

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018 at Unionville Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Baucom and Commissioners Andrew Benton, Ken Brown, Edd Little and Gene Price were present. Commissioner Jaren Simpson was absent. Town Attorney Ken Helms was also present.

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag, after which Commissioner Price led the prayer of invocation.

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

There were no public comments.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the March 19, 2018 regular meeting.

Mayor Baucom recognized Budget and Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the financial report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom reported that the Town's income is \$5,000 under budget as investment income hasn't been adjusted. The Town's Certificate of Deposit has not matured. On the expense side, the Town is below budget \$8,000 on contributions. In Transactions By Account, significant items are Barbee Lawn Care, Helms, Robison and Lee Attorneys and NFocus Planning. All other items are standard. Mr. Baucom reported that the Town's worker's compensation insurance with Zurich Insurance of \$1,306 and several smaller items make up the Pending Bills to be Paid. It's time to renew insurance, and the values on the building are \$159,900; personal property is \$37,000 and \$50,000 on computers. The Town is currently over insured, but should get a reduction as rates are going down. He recommends continuing with Zurich International and the current values. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mayor Baucom introduced Jon Williams, who distributed handouts regarding Union County fire tax. He stated that Commissioner Little asked him to come and make a presentation based on the most recent county meeting with the consultant hired by the county. Union County will perform another funding study for solutions for funding the fire service in Union County. Unionville is currently operating with a fire fee, capped at \$100 per dwelling or commercial building plus so many cents for open farm land. Two districts have fire taxes, and others have a fire service district. Union County collects these fire fees and fire taxes on the annual county tax bill. All fourteen municipalities in Union County must sign off to approve the funding model. This program will be effective July 1, 2020. U.S. Representative Tommy Tucker and U.S. House Representative Craig Horne introduced legislation to rescind the sunset clause on fire fees. They want to do away with the fee and collect a tax instead. If this is approved, Unionville's tax would be almost \$.10 per \$100 valuation. They are also considering a \$250,000 subsidy plus a blanket county-wide fire tax of \$.01 - \$.02 per \$100, which would decrease the

cost to the taxpayers. Municipalities must vote to approve or deny the new program. The consultant might want to meet with fire departments and municipalities. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to the \$.06 per \$100 valuation. Mr. Williams' calculations show around \$.05 but he's not sure on the sales and motor vehicle taxes. Mayor Baucom inquired as to similar fire departments being grouped together for funding. Mr. Williams stated that those departments which are already on the fire service district would be zeroed out. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to who retains ownership of fire equipment. Mr. Williams stated that the equipment would remain department-specific. Attorney Ken Helms made inquiry as to who would maintain control over the Unionville VFD budget. Mr. Williams stated he feels certain departments would continue to maintain their own control and there would be very little change. Mr. Helms also made inquiry as to whether the county would generate the funds through taxes and distribute to the departments under a schedule. Mr. Williams stated that this concept is correct, although the method has not yet been shared. Mr. Helms made inquiry as to who would make a presentation to the Town. Assistant County Manager Michael James and the Stantec consultant will visit each municipality at least once when the solution has been identified. If the municipalities don't opt into the fire fee, they will not receive funding. Commissioner Brown noted that Union County has performed two or three studies to date and will continue to do so until they have a proposal. Commissioner Little thanked Mr. Williams for sharing this information with Council.

Mayor Baucom recognized Ms. Barbara Faulk with Union County Community Arts Council. Ms. Faulk thanked Council for their past support and respectfully asked them to consider funding \$1,200 this year for supporting cultural arts primarily in arts education through Unionville Elementary, Piedmont Middle and Piedmont High Schools. This fiscal year, they have spent \$2,200 in Unionville area schools for special arts programs and musical instruments. They have realized that students with arts backgrounds score an average 100 points higher on the S.A.T. exam; are three times less likely to drop out of school and are four times more likely to attend college. Their 2017 audit showed that 92 percent of their budget goes to programs and 8 percent to administrative fees. Mayor Baucom made inquiry as to what was given in 2017. Finance Officer Baucom stated that the Town gave \$1,200 in 2017. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Gene Price, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1,200 to Union County Community Arts Council. Ms. Faulk thanked the Council.

Deputy Clerk Melody Braswell stated that the Town's kitchen cabinets and file cabinets are full of paper records. She has offered to scan as much of the paperwork as possible so our records will no longer be a fire hazard, and will be available in mid-May. Piedmont Computers recommends a refurbished laptop computer and a desktop digital document scanner. Once the state approves the destruction of old records, we will have a shred truck come to destroy those records. Commissioner Price had a bad experience with a refurbished computer and is concerned. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved a new laptop computer and digital document scanner not to exceed \$2,000.00, along with a contractual back-up service agreement. Clerk Gaddy will use the new computer and Deputy Clerk Braswell will use the old computer for scanning purposes.

Clerk Gaddy stated that the current large zoning maps hanging in Town Hall would look more professional if they are in frames. Weathered Wood Shop has given a price of \$120 per frame for two frames. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved framing both zoning maps.

Clerk Gaddy also stated that Commissioner Benton had brought it to her attention that the Unionville Presbyterian Church monument at the flag pole needs cleaning. Wilbert Vault Company has provided a quote of \$150 for the cleaning. Commissioner Little made inquiry as to whether a sealer will be applied, and Commissioner Price asked how often it will need to be cleaned. This is the first cleaning since it was installed in 2002. Upon motion duly made by Gene Price, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved the cleaning of the monument for \$150.00.

In other business, Commissioner Little stated that the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department is awaiting the engineer to provide his drawings before they can complete the Training Tower. Mr. Jon Williams stated that everything else is ready for the permitting process. Attorney Helms advised that no action be taken, since a timeline was not specified at the time of the donation of funds. Commissioner Benton made inquiry as to the viability of the poles which have been lying in the grass for almost a year. Mr. Williams stated that they should be fine, as they are treated poles.

Mayor Baucom also asked Clerk Gaddy to seek quotes for the replacement of the current Plexiglasbulletin board outside Town Hall.

In other business, Commissioner Benton drew Council's attention to the printout of the proposed language for the three historical markers at Unionville Elementary School, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Principal Sharyn VonCannon has shared her comments. She also gave permission to remove the old LED sign frame on Unionville Indian Trail Road and allow us to erect a historical marker there. An additional plaque would be for the Union Institute bell, which is housed above the sidewalk leading to the front door of the school, as it survived the fire of 1917 and several other events. The Union Institute was a hub between Anson, Mecklenburg and Union Counties for education, having some credits accepted at junior colleges. Town Attorney Ken Helms will advise if more quotes will be required.

There being no other business, Mayor Baucom declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as to form:

Clerk

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney