

**MINUTES
UNION CITY BOROUGH
MAY 19, 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: Solicitor, Tim Wachter; Borough Manager, Cindy Wells; Police Chief, David Pernice; and Code Enforcement, Mark Ziegler.

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

MOTION ON MINUTES: Motion by Councilor Osborn and seconded by Councilor Kerns that all Councilors, having read the minutes, approve minutes from the Council meeting on May 5, 2025. There was a Correction on the last agenda and in the minutes regarding the resolution and commitment letter. It was stated that it was for the DCED Greenways Trails grant but was on the agenda incorrectly. It was changed in the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

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

HEARING OF THE VISITORS: No one wished to speak.

ZONING: The April zoning report was reviewed. There were no questions or concerns.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: The April code enforcement reports was reviewed. Councilor Steadman asked that Mark look at 34 Warden Street. This is a property that has been taken over by the mortgage company. We haven’t had any luck in contacting them in the past but will try again.

POLICE: The Police Chief made council aware of a pursuit that Officer Shelly was involved in from Market St to Stone Quarry Road. He apprehended a person who had an active felony warrant out and the driver as well.

Reviewed April Police reports

Updated on the Meet & Greet in April- He had a few residents show up. One voiced concern about some South Street properties. Will try and pay more attention to the property.

Update on a new police car and pricing. 2-4 months out for the parts. They will get back to him on price.

Update on DA's Office review of Lexipol policies – Hasn't heard back from them.

Update on Meeker- Doing a good job. He has been present for a few unique incidences

Involving arrests. The Chief is very impressed. Meeker will start solo patrolling in June.

We will also have someone on duty seven days a week.

Chief is scheduled to meet with the property owner of 42 North Main Street and discuss the problems they have with the property and residents. Hopefully some of the problems can be taken care of. They will do foot patrols inside and outside.

EXECUTIVE SESSION To discuss continuation of post condemnation with possible action to be taken went from 6:48PM to 6:52PM.

BOROUGH MANAGER: MISCELLANEOUS UPDATES

CODIFICATION: Review the last of the ordinances after the regular meeting tonight.

DCED POLICE STUDY: The study will be ready to be presented first week of June. Need to have some dates and times for Councils availability. Prefer in-person not virtual? Will try for June 2nd

TIRE RECYCLING JUNE 7, 2025, 8:00 – 3:00PM

UCCF ANNUAL RECEPTION: Council is invited, Monday June 9, 2025 at 5:30 at the American Legion

PUBLIC WORKS APPLICATIONS: Council wants pricing on job placement services. Attorney Wachter recommended contacting Ben Kafferlin.

2024 MILLINGS: Instead of selling them to Union Township, we are trading them for gravel, cleaning ditches, and grading on Sixth Avenue. The Borough will still purchase additional gravel to help build the road up.

PSAB CONFERENCE: No one is attending this year.

GARBAGE CONTRACT: Council needs to be thinking about the garbage contract renewal. We will need to have the RFP completed for bidding.

ECGRA & UCCF FUNDING: The Borough is receiving an additional \$100,000 in Renaissance Grant Funding. Also, ECGRA and UCCF are each contributing \$10,000 for a \$20,000 project for carvings.

UPDATE ON TA SET-ASIDE GRANT: Vavala Concrete had agreed to install the sidewalk across both sets of railroad tracks on Bridge Street. They have requested \$80,000 from the grant (PennDOT) however, PennDOT said they would only pay approx. \$50,000. Vavala would not agree and made a final offer of \$74,724. PennDOT verified with other contractors it would not cost \$50,000. The contract is with Vavala so we don't have the opportunity to have someone else to complete it and have the grant cover the costs. The Borough will need to decide if they are willing to cover the cost to have the work done. Since Vavala has broke their agreement to do the work it is my suggested that it be noted in the minutes concerning the problem and any future work by the Borough not be contracted with Vavala Concrete. Attorney Wachter will check on filing against the Performance Bond.

AGREEMENT WITH LITTLE LEAGUE: The proposed agreement was presented to the Little

League. They haven't had a board meeting yet. They hope to have something to present to Council for the June 2, 2025 meeting.

2008 CROWN VICTORIA POLICE CAR: The car is not running right and the check engine light is on. Chief Pernice said that it would be best to keep it until we can purchase a new vehicle. It will help with back-up calls, having 3 Officers patrolling when applicable and if one of the cruisers is in the shop then we will have that as an option at least. Chief will get it into the garage for the check engine light.

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BURNING ORDINANCE AND APPROVE ADVERTISING:

The proposed changes have been made & council will review them. Chief Pernice asked why it is requested that the Street Supervisor be listed to check on reports of burning. Cindy explained when the police aren't on duty if call comes in the Supervisor could check it. Chief said that they will always follow up on calls with an incident Number even if it is later after it was reported.

Council approved advertising the amended ordinance.

DISCUSSION ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH RESCINDING THE PER CAPITA ORDINANCE:

Solicitor Wachter Said practical advice to consider is what is the impact to the budget if it is removed. If it was decided to remove it then an ordinance would be adopted to rescind it. It wouldn't take effect until January 1, 2026. Cindy Wells stated that the amount will need to be made up at budget time which most likely include a property tax increase. Council said they understood.

Council agreed they wanted it rescinded. Solicitor Wachter said if they wanted t could be done during the Codification of Ordinances. Council agreed.

DISCUSSION ON CHANGING TAX COLLECTORS FROM BERKHEIMER:

Councilor Kerns wanted to discuss changing tax collectors from Berkheimer because their fees are so high. Solicitor Wachter explained that the County negotiates with them and the contract isn't up yet. Council agreed to leave it the way it is.

LETTER FROM BIU TERMINATING AGREEMENTS:

BIU is terminating the agreement for Flood Plain Administrator and the Property Maintenance Administration, and Building Code Inspector. I talked to Mike Grill from CCI and he referred me to Gary Johnson. Phil Conklin could also be the Flood Plain Administrator. Council wanted Cindy to check with Phil Conklin. Also check with Gary Johnson and see what his fee would be for Flood Plain Administrator and BCO.

COUNCIL TO APPROVE PAYING LEGAL FEES: Council confirmed making a payment in the amount of \$15,649.75 for legal fees.

MOTION TO APPROVE PAYING LEGAL FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,649.75. Motion by Councilor Osborn and seconded by Councilor Steadman. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF THE EASEMENTS FROM NORTHWEST BANK AND MOOSE LODGE: Easements from Northwest and the Moose Lodge are needed for the Route 97 Stormwater Project. They have been signed by them and Council needs to approve signing them.

RETRO-ACTIVE MOTION TO MAY 8, 2025 TO SIGN THE EASEMENTS FOR THE MOOSE LODGE AND NORTHWEST BANK FOR THE ROUTE 97 STORMWATER PROJECT. Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Steadman. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION: Council President was not present.

DEPARTMENT LIAISON REPORTS: Councilor Steadman though it should be considered having Willow Street use the camera in the storm sewer lines prior to paving. Department Liaisons had nothing else to report.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Kerns and seconded by Councilor Osborn to adjourn at 7:41PM.

ATTEST