

**MINUTES
UNION CITY BOROUGH
DECEMBER 16TH, 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 6:30 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 were Cross, Joyce, Winkler, Osborn, Steadman, Uber, and Kerns.

OFFICIALS PRESENT were Solicitor, Tim Wachter; Borough Manager, Cindy Wells; and Police Chief, David Pernice.

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

MOTION ON MINUTES: Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Steadman that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve minutes from the Council meeting on December 2nd, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION ON SECRETARY’S REPORT: Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Joyce that the Secretary’s Report be accepted and made a part of the minutes of this meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION ON BILLS: Motion by Councilor Steadman and seconded by Councilor Kerns that unpaid bills be ordered paid and those paid be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE VISITORS: Kim Uber, 9 Fifth Avenue

Kim stated she was upset because she received a QOL ticket. She said that the ticket was for a sofa at their property of 61 Market Street. She said everyone knows where she lives and the properties they own and they take good care of it. She stated that Council knows that Code enforcement is not done equally throughout the Borough. She mentioned that at 93 East High Street there has been a TV out all summer and she knows that because her son mows the lawn there. At 119 East High Street, Brian Beezub’s, yard is a mess and no one has done anything about that. Also, Trebek’s at 10 Atlantic Street needs cleaned up. She said that the Property Maintenance Code requires that for any violation a written notice must be given and she provided a copy of Section 107.01 & 107.02 of the Property Maintenance Code to Council President with the ticket and stated she wouldn’t be paying it because she hadn’t received notice. The tenant at 61 Market had moved in the beginning of November and didn’t want the couch so he put it at the curb. She stated she knows it shouldn’t be there. She said that Pat was going to remove it two weeks ago and she told him not to because she wanted to see how far this would go.

The Borough Manager Cindy Wells stated that she had called and talked to Kim as a courtesy. Kim stated that Cindy isn't the Code Enforcement Officer and it wasn't in writing.

Councilor Cross stated it would be checked into.

POLICE CHIEF: The Police Chief reported that the background checks have been completed.

One candidate has already accepted employment with another department. Chief presented his background investigation summary for Malik Allassedy and is recommending that he be hired. Councilor Cross asked what his availability is. Chief reported he does work for Highmark Wednesday through Saturday 7:00 PM – 7:00 AM. He would only be available Sunday through Tuesdays. Chief reported that it is hard to find officers not only for our department but all departments. There was discussion on possibly hiring full-time. No decision was made for full-time.

BOROUGH MANAGER: MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

COMPLAINT FORMS-Presented for Council review, there were no questions.

CODIFICATION: General Code has been working on the codification of our ordinances.

The next phase is Review of Editorial and Legal Analysis. Solicitor Wachter recommends that all of Council met in 2-3 work sessions to complete the review. The review needs to be completed by April 10, 2025. Meeting dates need selected for January, February, and March. There are a total of 141 questions and 53 chapters that need to be reviewed. Cindy will contact Attorney Wachter's secretary for his available dates.

UC CHAIR OFFICE BUILDING: The Erie County Land Bank has agreed to transfer the DCED LSA Grant to the EC Redevelopment Authority to administer it for the work on the UC Chair office building. McLane Church will donate the building to the ECRDA.

PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER: Chief Pernice presented a Background Investigation Summary on Malik Allassedy. Mr. Allassedy completed the Civil Service testing. After completing a background check Chief Pernice is recommending he be provided a Conditional Offer of Employment as a part-time officer.

MOTION TO SUBMIT A CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO MALIK ALASSEDY AS A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER: Motion by Councilor Kerns, seconded by Councilor Joyce. The motion carried unanimously.

PENSION COMMITTEE: The Pension Committee met and reviewed the RFP responses advertised on November 22, 2024 for pension services. Only one RFP was received and the Committee has recommended the firm of MRT Municipal Retirement Trust. The selection of MRT was because they concluded MRT had the relevant experience and expertise for the pension. Further the responsiveness of MRT is closely aligned with the Borough's needs and desires. The Committee is submitting, to Council, MRT's winning response and asks that the response be made part of the minutes and the Council vote to accept and ratify the selection of MRT to provide services to the pension.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AND RATIFY THE SELECTION OF MRT TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH PENSIONS: Motion by Councilor Joyce, seconded by Councilor Kerns. The motion carried unanimously.

POLICE CHIEF CONTRACT: Personnel Committee reviewed the contract, and it was presented to Chief Pernice. Council needs to vote to accept the contract signed by Chief Pernice.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CONTRACT WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE. Motion by Councilor Osborn and seconded by Councilor Kerns. The motion carried unanimously.

AGREEMENT WITH CT CONSULTANTS-VERDANTAS COMPANY: This is the same company that is completing the pavement management study. They can complete the same type of report for sidewalks. This is being paid for with the STMP grant money.

MOTION TO APPROVE SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WITH CT CONSULTANTS-VERDANTAS COMPANY FOR A SIDEWALK INVENTORY, MAPPING, EVALUATION & RATING REPORT, CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL BY THE SOLICITOR: Motion by Councilor Osborn, seconded by Councilor Joyce. The motion carried unanimously.

ERIE COUNTY MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE GAP FUNDING: The County has funding for infrastructure through GAP Funding program. The Borough can apply for \$150,000 for stormwater repairs I Municipal Lot #1 and \$160,000 for the Willow Street bridge replacement.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2024-22 TO APPLY TO EC MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCURE GAP FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 AND RESOLUTION #2024-23 TO APPLY FOR THE WILLOW STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000. Motion by Councilor Kerns, seconded by Councilor Steadman. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION & DEPARTMENT LIAISON REPORTS: None of the liaisons had anything to report.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Joyce and seconded by Councilor Kerns to adjourn at 6:50 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Was to discuss real estate with no action to be taken went from 6:52 PM to 7:07PM.

ATTEST