

**MINUTES  
UNION CITY BOROUGH  
MAY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**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 6:02 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, Winkler, Osborn, Steadman, and Kerns. Uber was absent.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT** were Mayor, Robert Wolf; Borough Manager, Cindy Wells; Police Chief, David Pernice; and Streets Supervisor, Bob Phillips.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion 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 Winkler that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve minutes from the Council meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

**HEARING OF THE VISITORS:** No one wished to speak.

**MAYOR:** The Mayor stated the new medicine disposal box is at the City Building. It is located in the back near the Police Department. He will come in and empty it as needed. It will be the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> location in the county.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Pernice asked Council to consider an ordinance not allowing dogs in Borough parking lots. There are problems with people walking their dogs and not cleaning up after them. The area in Municipal Lot #1 along French Creek is one of the worst and Public Works must clean it up just to mow. Council didn't agree to having an ordinance.

K9 Project-After some discussion Councilor Steadman said he would prefer investing in hiring a new officer instead of a K9 unit. Chief replied that the K9 will be helpful when the officer is working alone at night and also, for picking up scents of drugs during traffic stops. The question was asked what will happen to the dog if the K9 Officer ever leaves the Department and if the dog could be transferred to a new officer? Mayor Wolf said he would check with someone who trained the dogs and find out if they can be transferred. Chief Pernice stated they had recently called in a K9 Unit when someone was barricaded in a house. He said Council should consider it because officers work alone at night and PSP isn't always available as back-up. He asked if they could solicit funds to see if there is any interest in supporting a K9 unit. Council agreed as long as no funds were collected. They also requested to review the letter prior to sending it out. Councilor Cross stated there is still more information he would like to gather.

New police vehicle – This was discussed at the last meeting and using the USDA Grant. Those funds are available until August 2027.

Discuss Lexipol Polices – Council was provided with the log in so they can review the policies. Chief has a call with the project manager to review and make additional changes.

**STREETS:** Bob Phillips, Street Supervisor, reported that milling was done on Johnson, Miles and Atlantic Streets and will be paved on Thursday.

Parking on South Main – Changes were discussed and will be emailed to the Solicitor to make changes to the ordinance. It will be presented to Council at another meeting.

**BOROUGH MANAGER:**

**MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES**

Solicitor Glasoe doesn't recommend an ordinance regulating use of lawn mowers on streets and sidewalks. Chief stated the police will use officer discretion.

**RESOLUTION FOR MULTI-MODAL GRANT-** The resolution is not ready to be approved and will be presented at a future meeting.

**DCED REGIONAL POLICE STUDY:** Information was provided to council at a previous meeting. A Letter of Intent needs to be submitted to the DCED. There is no charge for this study.

**MOTION TO APPROVE SUBMITTING A LETTER OF INTENT TO THE DCED FOR A REGIONAL POLICE STUDY TO BE COMPLETED.** Motion by Councilor Joyce, seconded by Councilor Steadman. Motion carried unanimously.

**FRENCH CREEK FESTIVAL FIREWORKS:** In the past the Borough has budgeted funds for the fireworks. U.C. Action is short approximately \$4,080 for fireworks for a 20-minute display at the cost of \$10,000.

**MOTION TO CONTRIBUTE \$4,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO UC ACTION TOWARDS THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT THE 2024 FRENCH CREEK FESTIVAL.** Motion by Councilor Joyce, seconded by Councilor Osborn. Motion carried unanimously.

**HEALTH INSURANCE FOR BOROUGH EMPLOYEES:** Information is being gathered regarding changing health insurance providers. Because the Borough is in a Consortium with Benecon, we are required to notify Benecon by June 30, 2024 that we are considering leaving the Consortium. If Council decides to remain with Benecon, a letter will need to be sent rescinding the termination by November 30, 2024.

**MOTION TO SEND A LETTER TO BENECON WITH NOTIFICATION OF TERMINATING MEMBERSHIP IN THE COOPERATIVE.** Motion by Councilor Joyce, seconded by Councilor Steadman. Motion carried with Councilors Cross and Kerns abstaining.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** The current Code Enforcement Officer resigned as of May 31, 2024.

Interviews will be conducted with some potential candidates over the next couple of weeks. A temporary Code Enforcement Officer needs to be appointed until that time to continue handling any of the open cases or potential problems that may arise.

**MOTION TO APPOINT CINDY WELLS AND KIMBERLY TUSZYNSKI AS A TEMPORARY CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER UNTIL A PERMANENT ONE CAN BE APPONITED.** Motion by Councilor Joyce, seconded by Councilor Osborn. Motion carried unanimously.

**ROUTE 97 STORMWATER PROJECT:** GPI has provided an agreement for engineering, design, inspection, and services as stated in the agreement for a total price of \$40,000.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT THE “AUTHORIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES” FOR THE DESIGN, ENGINEERING, INSPECTION, AND SERVICES AS STATED IN THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000, UPON REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SOLICITOR.** Motion by Councilor Winkler, seconded by Councilor Steadman. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Council President had nothing to report.

**DEPARTMENT LIAISON REPORTS:** Department Liaisons had no reports or recommendations.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Winkler that the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 P.M.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WENT FROM 7:16 PM TO 7:41 PM.**