

**MINUTES
UNION CITY BOROUGH
JANUARY 20, 2025**

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 Joyce. 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: Joyce, Osborn, Steadman, Uber, and Kerns. Cross and Winkler were absent.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Manager, Cindy Wells; Police Chief, David Pernice; Streets Supervisor, Bob Phillips; and Code Enforcement, Mark Ziegler.

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

MOTION ON MINUTES: Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Steadman that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve minutes from the Council meeting on January 6th & 13th, 2025. On January 6th minutes it was listed incorrectly for Sara Wegmiller being appointed to Parks and Recreation. It should have been Kayla Wegmiller. It has been corrected in the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION ON SECRETARY’S REPORT: Motion by Councilor Osborn and seconded by Councilor Kerns 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 Kerns and seconded by Councilor Steadman that unpaid bills be ordered paid and those paid be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

HEARING OF THE VISITORS: Kim Uber, 9 Fifth Avenue, was present and stated she had another ticket for her property and questioned Code Enforcement why she received another fine. Mark Ziegler, Code Enforcement Officer responded that she received another one because the couch is still not removed. He said that he spoke with her husband and that he said that he and his son would be moving the couch and joked that it would be moved to Cindy’s front yard. He moved the couch from the curb to the porch. Kim then responded that Cindy and Kim discussed that it was a joke. She said they moved the couch before the date on the Courtesy Notice to the covered porch. She brought up the Borough Ordinance and stated that the ordinance does not include furniture as rubbish. Code Enforcement reiterated that they acknowledged the couch needed to be removed from the property and they only moved it to the porch. Kim said she did Mark’s job and went through the town and found 22 houses in town that look worse than her property and took pictures of them. She also noted that 41 West High Street has had a couch out for over a month covered with snow, and they contacted them and they stated they have not received anything from Code Enforcement. She feels that they are being singled out, targeted and harassed. She said that the council needs to review their ordinances and that she does not feel she has the definition of accumulation on her porch. Mark told her that all she needs to do is remove the couch and she questioned why. Mark stated he is being trained by

Cindy still and per the conversation with Pat Uber he was going to move it. Kim stated she doesn't understand why other properties are not being held to the same standard. She said that there are other properties that are in worse condition than her couch being under a covered porch and Mark reminded her that when it first started the couch was on the curb. She feels that the Borough is not properly enforcing it to everyone. Mark said she is not being targeted and that others were issued notices as well.

Councilor Joyce stated that Cindy is the manager, and she would be in talks with Mark and with the pictures see what else can be done.

Councilor Kerns recommended that Council look into that ordinance and talk about what the wording of it is. Cindy stated that the definitions in the ordinance need to be looked at, not what is in the dictionary. Councilor Joyce stated that this can be done as we are codifying the ordinances.

SOLICITOR: Recommendation of amending ordinance 843 setting the compensation rate for the Tax Collector. Our current Ordinance states we pay the tax collector 3% and we currently have been paying 3.5%. The legal recommendation is to pass an ordinance at the first meeting in February so that it can be in effect by January 2026. The ordinance will be updating it to what we currently are paying.

MOTION TO APPROVE ADVERTISING THE AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 843: Motion by Councilor Steadman and seconded by Councilor Kerns. The motion carried unanimously.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Reviewed December 2024 report. No questions were asked.

ZONING: Reviewed December 2024 report. No questions were asked. Cindy stated there are currently 12 open cases.

POLICE CHIEF: The Police Chief reported about the armed robbery at Pizza Hut. They are working diligently but, no arrests yet. He wants to thank the public, the news media and paper. He is opening a new testing phase from January 14th, 2025 to January 28th, 2025. He has 2 applications so far.
Update on Malik Alessedy- he did not accept the full-time position.

STREETS: The Street Supervisor said that a year and a half ago the 2016 International had a rusting oil pan it was sealed with rubber coat. Now it is leaking, and he will just replace it. The 2022 6500 Chevy truck had dash lights come on that showed the speed sensor in rear was bad. The lights came on again affecting 4WD. A pothole on Merrill Street was also hit last week that messed up the inner rim. It is now replaced.

BOROUGH MANAGER: MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

CODIFICATION: A special meeting was held on January 13, 2025. Solicitor Wachter was present virtually and we reviewed up to section 105. The next meeting will be February 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM at the City Building. An email was sent to each Council member to access the Code and review it prior to the next meeting.

AMERICAN LEGION BALL FIELD: Anticipating that all the funds will be received so the purchase will be paid in full.

DATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING: The date will be February 4, 2025 from 1:00 – 3:00. It

was recommended that any employees dealing with the public participate in the class.

COUNTRY FAIR PUMP FOR CHARITY PROGRAM: The program was for Union City Parks projects and has ended. Total of \$5831.34 raised. A check will be presented to the Borough.

DCED STMP PROGRAM BOROUGH GARAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY: The study has been completed and will be printed. Does Council want to have a presentation of the study or just look it over when available? Council will look over and decide whether they want a presentation.

MAIN STREET PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FOR THE SCHOOL CROSSING: The study was paid in part by the UCASD and the Erie County MPO. It has been completed with different alternatives in the plan. It is available for review by Council.

DISCUSS USE OF GYM IN CITY BUILDING: The Little League has asked if they would be able to use the gym in the City Building for pitching practice. Council okayed it as long as they have liability insurance and that both boys and girls teams are allowed to have the opportunity.

DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS WITH WATER DRAINING INTO THE STREET AND SNOW BLOWERS

BLOWING SNOW INTO THE STREET: The Streets Department is having problems with severe ice build up and snow being blown into the street by property owners. Someone on O'Dell Street put tiles in his backyard for drainage and now it is becoming an issue and running across O'Dell Street and causing a lot of ice. Also, another on Center Street and Kilburn Street that are bad. Bob said we should look into requiring permits so we are aware of where these properties are or have them connect into the catch basins. As far as the property owners using snow blowers near Parade Street, they have been warned twice not to blow snow into the road. Council wants to find out about the process of fining for repeat offenders. They are going to reach out to Solicitor for more clarification.

DISCUSSION OF CIRCUS IN WILLOW STREET BALLFIELD: A call was received from Spartansburg Events, a 501(c) 3, requesting to have a circus at the Willow Street ballfield this summer. There would be a tent with up to 800 people. They receive a percentage of the ticket sales. Borough Manager has more questions for the 501(c)3 and will find out more information. We have a resolution in place if it is something we want to do. Councilor Joyce is curious about what we would do in regards to parking. Other points brought up would be that they need liability insurance and if we would receive any of the profits. Borough Manager will also find out more information on the set up, tear down and time of the events. Council is considering it pending more information.

UCVFD 2025 APPOINTMENTS: The UCVFD has provided a list of officers for 2025.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LIST OF 2025 OFFICERS FOR THE UCVFD: Motion by Councilor Steadman and seconded by Councilor Kerns. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO PARKS AND RECREATION: James Peterson's term ended in 2024 and he is willing to serve another term. Also, at the January 6th meeting the name was incorrectly listed as Sara Wegmiller to be appointed. It should have been Kayla Wegmiller.

MOTION TO APPOINT JAMES PETERSON TO PARKS AND RECREATION AND TO CORRECT THE ERROR ON JANUARY 6, 2025 FROM SARA WEGMILLER TO KAYLA WEGMILLER. Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Osborn. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON REPORTS: Department Liaisons had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Osborn to adjourn at 7:14. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: To discuss personnel with no action to be taken went from 7:16 PM to 8:24 PM.

ATTEST: