

TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Town of Unionville Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, November 20, 2017 in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Simpson, Mayor-Elect Randy Baucom and Commissioners Andrew Benton, Edd Little and Jaren Simpson were present. Town Attorney Ken Helms was also present. Commissioner Ken Brown was absent.

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

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

Mayor Simpson requested that Agenda Item #9, Consideration of Rezoning #17-01 to rezone parcel #08099014, located at 3102 Love Mill Road from RA-40 to CUD-B-2 for a parking lot be considered at this time. There were no objections to this change. Commissioner Baucom reported that North Carolina Department of Transportation has increased the north shoulder of Love Mill Road from Piedmont School Road to the parking lot. They have added crusher run on top of an additional four feet of shoulder and a tile at the ditch, which gives the students space to walk off the road. This makes the conditions much safer for the students. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved the rezoning. Commissioner Baucom also suggested that two additional conditions be included:

1. Union County Sheriff's Department will be allowed to bring dogs and search vehicles in the parking lot at any time.
2. If students are found walking in the road at any time, or crossing anywhere other than Piedmont High School Road with the crossing guard, their parking privileges will be suspended indefinitely.

Mr. and Mrs. Laney agreed to the above conditions, reporting that the Union County Sheriff has already visited the parking lot twice this school year. Mrs. Laney will send a letter to all students and parents, asking both to sign these new regulations. She will keep copies in their file.

In considering Condition #3 regarding hours of operation, Mr. and Mrs. Laney reported that some students have commitments that keep them from returning prior to 6:00 p.m. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Randy Baucom, Council updated the times to be "Monday through Friday during school activities only", rather than 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Laney agreed to this condition.

Town Attorney Ken Helms reported that the Town will not be liable, as they are not actually building a sidewalk.

Upon motion duly made by Randy Baucom, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously found that the public health and safety will not be endangered, since the addition of the four-feet of shoulder widening on Love Mill Road.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously found that the parking lot will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property.

Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously found that the parking lot will be in harmony with the area in which it is located.

Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously found that the parking lot will be in general conformity with the Town's land use plan, thoroughfare plan or other plan.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Randy Baucom, Council unanimously approved all ten conditions on the Staff Report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, and the two conditions added tonight.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously found that the rezoning request submitted is reasonable and in the public interest and is consistent with the Town's Land Use Plan, adopted March, 2006.

Mayor Simpson quoted former Senator Jesse Helms, who stated on the Senate floor, that "the opera's not over 'til the fat lady sings". Well, the fat lady's fixin' to sing. He stated that when the Town of Unionville was formed, it was formed to maintain the dignity and identity of the small town. It didn't "just happen". The Council has always been dedicated to the community and their goals. There has never been contentious debate with the Unionville Town Council. Years ago, a cigarette advertisement used a slogan "you've come a long way, baby". Unionville has come a long way—from a community to a large town that carries great influence. We've had great legal advice, which has kept us out of trouble. We have come from a community that liked to see things happen to a town that makes things happen; a town that makes its own regulations. We've come from a community that had to go to some other government entity to ask for what we needed and hoped that we got our way, to a community that looks after itself. Now, it's up to these folks to keep it going. These are five of the most dedicated Council members he's ever seen. They leave their personal business at home when they come to a meeting; it's a community Council. There are five people here, but there is one consensus every time. Mayor Simpson recognized Clerk Sonya Gaddy for her contribution to the Town. Clerk Gaddy also recognized Mayor Simpson's wife, Debra, and their daughters, Erin and Cara for their love and support of Town of Unionville.

Mayor Simpson administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Andrew Benton. He then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Randy Baucom.

Mayor Baucom commended former Mayor Simpson for his work at Town of Unionville. He mentioned some similarities and differences he and Mr. Simpson have, such as weight and height, and noted that he will have difficulty filling his shoes. Mr. Simpson has always had Unionville's back for the last 19 years. Mr. Simpson is a man of integrity, and has always had the Town's and Council's backs; he's never thrown them under the bus. He has made the community a lot better for having been here. A similarity they have is a good wife and two daughters. Commissioner Andrew Benton and Mayor Baucom presented a proclamation honoring Mr. Larry B. Simpson, expressing the Town's appreciation of his service.

Mayor Baucom declared a recess of the meeting for a brief reception honoring Mr. Simpson.

Mayor Baucom called the meeting to order, and asked for any public comments. There were none.

Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the October 16, 2017 public hearing and regular meeting.

Mayor Baucom recognized Budget and Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Statements, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom reported that the Balance Sheet shows cash balance of \$2.5 million. The Town is below income due to ad valorem taxes uncollected, solid waste disposal and zoning overage. The Town is \$17,000 below budget on income. On the expense side, the Town is \$22,000 under budget, mostly in contributions, and audit and election fees. In Transactions by Account, the Town paid the Parker Poe lobbyist \$2,500 for the quarter and \$1,000 to MC2Engineering for site plan review. In Bills to be Paid, please add Helms Robison and Lee legal fees, Parker Poe lobbyist, tax refund of \$63 and office expenses of \$100. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved pending bills in addition to the ones listed here.

In considering the commissioner vacancy created by Randy Baucom's election to mayor, Attorney Helms will advise whether this appointment should be until the next general election in 2018, or the remainder of the term. He will confirm that information to the Council at the December meeting. Upon motion duly made by Andrew Benton, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously appointed Gene Price to fill the vacant term.

Mayor Baucom drew Council's attention to the Town Hall painting quotes from Roger Melton, Mark Hill and Rigoberto Salas. Andrew Snyder did not submit a quote. Clerk Gaddy noted that Mr. Salas' quote includes painting over the existing popcorn ceiling in the meeting room, and the others include removing the popcorn ceiling, repairing and painting the ceiling. Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Andrew Benton, Council unanimously approved the painting quote from Roger Melton.

In other business, Commissioner Benton pointed out that Clerk Gaddy's desk is cracking and needs repair or replacement. Clerk Gaddy will ask resident Morris Baucom to make a recommendation.

Mayor Baucom set a public hearing for 7:15 p.m. on Monday, December 18, 2017 to hear comments regarding the naming of three newly-formed roads in Unionville, which were added by the Monroe Expressway addition.

In considering the purchase of a memorial brick to be placed in the American Legion Post #535's building, Mayor Baucom will research and advise once he speaks with some of the legion members.

Clerk Gaddy reminded Council of the upcoming parade and tree lighting on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Entertainment will be on the Town Hall lawn from 3:00-4:00 p.m., including Broadway Bob from Unionville Elementary School. Parade participants will be Mayor Baucom, Commissioner Benton, and former Mayor Simpson. Clerk Gaddy will secure a car for the parade.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney