

## **TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, March 21, 2016 in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Simpson and all Commissioners were present. Town Attorney Ken Helms was also present.

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

Mayor Simpson welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order.

There being no corrections to the minutes of the February 22, 2016 regular meeting, Mayor Simpson declared them approved as reviewed by Council.

Mayor Simpson recognized Budget and Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Statements, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom noted that the cash amount is primarily due to franchise taxes recently received. The Income is favorable to budget by \$23,000 due to ad valorem and franchise taxes. On the Expense side, the Town spent \$11,000 less than budget in legal fees, contributions and maintenance and repairs. In the Activity Since Last Month, there are no large items. In Pending Bills to be Paid, please add \$1,019 to Unionville Volunteer Fire Department for CPR training and a small tax refund. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved payment of the pending bills, along with the two requested by Finance Officer Baucom.

In considering the yearly contract with NFocus Planning, Attorney Ken Helms reported that he has taken a closer look at the agreement. This agreement provides a Land Use backup for when Administrator Gaddy has questions or needs help. There is no minimum fee or retainer basis. It is simply an on-call, on-demand agreement. The rate is \$125 per hour including travel time, plus any direct expenses like printing and postage cost plus five percent. The employees at NFocus will not be the Town's employees; they are independent contractors. There is no guarantee to be assigned one person, but will have a qualified employee working with the Town. The term of the contract is July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. If the Town decides to terminate the agreement, we must give sixty days' notice. If we decide to hire one of their employees, the Town must pay three months of their gross salary to NFocus. He felt this was very fair for everyone involved. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Jaren Simpson, the Council unanimously approved the agreement with NFocus Planning for backup of the Town's Land Use Administrator.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Town Council unanimously approved Text Amendment TC-15-01 increasing the number of Board of Adjustment alternates from two to three in the Land Use Ordinance, as this was found to be reasonable and consistent with the Town's Land Use Plan approved February, 2006.

In considering appointments to the Town Planning Board alternate position and upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Randy Baucom to appoint Scott Barbee as the Planning Board alternate, concerns were addressed regarding an alternate working for the Town on a contract basis as a conflict of interest. Commissioners Simpson and Baucom withdrew their motion and second to allow Attorney Ken Helms time to investigate the North Carolina General Statutes regarding this issue. Attorney Helms will report to the Council on or before next month's meeting.

Clerk Gaddy reported that Piedmont Middle School has no students studying Greek or Latin, but Piedmont High School has 45 students studying Greek or Latin. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the Unionville Classics Week Proclamation, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved the Resolution Directing Clerk to Investigate Annexation #22 along Neal Boyce and Deese Roads.

In reviewing Charitable Contribution Requests, Finance Officer Baucom reported that the Town gave the Union County Community Arts Council \$1,200 in 2015; gave the Arc of Union/Cabarrus nothing last year, and gave Unionville Lions Club \$5,000 in 2015 for July 4<sup>th</sup> entertainment.

In other business, Ken Brown reported that Congress has done away with the AFG—American Firefighters' Grant and some other grants. He asked that Attorney Helms draft a letter to the Congress and Senate, asking them to reinstate these grants. Unionville Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded the American Firefighter's Grant a couple of times totaling \$212,000. Without its help, they would not be able to do their air pack project. Other departments now must come up with the funds another way. Mayor Simpson made inquiry as to the total amount of funds the fire department has received over the years. Mr. Brown reported that the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department received \$400,000 - \$500,000 over the years through these grants. Clerk Gaddy will also provide North Carolina legislators' contact information to the Council for individual letters.

In other business, Councilman Andrew Benton made inquiry as to obtaining quotes to replace the carpet on the Town Hall outdoor ramp and the Plexiglas on the bulletin board. Attorney Helms stated that these would fall under general maintenance and quotes will not be required. Clerk Gaddy will contact a local contractor to make these repairs.

Clerk Gaddy reminded Council that the Town Hall will be closed on Good Friday, March 25, and asked for a vacation day on Friday, April 1, 2016. There was no opposition to this vacation day.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy  
Clerk

Approved as to form:

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R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney