

**MINUTES
UNION CITY BOROUGH
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

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 6:30 P.M. by Councilor Cross. The meeting was at the First Global Methodist Church, 42 East High Street, Union City. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Cross, Joyce, Daggett, Osborn, and Steadman. Warner and Winkler were absent.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor, Natalie Wilmoth; Borough Manager, Cindy Wells; Police Chief, David Pernice; and Streets Supervisor, Bob Phillips.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion made by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Steadman that the agenda stands approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION ON MINUTES: Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Osborn that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve minutes from the Council meeting on September 12, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE VISITORS: Alice Jane Soety Ross, owner of 139-1/2 South Main Street, expressed her concern for her property. She voiced that her neighbor, in front of her property, had French drains installed and they have been pushing water into her yard and washing out the roads and her driveway. She wants Council to consider an ordinance in regards to the issue. She stated that she has paid a lawyer \$3,000 and he told her to get an engineer to determine where the water is flowing from. Councilor Cross made her aware that it is already a state law but will discuss with Solicitor Wachter at the next meeting.

POLICE CHIEF: Council reviewed September Police Reports and had no questions.

Chief Pernice wanted to remind us that October 4th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM will be coffee with a cop at the Buzz Café here in town. He and Officer Shelly will be present to hear any concerns or simply just to share a cup of coffee with the public.

He said that the body cams are in use and thanked Council for their support. The Chief mentioned that officers can review their own footage. Mary Ann Mook is going to write an article about them for the Corry Journal.

He also presented information for council that was a copy of the Erie Police Department recruiting page for review. Chief said that our current Civil Service rules are too open to interpretation. He said that the only way to refuse an applicant would be to put some requirements for the applicants.

He also would like to amend the age requirement to max hire of 40 years old on the day of application. He stated his job is to notify council of issues to make the best product for the police department.

Councilor Joyce said the way to control production is within personnel, management, and discipline. We need to stay on all policies. Charlie wants to hear Tim's opinion on this before deciding. The Mayor stated that the Solicitor has said that the Retirement age is set in Collective Bargain. Council asked that Chief Pernice get examples of other age policies from other Police Departments.

The dog ordinance is from 1977. It is being enforced but the owner and person in control of the animal should both get a warning. The fines are \$10 with a max of \$300. This needs to be updated. Council agreed to update the ordinance. A warning would be issued for the first violation and if it continues its fine will be \$50.00 for the 2nd offense, \$100 for 3rd fine, and the 4th offense \$300.00, with a max fine of \$1000.00.

PUBLIC WORKS: The Street Supervisor noted that we have been having good weather and have been accomplishing a lot, but they will be putting the plows on in about 3-4 weeks just as a precaution.

MAYOR: The Mayor had nothing to report at this time.

BOROUGH MANAGER:

MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES:

Received State Pension Aid - \$36,728 the MMO was \$33,503. Over \$3,225.26. It will be paid into the non-uniform pension.

DCED grant agreement received. It will be paid into the Non-Uniform Pension Plan.

Reverse Assessment was completed and granted.

PSAB Fall Leadership Conference – October 13-15th at the Bayfront Convention Center Fire, EMS & Municipal Leadership Seminar, October 10th, 5:30 to 8:00

ECAB General Meeting – October 18, 2023

Damage in Caflisch Park was noticed last week. The changing tables in the public restrooms were damaged. The investigation is still going on.

Leaf Pickup WILL BE ON Mondays and Fridays from October 16th through November 17th. The requirements are as follows DO NOT begin placing bags of leaves at the curb before October 14th and the leaves must be in clear bags no larger than 55 gallons.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACT 22 OF 2017 – THE LAW THAT GOVERNS REQUESTS FOR VIDEO RECORDINGS. In May Council approved a policy for the Police Department mobile and body cams. The policy is to be posted on the website at the time the cameras start being used. The Solicitor has reviewed it and made suggested changes to the policy which includes definitions and would meet the requirements of Act 22.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED POLICY FOR MOBILE AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE SOLICITOR. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Steadman. The motion carried unanimously.

AMEND RESOLUTION FOR GENERAL FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE FEES FOR ACT 22 REQUEST. A fee needs to be set for requests for body camera and MVR video. Chief is asking to consider hiring a company to provide video footage when requested. Chief will get quotes from a third party. Fees need to be set until a third party is determined.

MOTION TO AMEND A RESOLUTION FOR THE GENERAL FEE SCHEDULE AND INCLUDE FEES FOR ACCT 22 REQUESTS FOR BODY CAMERA AND MVR VIDEO FOOTAGE AT THE RATE OF FIRST 3 HOURS OF VIDEO (AUDIO REDACTION INCLUDED), \$7 PER MINUTE; OVER 3 HOURS OF VIDEO (AUDIO REDACTION INCLUDED), \$5 PER MINUTE; AUDIO REDACTION ONLY (AUDIO ONLY FILES), \$5 PER MINUTE; IMAGE REDACTION (PER IMAGE REDACTED), \$5 PER IMAGE; DOCUMENT REDACTION (PER PAGE), \$1 PER PAGE; CASE MINIMUM (CASES UNDER 14 MINUTES), \$100. Motion by Councilor Daggett and seconded by Councilor Osborn. The motion carried unanimously.

SALE OF STREET SWEEPERS: We have the Pelican Sweeper and the Johnston Sweeper to be sold. Bloomfield Township is not interested. They can be listed on Municibid.

MOTION TO LIST THE STREET SWEEPERS FOR SALE ON MUNICIBID WITH A STARTING PRICE OF \$8,000 FOR THE PELICAN AND THE JOHNSTON TO BE DETERMINED BY PUBLIC WORKS: Motion by Councilor Daggett and seconded by Councilor Osborn. Motion carried unanimously.

STORMWATER PROBLEMS AT WARDEN STREET AND VACATING JOHN STREET. Council agreed to contacting Jeff Kordes from GPI to conduct a study for \$300-\$600 in the Warden Street area.

STORMWATER PROBLEMS AT PARK STREET AND MAPLE STREET: We received a complaint about the ditches on both streets and washing onto Wattsburg Street. Street Supervisor stated that we have only ever tarred and chipped that area one time. It should have had another coat the 2nd and 3rd year. The South side of Park Street is only millings and washing out. Maple Street will need new pipes at driveways.

SAFETY FENCING AT 77 SOUTH MAIN FOR STORMWATER DETENTION POND: Council is requiring safety fencing and need to determine the type of fencing.

MOTION TO TABLE FENCING AROUND STORMWATER DETENTION PONDS AT 77 SOUTH MAIN STREET. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Daggett. The motion carried unanimously.

EASEMENT ON 77 SOUTH MAIN STREET. Information about the condition of the pipe was presented along with photos. An estimate for the work was presented also and was over \$57,000. Still waiting on another estimate for the work.

TOWING RFP: The revised towing RFP was advertised on September 29, 2023 and the bids are due November 17, 2023.

RETRO-ACTIVE MOTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISING THE REVISED TOWING RFP. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Osborn. Motion carried unanimously.

ERIE COUNTY LAND BANK RECEIVED AN APPLICATION FOR 11 MAPLE STREET. Council Reviewed and approved the application to purchase the property. It was mentioned that a sluice pipe is needed across the end of the driveway.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION TO THE ERIE COUNTY LAND BANK, FROM GREGG KENT, FOR THE PURCHASE OF 11 MAPLE STREET. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Daggett. The motion carried unanimously.

ERIE COUNTY BUREAU OF REVENUE & TAX CLAIM RECEIVED AN APPLICATION FOR 8 JOHN STREET, FROM THE REPOSITORY LIST. The applicant has offered \$250 for the purchase of the lot to be used as a garden.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION TO ERIE COUNTY BUREAU OF REVENUE & TAX CLAIM, FROM JEREMY BIEBEL, FOR THE PURCHASE OF 8 JOHN STREET. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Osborn. The motion carried unanimously.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: The proposed amendment would change Section 902(G) Allowing for an electronic message sign to be placed in R1 and R2 by a special exception hearing.

MOTION TO APPROVE HAVING THE SOLICITOR WRITE AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 902(G), ALLOWING FOR AN ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SIGN TO BE PLACED IN R1 AND R2 BY A SPECIAL EXCEPTION HEARING, AND START THE PROCESS TO HAVE THE ORDINANCE AMENDED. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Osborn. Motion carried unanimously.

2023/2024 RENAISSANCE GRANT: The Borough received \$100,000 for the Renaissance Grant to be used over a two-year period. There were seven applications received during the first round. Council needs to review and approve the applications. The recommendations were selected based on what the largest economic impact on the Borough would be and represent the largest potential to negate blight.

MOTION TO APPROVE ALL THE RECOMMENDED RENAISSANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS USING 2023/2024 FUNDING. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Steadman. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION APPROVING ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. The Resolution allows them to review the zoning ordinance in regard to solar energy systems, at no cost.

MOTION TO APPROVE A REOLUTION FOR ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AT NO COST, TO REVIEW THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO REGULATE SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS. Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Osborn. The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE ORDINANCE ADDING A SECTION FOR FINES AND PENALTIES. The current ordinance doesn't contain a specific section regarding fines and penalties for unpaid tickets. This was requested by DJ Buell.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE QUALITY-OF-LIFE ORDINANCE BY ADDING A SECTION FOR FINES AND PENALTIES FOR UNPAID TICKETS. Motion by Councilor Steadman and seconded by Councilor Daggett. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Budget will be presented on October 16, 2023. Council decided to meet on Monday, October 30th, 2023, at 6:00 PM to have the extra meeting to review the budget.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON REPORTS: Department Liaisons had nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Steadman that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

ATTEST