissioners were present. Town Attorney Ken Helms was absent.

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 welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baucom then invited public comments. Mr. John Brewer addressed Council, thanking them for their recognition of him as a Citizen of the Month in July. He is here tonight because he is a patriot and loves his country. He has been lining up the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade for 20 years, served as the New Salem American Legion Post Commander six years. During that time, the post doubled their membership, remodeled the building and erected a helicopter on the property. The idea to start an American Legion Post in Unionville was met with criticism. Nothing was farther than the truth. He received unanimous support from the Council and the post grew rapidly. They began with 15 members and are now the largest post in Union County and next to the largest in the district. This year he stepped down as Post Commander and Oscar Outen is the new Post Commander. He asks the Council to give Mr. Outen the same support they've given him over the years. They began programs such as Baseball, Shooting Team, Ladies Softball, Archery, Heritage Festival, the Christmas parade and brought back the Miss Unionville pageant. Unionville resident Mac Rushing has been very supportive of the Legion and was instrumental in constructing their building and has an honorary membership to Unionville Post #535. Benton's Cross Roads Baptist Church provided a place for the Post to have meetings and fund raisers for 12 years at no cost to the Post. He wants to publicly thank the Town and presented a plaque to Mayor Baucom indicating his appreciation.

In other public comments, resident LaNae Haigler stated that a recurring problem has been that the agendas have not been posted on the Town's website in November and December. She recommends following up on this issue with our webmaster.

Mr. Jason Allen, 5002 Friendly Baptist Church Road, owns 17 acres of land which his grandfather farmed many years ago. He has constructed an accessory structure on the building in excess of \$100,000 after re-routing the septic lines in order to move to this property. Then Unionville denied the accessory structure zoning permit because it was larger than the primary structure. In April, 2024 he received a code citation from Unionville's Code Enforcement Officer, John Ganus. He had a conversation with Mr. Ganus, who told him to either tear down the building or attach it to the existing home. He asked where this rule came from. An addition will cost him too much and his building is necessary for him to store his farm equipment. He never imagined such dreams would be an issue to build a 30' x 40' building on 20 acres of land. He would like to rectify this situation without liquidating all his resources.

Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Jeff Broadaway, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the November 18, 2024 public hearing and regular meeting.

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 and amount in checking account has increased due to franchise taxes of \$59,000 and sales tax of \$6,500. Income for the year is \$278,000 plus the franchise and sales taxes. Normal expenses are \$123,562, favorable income versus expenses \$200,000. In Transactions Since Last Month, significant items are MC2 for plat review, NFocus, payroll and withholdings. Pending Bills to Be Paid include several refunds for overpaid property taxes, legal bills, Logos Plus by Lynn and NFocus. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Chad Simpson, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mr. Baucom made inquiry as to the final payment to Miles-McClellan Construction. Since they lack the completion of the Knox box and sowing the yard, he was directed to delay the final payment.

In considering the Town's Internal Technology and Website hosting/maintaining, Clerk Gaddy presented a spreadsheet of quotes, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. She recommends Scenario #1—Seedspark for IT support and Word Press for website for a total of \$639.28 monthly and a one-time \$600 set-up fee. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved Seedspark and Word Press for IT and website support.

Commissioner Jeff Broadaway reported that the Piedmont Recreation Association is pulling the two leases together and should have the final draft to Town Council soon.

Mayor Baucom recognized Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell, who reviewed the Kirkwood Designs and Carolina Epoxy quotes for the writing surface of the dais. She stated that we also contacted two stone vendors but did not receive quotes from them. Carolina Epoxy will provide an epoxy on top of the existing surface for \$5,300. Kirkwood will do a similar epoxy for \$3,050. Kirkwood will strip and install new epoxy for \$3,950 and they will demolish the existing writing surface and rebuild with Red Oak and apply a clear epoxy finish on top for \$6,075.00. Commissioner Price made inquiry as to the maintenance of the epoxy finish. Deputy Clerk Braswell stated it should last 10 years or longer. A new red oak build will last even longer with the strong wood. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved the Kirkwood Designs quote for \$6,075.00.

Mayor Baucom then recognized Ms. Kristy Dale and Ms. Sam Oakley from Piedmont Marching Band, who requested a donation of \$9,000 - \$24,000. This year, the Piedmont Band went to several different states to compete, replaced their trailer and the drum line. They raised band fees but still had \$10,000 in unpaid band fees, so parents and other donations covered this amount. They need to replace the other half of their baritone line. Mayor Baucom made inquiry

as to their fundraisers. The band has recurring donations on Facebook. Their annual barbecue at Fairview VFD was not possible this year due to the building being sold. They also had issues with their cookie dough vendor so they did not have that fundraiser. They recently launched “Invest in a Band Student” to replace those funds. Commissioner Benton made inquiry as to their visit at Town of Fairview. Fairview donated \$1,500.00. Finance Officer Baucom reported that we donated \$8,000 in January, 2023 to replace the band hats and \$10,000 in December, 2021 for instruments. Upon motion duly made by Jeff Broadaway, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$6,000 to cover the cost of two baritones, on the condition that they march and play in our parade.

In considering America’s 250 Anniversary participation, Council directed Clerk Gaddy to provide more information at the January 20, 2025 meeting prior to making a decision.

In considering Christmas bonuses, Town Council may not meet in Executive Session without their attorney. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved bonuses of \$500 each for Finance Officer Baucom and Deputy Clerk Braswell and \$750 for Clerk Gaddy.

There being no other business, Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy  
Clerk

Approved as to form:

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R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney