

**MINUTES  
UNION CITY BOROUGH  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

**VISION STATEMENT:** “The Union City area is a thriving rural community of families, businesses and organizations dedicated to encouraging growth while maintaining small town values.”

The Council Meeting for the Borough of Union City was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Councilor Cross. The meeting was at the First United Methodist Church, 42 East High Street, Union City.

**COUNCILORS PRESENT** were Cross, Joyce, Bowes, Warner, and Winkler. Brumagin and Douglas were absent.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Solicitor Tim Wachter; Borough Manager, Cindy Wells; Police Chief, David Pernice; Streets Supervisor, Bob Phillips; and Zoning Officer, Jason Sayers.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** It was moved by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Winkler that the agenda stands approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION ON MINUTES:** It was moved by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Warner that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve Council Meeting minutes for the Council Meeting on February 8, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

**HEARING OF THE VISITORS:** Emmett McGuire, 35 Bridge Street, stated that two of his family members had received QOL Courtesy Notices for accumulation of rubbish. He didn’t understand why and said there was snow so it couldn’t be cleaned up. He had talked to Code Enforcement Officer Cross and they were told that they had an extended time to clean it up since there was snow. McGuire stated in one case you couldn’t see the backyard from the street. However, Cross stated that it was visible from the side street since the property is on a corner lot. McGuire felt that his family was being targeted. Borough Manager Cindy Wells stated there had been several notices sent out to other property owners and that was not the case.

McGuire also stated that the Borough is requiring residents to clear the sidewalks but they don’t enforce it with the railroads.

**PENNDOT REPRESENTATIVES BRIAN SMITH AND ED ORZEHOWSKI**

PennDOT representatives came to hear Council’s concerns on the new traffic signals, particularly the ones at High Street and Main Street. The main issue is traffic in the west bound lane making right turns. There is a sign that states “stop here on red”. Drivers think that means they can’t turn right on red and it backs up traffic, which also makes a left turn from West High Street difficult when the light is green. Several suggestions were made as far as different signage but with the railroad tracks it makes it a difficult intersection. PennDOT did agree to set a temporary electronic sign in the spring that states that after stopping traffic can proceed on red, IF there is no train. If the stop here

on red sign was removed, which could cause additional problems, the drawings would need to be redrawn and signed.

PennDOT did state the railroad is going to be completing their safety upgrades this year and it will include crossing gates.

**SOLICITOR WACHTER:** The Solicitor presented the proposed zoning ordinance regarding 5G services along with a change to section 305.

The proposed ordinance is adopting the rules that are required for Boroughs regarding Act 50. There are fees that can be charged which would be determined by resolution. He will remove the portion regarding underground utilities in certain districts. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Zoning Officer Jason Sayers asked about greenhouses for personal enjoyment being permitted in residential areas. Currently the ordinance doesn't appear to allow it. The Solicitor will provide information for a new definition of personal use greenhouses under accessory structures.

Jason Sayers also mentioned that temporary structures are only considered temporary for 180 days and then require a zoning permit. There was discussion on possible changes because of the required tracking.

Solicitor Wachter also presented a proposed ordinance regarding chickens. It was proposed to restrict the lot size to ½ or ¾ acres. Also, it was mentioned that coops could not be set on vacant lots. Council will read this over and discuss at the next meeting.

**POLICE CHIEF:** The Police Chief had no reports or recommendations.

**STREET SUPERVISOR:** St. Supervisor reported that there are three houses on Putnam Street that have drains from their basements pumping into the street. Council requested he talk to the Municipal Authority to determine if this is storm water or sanitary sewer water. If it is storm water, the property owners could connect their pipe into the storm sewer. Residents are not permitted to drain water into the street.

**BOROUGH MANAGER:**

**MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES:**

Gap Funding from Erie County was received in the amount of \$54,400 towards the purchase of a new street sweeper.

Engine Retarder Prohibition on East High Street – A letter was received from PennDOT, after completing a study the area is not eligible because the grade is greater than 4% in many areas of East High Street.

**ECRDA LOAN FOR STREET SWEEPER:** Council was asked to approve the submission of an

application to Erie County Redevelopment Authority, for a loan in the amount of \$235,000 for a street sweeper. Solicitor Wachter explained because the loan was greater than \$125,000 there is a required process and paperwork that includes an ordinance, to be completed under the Local Government Unit Debt Act with the DCED. To process and advertise the package could cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

**MOTION TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION APPLYING FOR A LOAN TO THE ECRDA FOR THE REMAINING FUNDING OF \$235,000 FOR A STREET SWEEPER.** It was moved by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Winkler. Motion carried unanimously.

**PARKS MAINTENANCE PLAN:** Recommended that the Borough adopt a plan. It would be a supporting document for grant applications. The plan was emailed to Council for review.

**MOTION TO ADOPT A PARKS MAINTNANCE PLAN TO BE UTILIZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, AFTER THE ADDITION OF SECTIONS FOR RESTROOMS AND PAVILLIONS.** A motion was made by Councilor Bowes and seconded by Councilor Joyce. Motion carried unanimously.

**UNION CITY POLICE BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT:** Council to ratify the contract.

**MOTION TO RATIFY THE THREE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE UNION CITY POLICE BARGAINING UNIT THAT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATED.** A motion was made by Councilor Bowes and seconded by Councilor Warner. Motion carried unanimously.

**VACANCY FOR A CONSTABLE IN DISTRICT 1 AND 2:** Information was received that there are two vacancies for Constable and Borough Council are to fill these.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 1111 QUALITY OF LIFE.** Currently the fines are \$25, \$50, \$100, \$300. Fines can be issued daily. Proposed allowing \$1000 fine for non-compliance instead of issuing a \$300 fine daily. Solicitor Wachter will provide information at the next meeting.

**PROPOSAL FOR ADVERTISING ON ELECTRONIC SIGN:** Greg Bowes, The Buzz of UC Café, has proposed the Borough purchase advertising on a sign that will be installed at The Buzz. Because of the Ethics Act a legal ad was placed Thursday, February 3, 2022 requiring proposals be submitted no later than noon on Monday, February 21, 2022. No proposals were received.

The sign is an LED, 3' x 6', visible from both directions. It would be a term of 5 years at the cost of \$3,000. Multiple clients will likely request advertisements, but priority will be given on a first come first served basis. The proposal had not been presented to Council prior to the meeting. Greg will email it to the Borough Manager who will email it to Council for their review and discussion at the next meeting.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Personnel Policy Manual – President Cross asked if there were any recommended Changes and there were none. He stated that the Personnel Committee would meet sometime in March to review it.

**FINANCE:** The Liaison of Finance had no reports or recommendations.

**PERSONNEL AND PLANNING:** The Liaison of Personnel and Planning had no reports or recommendations.

**EMS, FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR:** The Liaison for EMS/Fire had no reports or recommendations.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Councilor Winkler reported that Parks and Recreation are starting to plan the Easter Egg Hunt.

**ADJOURNMENT:** It was moved by Councilor Bowes and seconded by Councilor Joyce that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 P.M.

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ATTEST