

**TOWN OF UNIONVILLE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Town Council of the Town of Unionville met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 15, 2015 in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Simpson, Mayor Pro Tem Randy Baucom, Commissioners Edd Little, Ken Trull 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 Commissioner Mayor Simpson led the prayer of invocation.

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

There were no public comments.

Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved the minutes of the May 15, 2015 regular meeting.

Mayor Simpson recognized Budget & Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the Financial Report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. In review of the Balance Sheet, Mr. Baucom noted that the cash was down due to a contribution made to the fire department last year. We budgeted \$8000 for Solid Waste in 2014-2015. There were also changes regarding health insurance benefits that created variances within the budget. These variances will be corrected with a budget amendment. Some of the larger recent transactions include Turning Point, Lions Club, Cost Sharing for Solid Waste Site, Barbee Lawn Care, Dave Smith Tree Maintenance at Community Center, and Urban Forester is paid for next year. Pending bills include Barbee Lawn Care (for the Town and Community Center), Helms, Robinson & Lee Legal fees, Cyber Liability Insurance (\$1000), and Palmetto Exterminators Pest Control (\$94). Upon motion duly made by Jaren Simpson, seconded by Randy Baucom, Council unanimously agreed to pay pending bills.

Mr. Baucom noted that franchise taxes are less, and total expenses are favorable to the budget. Some variances include health insurance and payroll reclassification of money since Sonya is now covering her own health insurance. Randy Baucom asked about the possibility of sales and use tax. Mr. Darrell Baucom said that \$30,000 was budgeted. He also stated that the legislature is considering a redistribution of sales tax to benefit rural areas to begin in Fiscal Year 2016-2017, which should benefit towns like Unionville. Upon motion duly made by Randy Baucom, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously agreed to make the 2014-2015 budget amendments.

Mr. Baucom also proposed that the ad valorem tax rate for 2015-2016 be \$.02/\$100. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously adopted the 2015-2016 budget, a copy of which is appended to these minutes, and agreed to the \$.02/\$100 tax rate for 2015-2016.

Mayor Simpson recognized Linda Smosky, representing the Council on Aging in Union County. Ms. Smosky thanked the commissioners for their support. She then provided a handout with a snapshot of the needs that funding from Unionville helped to support. The Council on Aging in Union County coordinates volunteers to support seniors with many things, even something as simple as changing light bulbs. Ms. Smosky also raised the point that Union County's rate of Alzheimer's disease is two times the state average, for reasons currently unknown. The Council on Aging in Union County keeps seniors informed with updates of current trends and issues. Ms. Smosky said that for the first time in our history, the age pyramid has now become a cylinder and we will have a significant population of citizens aged 60+. We are quickly becoming an older country as people are living longer than ever. The Council on Aging in Union County seeks to ensure that people are aging as

comfortable as possible. The group requested \$1500. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1500 to Council on Aging in Union County.

Mayor Simpson recognized Sheila Crunkleton, representing American Red Cross. Ms. Crunkleton began by thanking the Council for entertaining a donation to American Red Cross (ARC). One focus the ARC currently has is to install smoke alarms in as many homes as possible. The group is partnering with fire departments and other county agencies to get their message out into the county. The ARC is also in a new partnership on disaster education with Disney called the Pillowcase Project. This will target 3rd through 5th graders and provides workbooks on being prepared in the event of a house fire. It ensures that youth know where to go and proper safety precautions to take in the event of a fire. The program also covers the topics of heat safety, swim safety, and fire safety. Another focus of the ARC is the implementation of a new case work system that was recently piloted. The Union County chapter has adopted this system. It puts the recovery in the clients' hands. In the past, if there was a house fire, a family would have to be destitute to be eligible to receive help from the ARC. Now, if the home is livable, the family is still allotted money needed to purchase needed items, such as a new stove. If the home is not livable, another set of money is given. It is no longer so strictly tied to food, shelter, and clothing. The ARC is now able to help with medicine replacement, first month's rent, and other expenses incurred after disaster. The new case work system allows the ARC to help the lower-middle income families more than they have been able to in the past. Ms. Crunkleton concluded that the organization is here to help in any way and has always appreciated Unionville's support as a longstanding partner. The ARC has requested \$2500, which will be voted on at next month's meeting. Mayor Simpson stated that very recently there had been an incident in the area that folks needed help with as a result of a fire and the ARC was extremely helpful.

Mayor Simpson then drew the Council's attention to the consideration of Centralina Council of Governments' Statement of Work. According to Attorney Ken Helms, we would have to give a six month notice if the town did not want to participate. He also noted that this group is a good support for Sonya and very helpful with land use issues and questions. It is the same contract that was approved in the past. Mayor Simpson noted that it was included in the town's budget. Attorney Helms encouraged Council to vote on the matter even with the funds allocated in the budget. Edd Little mentioned that it would need to be discussed in November if we wished to make any changes in regards to our relationship with CCOG. Upon motion duly made by Randy Baucom, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously agreed to continue work with CCOG.

In considering the advertisement of delinquent 2014-2015 taxes, the consensus of the Council was to advertise the attached delinquencies on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, in the Union Section of the Charlotte Observer for \$290.50, as required by N.C.G.S. 105-369(c).

Mayor Simpson recognized Bill Whitley, representing Union County Parks & Recreation with an annual update. The Parks & Recreation master plan was approved in May 18th. Mr. Whitley shared that many people don't know where their local parks are located. He also noted that Parks & Recreation could not always supply everything that's requested of them. In this vein, Mr. Whitley said that Parks & Recreation has to be cognizant that "competitors" should be considered "partners." Currently, Parks & Recreation has several no-cost issues to take immediate action. In an effort to inform citizens, Parks & Recreation is working to organize a way for communities to share their upcoming events with one another as well as gather ideas of how to move forward. Mr. Whitley also recognized that the other half of their duty is to provide recreation, from park benches to taking a walk. He stated that the number 1 recreation requested is walking paths. Parks & Recreation provides for a healthy benefit to all ages – from birth to senior adults. In an effort to appeal to all of our population, Parks & Recreation is working on incorporating senior fitness areas next to playgrounds. Mr. Whitley stated that it is a proven fact that parks support a cleaner, greener environment. In addition, parks and activities build a better community by bringing people together, as well as reducing crime in communities. Parks also increase the tax value of a community. Union County Parks & Recreation will be holding quarterly meetings to share ideas and take a collective approach. They are asking all municipalities to help the county to build an interactive map, at no cost to the municipalities. This will assist Parks & Recreation to inform citizens where things are located and

encourage citizen to get outside and explore. Parks & Recreation is also willing to assist municipalities in advertising for local events. Municipalities are asked to send Parks & Recreation their fliers and advertisements of events that will then be shared on the Parks & Recreation list serv. Union County Parks & Recreation is also working to create a mobile recreation vehicle that will teach environmental education to youth across the county. In the next year, Parks & Recreation will be working on building better relationships with and among municipalities to share ideas and increase recreation activities across the area. Mr. Whitley thanked Council for their time. Randy Baucom asked if the mobile recreation vehicle is available to come out to the schools. Mr. Whitley responded that for the past two years Parks & Recreation has sent a letter to the schools in January to offer the opportunity. Mr. Whitley also commented that Parks & Recreation encourages schools to come down to the nature trail, participate in geo caching opportunities, and take part in the interactive activities that Parks & Recreation offers. Mr. Whitley stated that kids need to be outside, mentioning that a 30 minute walk outside in passive recreation is as effective as a dose of Ritalin. Parks & Recreation is doing what they can to support that. Attorney Helms asked about state support for Parks & Recreation. Mr. Whitley responded that Fairview received a 50/50 matching grant from Parks & Recreation Trust Foundation to build their park, which is a great tool to procure funding through the state for land or building parks. Mayor Simpson asked how many strings would be attached to grants. Mr. Whitley responded that if you bought land with that money, it is designated for that use in perpetuity. Whatever a municipality says they will do in a grant proposal must be done, or the money will be reverted back. Mr. Whitley said he would be glad to speak with Council at any time to further discuss grants. There are several available for trails, land, and water.

Mayor Simpson recognized Michele Sarno, representing Unionville Parks & Recreation committee. Ms. Sarno started by saying the full survey and comments are available and had been emailed to Sonya. In total, 216 residents completed the survey. Most respondents were women 35-44 years of age with elementary-aged children. Respondents reported that: 49% would attend a cultural visit; 89% would visit a park in Unionville; 33% requested walking and bicycle access from subdivisions to park; 74% would support purchasing a brick to raise funds. The top five requests from respondents were: walking/jogging trails; walking/paved trails; playgrounds; picnic/barbeque areas; and shelters. Of the survey respondents, 88% attend July 4th celebrations; 75% attend the Christmas festivities and tree lighting; and 66% attend the summer concert series. Respondents are showing interest in having a park. Ms. Sarno asked if the Parks & Recreation could move forward with a feasibility study and continue looking into the possibility of having a park. Ken Trull said that there would be nothing to lose by further investigating the possibility. Ms. Sarno also requested a liaison from the Council to attend the Parks & Recreation meetings on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Simpson said the Council would discuss this request and get back to her.

Mayor Simpson brought the Council's attention to the consideration of appointment of the vacant Parks & Recreation committee seat. Mr. Ken Kiser submitted an application to be considered. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously agreed to appoint Ken Kiser to serve on the Parks & Recreation committee.

Mayor Simpson drew Council's attention to the notice regarding the expiration of Council terms and election filing dates and times.

Council discussed July 4th festivities, to be held Saturday, July 4th, at 1:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Approved as to form:

Melody S. Braswell
Deputy Clerk

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney