

**MINUTES
UNION CITY BOROUGH
JULY 9TH, 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 6:00 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 were Cross, Joyce, Winkler, Osborn, Steadman, Uber, and Kerns.

OFFICIALS PRESENT were Solicitor, Tim Wachter; 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 Kerns to adopt the agenda as amended by adding in a motion to approve emergency storm water pipe repair. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION ON MINUTES: Motion Made by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Joyce that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve minutes from the Council meeting on June 25th, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE VISITORS: Anthony Hickey, 104 East High Street, has a problem with water that runs down East High Street, around on to Bridge Street, into his property, during heavy rainstorms. Bob Phillips stated that has always been a problem. Anthony said he purchased the property and has made major improvements, but the water runs into his building. He contacted PennDOT, the Borough, and Representative Jake Banta’s office but no one will do anything. He said there is no crown on Bridge Street. There is a 4” drain in front of the next property, 7 Bridge Street. Bob Phillips stated it was put in about 15 years ago. If he would build up his lot to keep the water from running in then it would flood out the neighbor. Solicitor Wachter said the water has done this for years. The state should fix it but they most likely won’t. He said Anthony bought the property and the problem. Anthony stated he will dig the ditch if the Borough provides the catch basin and pipe. The Borough will look into the problem.

MAYOR: The Mayor was not present.

POLICE CHIEF: The Police Chief recommends hiring Kenneth Fye as a full-time officer. He passed his civil service testing and background check. The Chief has nothing but good comments about him.

STREETS: Bentley Run streambank stabilization is completed. However, there was a rainstorm the next day that washed out a lot of the topsoil and grass seed. It will be replaced.

The Street Supervisor provided information on the emergency stormwater repair at 98 East High Street. A large sinkhole, approximately 3’ wide x 8’ deep, appeared in the back-side yard of 98 East High. Mansfield used a camera going south from East High Street. The first 50 feet was cement pipe in

good condition. After that it had been galvanized pipe for approximately 90-100 feet that the bottom was gone. The camera fell into that and couldn't be retrieved. The pipe needed to be replaced and Mansfield provided a quote of \$14,500 to replace the galvanized pipe with plastic pipe. After discussion between the Borough Manager, Council President Cross, and Public Works Liaison Councilor Steadman, Mansfield was going to replace it.

Another sink hole was located in Municipal Lot #1. Mansfield looked at it and quoted approximately \$6,000 to cut the concrete, open the hole and determine what the problem was.

MOTION TO APPROVE MANSFIELD REPAIRING THE PIPE AND SINKHOLE AT THE COST OF \$14,500.

Motion by Councilor Steadman and seconded by Councilor Kerns. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO APPROVE MANSFIELD TO OPEN AND CLEAN OUT THE HOLE IN MUNICIPAL LOT #1 SPENDING UP TO \$6,000, AFTER CONTACTING MCLALLEN CONSTRUCTION FOR A PRICE, AND WHO COULD DO IT THE SOONEST. Motion by Councilor Steadman and seconded by Councilor Osborn.

Motion carried unanimously.

BOROUGH MANAGER: MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

TA Set-Aside Sidewalk Project will begin Monday, July 15, 2024

South County EMS Study virtual meeting with Council on 7/11/24 at 6:00 PM RSVP

ECBA meeting July 17, 2024 at 5:30 in Albion. Service Awards to be presented to Matt Joyce. If interested in attending RSVP by July 10, 2024

LECOM Health/Corry Memorial Hospital Golf Classic, Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Meeting with Council Members to present health insurance plans – July 30, 2024 at Municipal Authority, at 5:30 PM

The Feasibility Study for the School Crossing was approved. An engineer needed to be selected. Council agreed to use WRA, LLP the County's appointed engineer.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE RELATED TO SKILL GAMES OF CHANCE AND ALLOWING POOLS IN VACANT ADJOINING LOTS. The changes for Skill Games of Chance were

previously presented and approved. Council needs to determine other proposed changes regarding vacant adjoining lots. It was discussed to allow above ground pools on adjoining vacant lots. Also sheds up to 144 square feet if it is on a gravel base, on skids or pillars and would be removable. No set-backs on adjoining property line. Front yard set-back would still apply. Solicitor Wachter will write a suggested amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and present to Council.

CIVIL SERVICE CERTIFIED LIST: The Civil Service Commission provided the Borough with the certified list of candidates. Only one person met the testing requirements and the background checks.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION: The Commission recommended Kenneth Fye be hired as a full-time officer.

MOTION TO HIRE KENNETH FYE AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER. Motion by Councilor Steadman. The motion failed for a second so the motion dies and will be revisited at next meeting.

RETROACTIVE MOTION FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: The Personnel Committee interviewed Mark Zigler and recommended him for the position of Code Enforcement Officer. Mark is available to start training on July 12, 2024. He will be able to receive some training virtually on the iWorqs software. He will not be able to begin the actual work until July 29, 2024.

RETROACTIVE MOTION TO APPOINT MARK ZIGLER AS CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. Motion by Councilor Osborn and seconded by Councilor Joyce. Councilor Uber apposed because he felt he should reside in the Borough. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF HIRING SUMMER HELP FOR PUBLIC WORKS: The Borough received three quotes for mowing and trimming the parks and other Borough property. They ranged from \$1200 to \$750. Capela Landscape will be completing the mowing for four-weeks beginning July 8, 2024. They will be able to continue beyond the four-weeks if needed. Adecco has provided the name of an individual that is interested in summer help. He would be hired for around \$18 an hour at 32/hrs a week but not working more than the other part-time employee.

RESOLUTION APPROVING BROADBAND: The Erie Area COG has been working on having Broadband Ready Communities. It is recommended that a Resolution be passed authorizing the Broadband Ready Communities Program Application be completed. The resolution authorizes the EACOG to serve as the Municipal Broadband Champion for the Borough. We are required to have a public meeting stating the resolution will be passed. This creates an opportunity for other ISP's to come into the Borough creating other options for residents. Our permitting requirements are within the recommendations. Council needs to agree that we proceed with the process for the public meeting and the resolution.

MOTION TO APPROVE PROCEEDING WITH THE PROCESS FOR THE PUBLIC MEETING AND RESOLUTION TO RECEIVE THE BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION. Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Joyce. The motion carried unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE PARKING ORDINANCE: Council had previously proposed changes to amend the parking ordinance which included changing front-end parking in Municipal Lot #2. The Street Supervisor was to calculate how many parking spaces would be available if angled parking was used. Any final recommendations for amendments will be provided to the Solicitor to complete a proposed amended ordinance for Councils final review. Council wants to remove front end parking in Municipal Lot #2. The Solicitor will present a proposed amendment to the Parking Ordinance.

REVIEW THE ENGINEERING COSTS AND AGREEMENT FOR RT 97 PROJECT: The budget for the grant provided for \$10,000 for engineering and inspection. If there any problems that arise due to slow construction and extend the project duration, such as an inefficient contractor or encountering rock during excavation that are out of our control, it will still require monitoring, we will still need to cover those costs. The Borough Manager was just making Council aware of this.

ADMINISTRATION: Council President had nothing to report at this time.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON REPORTS: Councilor Winkler reminded the community about French Creek

Festival which has the Fireworks on Friday night and the free Color Run on Saturday. Councilor Kerns asked if anything was in the works to resolve the flooding on Putnam Street. It was stated there was nothing at this time.

Chief Pernice asked why the motion to hire a full-time officer died. He wasn't sure what to tell the applicant. None of Council provided any reason. Will be discussed in future.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Kerns that the meeting be adjourned at 7:04 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: To discuss personnel with no action to be taken went from 7:06 PM to 7:38PM.

ATTEST