

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

March 13, 2017

Mayor O'Callaghan called the City of Union council meeting to order on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance was taken and the following council members were present: Mayor O'Callaghan, Mr. Bruns, Mr. Blackwell, Mrs. Huggins, Mrs. Kyle, and Mrs. Oberer.

Other city staff members attending the meeting were John P. Applegate, City Manager, Denise Winemiller, Clerk of Council, and Joe Moore, Law Director.

Mayor O'Callaghan called for a moment of silence.

Mayor O'Callaghan said that Mrs. Perkins had called in and was ill and would not be able to attend the meeting. He moved that her absence be excused. Mr. Bruns seconded the motion. All concurred and Mrs. Perkins' absence was excused.

1. Mayor O'Callaghan asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions for the minutes of the February 13, 2017 council meeting. There were no corrections so Mr. Bruns moved that the minutes be accepted as prepared. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. All the council members voted in favor of the motion. The minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting were accepted as prepared.

2. Citizen's and Visitor's Comments

No one had requested to address the council.

3. Brandon Knecht and Susanne Lintz were present to discuss the upcoming Northmont School Levy.

Mayor O'Callaghan introduced Mr. Knecht and Mrs. Lintz and welcomed them to the meeting.

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Mr. Knecht said he wanted to highlight some great things that were being done in the school district. The school levy will be on the ballot on May 2 and is a renewal for 5.9 mills placed on the ballot as a continuing levy with zero increase in taxes. Mr. Knecht said the passage of the levy was crucial to sustain the excellent operations of the school from the “classroom to the court”. Mr. Knecht said he also wanted to avoid “levy fatigue”. He added, as the city knows, there would not be a windfall from the state this year so they are looking at ways to maintain funding. He said he is meeting with business leaders and municipalities. He said with their new facilities, they are able to host more events and he said they have been very fiscally responsible.

He said they have cut five million from the budget, reducing staff and the funding for some student programming.

Mr. Knecht said they were trying to obtain state funding and grants and Mrs. Lintz had been crucial in that and he asked that she address the council on the grant situation.

Mrs. Lintz said she been able to obtain a “Straight A Grant”. It was a competitive application for \$391,000.00 dollars to help teachers provide better instruction. There was additional training offered for 30 to 35 teachers for a three day period.

Mrs. Lintz said she and her husband both grew up in this area and they were glad to be back.

She said she was very excited about all the things the school was able to offer.

A “Fact Sheet” was provided to the council regarding information about the Northmont schools and why it was such a great investment. For example, the students are in the top 5% in the state in Advanced Placement Scores.

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Mr. Knecht said that the school had 29 years of perfect safety inspections of the bus fleet. He said he thought they were being very smart when they spent money and were buying smart.

Mr. Knecht said he would appreciate an endorsement from the City of Union for support of the continuing levy.

Mr. Applegate asked Mr. Knecht how many students were currently attending the school. Mr. Knecht said the enrollment was at 5,000, and that was actual attendance but they were responsible for 5,500. He said that enrollment was expected to increase in the next five years. In response to another question, the graduation rate of Northmont School is 96 percent.

### 3. Open Agenda

Mayor O'Callaghan said that in the council's history, it was not in their policy to endorse items as a council. However, the Mayor said they could endorse the levy as individuals.

Mayor O'Callaghan said he would endorse the levy. He said that he believes the Northmont School system does a fantastic job.

Mr. Blackwell said that the Easter Egg hunt was scheduled for Saturday, April 8 at Union Phillipsburg-Union community park. He said the Easter Bunny will arrive at 10:00 a.m. and the Easter Egg hunt will start at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Blackwell added that there would be prizes, cookies, and punch available. He said everyone is welcome to attend and the egg hunt has children participating up to age 8 years old.

Mrs. Oberer said she would endorse the Northmont School Levy.

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Mr. Bruns asked if there were any items for a second council meeting on March 27. Mr. Applegate said that nothing had been presented so they would not need to have a second meeting in March.

Mr. Bruns then moved that the March 27 council meeting be canceled and that the next council meeting would be on April 10, 2017. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. All concurred and the motion was passed.

Mr. Bruns thanked Mr. Knecht and Mrs. Lintz for coming and added that it was a very good presentation.

Mr. Applegate said he personally supported the Northmont Schools. He said he had attended Northmont School and both his wife and daughter had also attended the school. He said Northmont was an excellent school and he wished them the best and said "I do support it".

Mrs. Winemiller said that they hoped to have a city newsletter out by the end of the month.

She also said that she had included the January and February 2017 fund sheets in with the council information.

4. Mr. Bruns moved that the council meeting be adjourned. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. All concurred and the council meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday, April 10, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

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Denise A. Winemiller,  
Clerk of Council

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John Bruns, Vice Mayor