

TOWN OF UNIONVILLE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Town of Unionville Town Council met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2013 in Town Hall, 1102 Unionville Church Road, Monroe, NC. Mayor Simpson and all Commissioners were present. Town Attorneys Ken Helms and Shawna Collins were also present.

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

There being no corrections to the minutes of the April 15, 2013 regular meeting, Mayor Simpson declared them approved as reviewed by Council.

Mayor Simpson recognized Budget and Finance Officer Darrell Baucom, who reviewed the financial reports, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Mr. Baucom reported a Certificate of Deposit increase of \$150,000 on the Balance Sheet and noted all of the Certificate of Deposit balances. In Budget vs. Actual, the Town is favorable on income \$94,000 due to the unexpected franchise tax payment in March. On the expense side, the Town is under budget on donations and legal fees. Overall, expenses are favorable less than budget \$62,000. In Activity Since Last Month, the Town approved \$8,000 to Unionville Elementary's Odyssey of the Mind teams, and added to the CD. In Pending Bills, Mr. Baucom included the \$8,000 to Union County Solid Waste Management related to June 30, 2012 and \$8,000 on June 30, 2013. He advised Council to add this item to the 2013/2014 budget until we see a rate change. Other bills received tonight include \$96 to Piedmont Flowers, \$106 to Duke Energy and \$40 to City of Monroe. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved payment of pending bills.

Mr. Baucom also reviewed the 2013/2014 Budget Overview with the Council, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. This overview is based on a \$.02/\$100 valuation tax rate. The excess of revenue over expenses of \$146,000 is primarily franchise taxes. Hold harmless is not included, as it will go away on June 30, 2013. In payroll, he projects a 2% cost of living and 3% merit raise. In legal fees, he budgeted \$2,500 monthly; in solid waste cost sharing he budgeted \$8,000 annually; other amounts are based on trends. Mayor Simpson set a budget public hearing for 7:00 PM on Monday, June 17, 2013 prior to the regular meeting. Commissioner Little made inquiry as to other franchise taxes from the state. Mr. Baucom anticipates the same as this year, and stated that the Town could make the Volunteer Fire Department contribution in July if desired. Mayor Pro-Tem Baucom clarified regarding the franchise tax situation. Mr. Baucom stated that the state distributed it incorrectly and made the correction in March and June.

Land Use Administrator Sonya Gaddy reviewed the timeline of the violation and citations at 416 Pennigar Road—a copy of which is appended to these minutes. The accessory structure does not meet the six-foot setback by over 5 ½ feet, as required in Section 184 of the Town's Land Use Ordinance. Ms. Gaddy has sent four citations totaling \$275, and no change has been made. She is seeking the Town Council's advice regarding proceeding. Attorney Shawna Collins was present to allow no appearance of impropriety, as Ken Helms is also the attorney for the complainant. Attorney Collins stated that the Town's goal is to have the structure moved. Two options are: 1) file a civil action seeking injunctive relief for abatement and 2) charge the resident with a Class 3 misdemeanor. She recommends the first solution, as the Class 3 misdemeanor does not address what the Town is trying to accomplish. In a civil action, a judge will give the resident a certain amount of time to comply. If he does not, the Town can have the building removed and the owner will incur the cost. This process will take a couple of months after the suit is filed and served. Upon motion regrettably made by Ken Brown, seconded by Randy Baucom, the Town unanimously agreed to proceed with the civil action for injunctive relief for abatement on the property at 416 Pennigar Road.

Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved the advertisement of delinquent 2012 ad valorem taxes, as required by N.C.G.S. 105-369(c). This ad will run in the Union News section of the *Charlotte Observer* on Wednesday, May 29, 2013 for \$531.00.

Mayor Simpson recognized Ms. Barbara Faulk with Union County Community Arts Council. She thanked the Town for their time and past support. She reported that they support several programs at Unionville, Piedmont Middle and Piedmont High Schools. They use their monies very carefully and will support Concerts in the Park with Unionville Lions Club this year in an effort to give back to the community. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1,000 to Union County Community Arts Council.

Mayor Simpson recognized Ms. Christi Phillips with Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter. She reported that Turning Point served over 300 women and children last year. She was a victim and client 12 years ago, and now works as Volunteer Coordinator there. There are 500 volunteers who work in the house and stores each year. They provide transportation for doctor appointments, jobs and job searches. She estimates they assisted 40-45 Unionville residents last year. The average stay is 90-100 days in the shelter. They provide mentoring, sheltering, support, job search and children's counseling for one year. Upon motion duly made by Randy Baucom, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1,500 to Turning Point Women's Shelter.

Mayor Simpson recognized Mrs. Pam Caskey with Safe Alliance. She thanked the Town for supporting Child Abuse Prevention & Awareness Month in April. She showed a power point presentation about Safe Alliance and their services. She stated she's not certain how many Unionville residents they helped last year, but one of their clients was a family with two children who were left in a ditch who live in Town of Unionville. Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Randy Baucom, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1,000 to Safe Alliance.

Mayor Simpson recognized Ms. Linda Smosky with Union County Council on Aging. She thanked the Town for their past support. This is the 40th anniversary of Council on Aging. Their goal is to help older adults be independent and stay in their own homes. Last year the Council helped at least 18 Unionville residents with yard work, home repair and two wheelchair ramps. These ramps are re-used when necessary. 129 Unionville residents participated in senior expos. They also assist the caregivers. The rate of Alzheimer's disease is skyrocketing. For every 100,000 deaths in the nation, 23.4 are Alzheimer's related; for every 100,000 deaths in North Carolina, 28.4 are Alzheimer's related; for 100,000 deaths in Union County, 55 are Alzheimer's related. Last year, they helped 550 seniors save money by changing their prescription drug plan. In 2010 in North Carolina, 43 of 100 counties had more 60+ aged adults than children under 17 years of age. By 2025, 85 counties will be in this category. Upon motion duly made by Randy Baucom, seconded by Edd Little, Council unanimously approved a donation of \$1,200 to Union County Council on Aging.

Mrs. Betty Hinson of Unionville Lions Club thanked the Town for their contribution last year and requested \$5,000 for entertainment for the July 4th celebration this year. They have a corporate sponsorship with Union Power, Union County Community Arts and others for Concerts in the Park. The Unionville Lions Club makes contributions to Boy Scout Troop 169 and the Unionville Volunteer Fire Department, as they both assist during July 4th festivities. They helped several cancer patients; sent Hope Clontz to Camp Dogwood for the Blind camp; purchased 150 books for three elementary schools; helped 30 people with Christmas gifts; and will award a \$1,000 Donald E. Price Scholarship to a Piedmont senior soon. They have 35 members and hope to raise \$30 per member at their auction Saturday, May 25 2013. Proceeds will go to Camp Dogwood for the Blind.

In other business, Mayor Pro-Tem Randy Baucom made inquiry as to Unionville Volunteer Fire Department's need to update Squad 2 truck. Commissioner Brown stated that Squad 2 truck is owned by the county but the Unionville VFD has provided labor to run the truck and it has never been upgraded. The truck becomes 20 years old this year, and the county will give it to the Unionville VFD rather than upgrading or replacing it. Mayor Pro-Tem Baucom stated that the county cut funding but wanted the VFD to put paid staff in the department during the day. These funds could have been used to upfit this truck and other equipment. Mr. Brown is concerned that the departments may lose their identity with the fire fee instead of a fire tax, and the fee doesn't cover their needs. Commissioner Edd Little made inquiry as to obsolete equipment. Commissioner Brown stated that their cutters will no longer cut the new vehicles

today. This truck is designed to save human lives; all other trucks are designed to save property. The cost of this truck is approximately \$560,000 plus \$100,000 for equipment, for which the department will apply for grants. Upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Randy Baucom, Council unanimously approved setting aside \$180,000 in franchise taxes received in March and June, 2013 for this truck and add \$220,000 as reserve in the 2013/2014 budget to total \$400,000 toward the purchase of this truck.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously agreed to enter into Executive Session to discuss Griffin Farm and Landfill with their attorney.

Upon motion duly made by Ken Brown, seconded by Robert Croutch, Council unanimously adjourned Executive Session.

There being no other business, and upon motion duly made by Edd Little, seconded by Jaren Simpson, Council unanimously adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya W. Gaddy
Clerk

Approved as to form:

R. Kenneth Helms, Jr., Town Attorney