

THE TOWN OF UNION BRIDGE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2025

The Council met in the Union Bridge Town Hall, on Monday, April 28, 2025 at 7:05 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 Laura Conaway; Ellen Cutsail; Bret Grossnickle; Cheri Thompson; Town Attorney, Mandi Porter. Councilmember Amy Kalin was absent. The attendees' sheet is attached to and made a part of these minutes. **Councilmember Ellen Cutsail motioned to approve the March 2025 operating statements; March 24, 2025 council meeting minutes, April 14, 2025 work session minutes and Quantum's financial statements for March 2025. Council President Laura Conaway seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

MAYOR'S REPORT

-Mayor Jones called for a motion on Budget Ordinance 319-B, for fiscal year 2025/2026. **Council President Laura Conaway motioned to approve Budget Ordinance 319-B, for fiscal year 2025/2026, for expenditures and revenues of 1,242,544.00, with the town tax rate to remain at \$.35 per \$100 of full value assessment of property in the Town of Union Bridge, and the town personal property tax rate to remain at \$.75 per \$100 of assessed value. Councilmember Ellen Cutsail seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** A copy of Budget Ordinance 319-B is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

-Mayor Jones reported that the Town of Union Bridge received three (3) qualifying certificates of nominations for the three (3) open seats on the Town of Union Bridge Town Council. The election for the Town of Union Bridge is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025. Pursuant to Section 20-31 of the Town Charter, *an election is not required if the number of duly qualified candidates for office is equal to or less than the number of vacancies.* **Accordingly, the Town of Union Bridge Town Election scheduled for May 13, 2025 is CANCELLED.**

ATTORNEY REPORT – MANDI PORTER

-Ms. Porter had no new business.

CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DEPUTY MCGINNIS

-Deputy McGinnis reported that between March 24, 2025 and April 28, 2025 there were 37 calls for service within the Town of Union Bridge. Out of those calls for service six (6) were found to be reportable. A copy of Deputy McGinnis' report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

-Deputy McGinnis warned the public that people have been going door to door posing as contractors. As consumers be sure that the company is legitimate and get a second opinion before entering into a contract. If any solicitor does not take no for an answer, contact the Sheriff's office for assistance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

-Perry Jones reported that Union Bridge fire fighters will be sponsoring the Big Rig Rescue Course where firefighters train on a variety of rescue procedures and scenarios using special equipment to respond to accidents involving large vehicles.

-Cheri Thompson reported that Dream Big Union Bridge 7th annual Duck Derby and Jeep Show that will be held on June 7, 2025.

-Will Fries, informed the Mayor and Council that there is a new business in Town, Grace Valley Farms which is a tree nursery. Mr. Fries stated that if the Town does any beautification projects this year, he is willing to donate some mulch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER/SEWER

-Mr. Grossnickle reported that the Town advertised for an O&M Independent Contractor for the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP). The advertisement for bids ran on Friday, February 21, 2025 and Sunday, February 23, 2025, in the Carroll County Times. The Town received one bid proposal from Environmental Operations (our current contractor) in the amount of \$59,232.00 for FY 25/26, \$59,232.00 for FY 26/27 and \$62,184.00 for FY 27/28. Both the contractor and the Town have the option to renew at the proposed prices for the second and third year. **Councilmember Bret Grossnickle motioned to approve Environmental Operation's bid proposal for O&M Independent Contractor for the Water and Waste Water Treatment Plants in the amount of \$59,232.00 for FY 25/26, \$59,232.00 for FY 26/27 and \$62,184.00 for FY 27/28. Councilmember Ellen Cutsail seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** A copy of Budget Ordinance 319-B is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

-Mr. Grossnickle stated that he and Mr. Reynolds has a meeting on Tuesday, April 29, 2025 with the Town's Engineers to talk about the PFAS in the town's drinking water and the WWTP. Mr. Grossnickle is hopeful that Union Bridge can start on the PFAS project by the end of this year.

-Union Bridge has provided Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) with the additional information they requested concerning the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the WWTP. We are now waiting on MDE to approve the PER, so that we can move forward with the new WWTP.

-Mr. Grossnickle recognized Woodhaven Building and Developer, Marty Hill in the audience. Mr. Grossnickle asked if Mr. Hill would be willing to forward fund the WWTP project as subject to his development and Mr. Hill stated that he would be willing to forward fund if there were guarantees in place. Mr. Hill stated that he would be willing to discuss this with the Town.

STREETS

-Ms. Kalin was absent.

COMMUNITY CENTER

-Ms. Cutsail had no new business.

POLICE/MOWING/CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

-Ms. Conaway read aloud the thank you note that Mr. Edmund Cueman wrote. A copy of Mr. Cueman's note is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

-Ms. Conaway reported that the new Christmas snowflake lights were delivered.

-Ms. Conaway submitted the form for Banner City.

-Ms. Conaway spoke to and emailed Commissioner Vigliotti regarding getting connectivity to town hall for livestreaming our council meetings.

-Ms. Conaway worked with Leda, Ellen, Dawn and Deputy McGinnis throughout the month regarding parking issues.

-Ms. Conaway's full report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

STREET LIGHTS/TRASH

-Ms. Thompson reported one (1) street light in need of repair.

-Ms. Thompson stated that she will not be running for council this upcoming election.

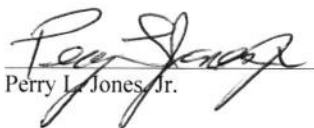
-Ms. Thompson's full report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

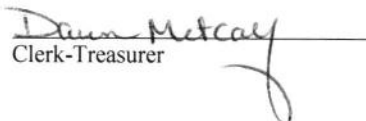
Council President Laura Conaway motioned to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilmember Ellen Cutsail seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The next council meeting will be held on May 19, 2025.

The next work session will be held on May 12, 2025.

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


Perry L. Jones, Jr.


Clerk-Treasurer