

THE TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2023

The Council met in the Union Bridge Town Hall, on Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., for their monthly council meeting. Notice of the meeting was given by posting the agenda at the Town Hall, on the Town's website, and provision to the Carroll County Times. Mayor Jones presided over the meeting with councilmembers Donald Wilson; Laura Conaway; Amy Kalin; Cheri Thompson; Edgar Wentz; and Town Attorney, Mandi Porter. The attendees' sheet is attached to and made a part of these minutes. **Councilmember Laura Conaway motioned to approve the December 2022 operating statements; December 19, 2022 council meeting minutes, January 9, 2023 work session minutes and Quantum financial statements for December 2022. Councilmember Edgar Wentz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

- On January 13, 2023 Mayor Jones attended the annual Carroll County delegation meeting. Mayor Jones submitted a list of all the projects Union Bridge is working on in hope of receiving funding for our current projects.
- Once again it is time for the Maryland Municipal League (MML) "If I Were Mayor" essay contest. Councilmember Laura Conaway, will contact Elmer Wolfe Elementary School fourth grade teachers to arrange a time to discuss the contest with the students.
- Mayor Jones will be attending the WRCC meeting on January 25, 2023.
- Mayor Jones continues to attend the Maryland Municipal League, Legislative Committee meetings.
- Mayor Jones spoke with Cindi Emerick about a home business she would like to start. Mayor Jones informed her that she needs to speak with the Zoning Administrator, Mike Reynolds to make sure the business is in compliance with her zoning district.

ATTORNEY REPORT – MANDI PORTER

Town Attorney, Mandi Porter spoke with Jack A. Gullo Jr., Attorney at Law, concerning the Safety of Drinking Water Supply PFAS "Forever Chemicals" Multi-District Litigation letter dated December 26, 2022 that was sent to Union Bridge. Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has indicated that this contamination has been detected in the Union Bridge water system. MDE will soon release a maximum contaminant limit for these substances in the coming months. The Town, in addition to added testing, may soon be required to treat or remediate this drinking water and incur costs related thereto. Mr. Gullo is working as local counsel in Maryland with two national law firms regarding multi-district litigation on behalf of public water and wastewater systems to recover expenses incurred for testing, treatment and remediations of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination. Ms. Porter has reviewed the legal agreement for Union Bridge to enter into this multi-litigation. There is no legal fees or costs payable upfront by the Town. A 25% fee would be paid to the lawyers if they win the case. **Councilmember Laura Conaway motioned that Union Bridge join in the Multi-District Litigation. Councilmember Amy Kalin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** A copy of Mr. Gullo's letter is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

ELEVATED PFOS/PFOS LEVELS MDE LOAN APPLICATION – GHD ENGINEER COSTS

Clerk-Treasurer, Dawn Metcalf presented Circuit Rider, Mike Reynolds' project updated that MDE is offering loan forgiveness funding from its drinking water capital projects financial assistance program. Applications for the assistance program are due on January 31, 2023. The Town would need to have an idea of the high-level plan and approximate costs of the recommended remediation action. Mr. Reynolds, Jeff Glass, Union Bridge's Water/Sewer Operations and Maintenance Superintendent, met with the Town's on-call engineering firm (GHD) to discuss obtaining a cost estimate for the MDE funding application. GHD stated that they can get the Town a "high-level" cost by Monday, with a technical memo to follow. The cost to the Town to obtain this information is between \$5,000 - \$6,000. **Councilmember Laura Conaway motioned that the Town move forward with paying GHD to provide the required information and to submit the application to MDE prior to the January 31, 2023 deadline. Councilmember Amy Kalin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** A copy of Mr. Reynolds update is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DEPUTY MCGINNIS

- Deputy McGinnis reported that between the dates of December 19, 2022, until January 22, 2023, the Carroll County Sheriff's Office responded to 40 calls for service within the town limits of Union Bridge. Out of those calls for service, only four (4) call required a report. A copy of Deputy McGinnis' report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
- Deputy McGinnis provided everyone with a "Carroll Card" that lists many Carroll County resources addresses and phone numbers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

- Betsy Mantua questioned if there was something that can be done about the cement dust. Mayor Jones stated that there isn't much that can be done, and that at different times of the year it can be more significant. Mayor Jones stated that it can be cleaned with Vinegar. Councilmember Donald Wilson will check to see if there is an issue at the plant.
- Cindy Emerick, 301 E. Locust St., inquired if a sign could be placed on E. Locust St. cautioning traffic to slow down, handicapped resident crossing roadway. Councilmember Donald Wilson will check into what can be done.

CIRCUIT RIDER – MIKE REYNOLDS

-Mike Reynolds was absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER/SEWER

- Ms. Kalin had one (1) phone call related to water and sewer since the last Town Council meeting.
- Ms. Kalin attended the Planning and Zoning meeting on January 19, 2023. The Carroll County Annual Report and the Transportation Plan was discussed.
- Ms. Kalin received a complaint about young boys hanging out at the baseball dugouts. Deputy McGinnis will keep a check on it.

STREETS

-Mr. Wilson stated that he and Mr. Stambaugh has been working on the ditch that runs along W. Locust St.

COMMUNITY CENTER

-Mr. Wentz stated that two (2) sinks in the Community Center will be replaced.

POLICE/MOWING/CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

- Ms. Conaway met with Shriner Court residents on January 9, 2023.
- Ms. Conaway met with Shriner Court's new property managers and discussed some complaints she has received concerning Shriner Court.
- Ms. Conaway received a quote from Rileighs for more Christmas lights (snowflakes).
- Ms. Conaway attended the Carroll Cable Regulatory meeting on January 12, 2023 and spoke with Jay Uebel regarding equipment for streaming town meetings.
- Ms. Conaway emailed 4th grade teachers at Elmer Wolfe to set up a date to meet with students for the "If I Were Mayor" essay contest.
- Ms. Conaway's full report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

STREET LIGHTS/TRASH

- Ms. Thompson contacted Potomac Edison and reported three (3) streetlight issues, light out at the corner of W. Elger & Whyte St., malfunctioning light on the corner of W. Broadway and Whyte St. and light out on Main St.
- Ms. Thompson had no calls related to trash service since the last Town Council meeting.
- Ms. Thompson's full report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

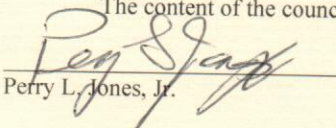
Councilmember Donald Wilson motioned to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilmember Laura Conaway seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

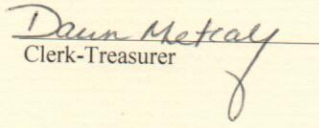
Councilmember Donald Wilson motioned to go into closed session for a personnel issue. Councilmember Laura Conaway seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next council meeting will be held on February 27, 2023.

The next work session meeting will be held on February 13, 2023.

The content of the council meeting is contained on a zip drive.


Perry L. Jones, Jr.


Dawn Metcalfe
Clerk-Treasurer