

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

September 25, 2017

Mayor O'Callaghan called the City of Union council meeting to order on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Other city staff members attending the meeting were John 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. Oberer had called in and was out of town 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. Oberer's absence was excused.

1. Mayor O'Callaghan asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions for the minutes of the September 11, 2017 council meeting. Mr. Bruns there was a typographical error in Item # 6. It was not Mr. Blackwell that seconded the motion but Mayor O'Callaghan. With that item corrected, Mr. Bruns moved that the minutes be accepted as prepared. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. Mrs. Perkins abstained and the other council members voted in favor of the motion. The minutes of the September 11, 2017 meeting were accepted as prepared.

2. Citizen's and Visitor's Comments

There was no one in the audience that needed to address the council.

# **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

## **MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**September 25, 2017**

3. Discussion regarding necessary improvements at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant to comply with the issuance of a new, NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit.

Mr. Applegate said this concerned the renewal every five years of their permit to run the wastewater treatment plant. He said that he had met with the EPA in Columbus, along with Mr. Marlin Applegate and Mr. Dan Miklos, who was attending the council meeting with a presentation.

Mr. Applegate said they all thought that the two hour meeting in Columbus had gone very well. Then they had received a letter from the EPA with changes in the ammonia limits. The city met with them again in Union and were able to show them how and why things were done. The city has not sent the Ohio EPA a letter responding on the issues they raised on the renewal. Mr. Applegate said a copy of the letter was provided in the council's packet of information. They are currently waiting to hear back from the EPA if they concur with the Union's proposal.

Mr. Applegate said in addition to Mr. Miklos, Mr. Haughey, their environmental attorney is involved and has some questions.

Mr. Miklos said that the city will need time to make the renovations that are required and he said sometimes the Ohio EPA can take months to review the "Permit to Install" (PTI). Mr. Miklos said sometimes the reason that entities run out of time for the renovations is because the Ohio EPA has taken so long to respond and they have caused the delay. Mr. Miklos said that Union will need the entire amount of time to do all of the renovations and they want to make sure they have the time they need.

Mr. Applegate said they had a good meeting and showed them their current plans and explained what they had done in the past.

The city needs more aeration and also a larger clarifier.

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

September 25, 2017

Mr. Miklos said he had a presentation to make to the council concerning a rate increase in the sewer fund to pay for the debt service.

Mr. Miklos said the city has two base rate charges each quarter and one month of consumption. He said they will need to change both of these but since it is spread over the quarter it will be a small change and won't adversely affect the Union residents.

Mr. Miklos suggested they raise the base rate for sewer from \$26.00 to \$30.00, or \$4.00 each of the two base rate months in the quarter. That would be roughly a 15 percent increase.

Mr. Miklos said on the consumption bill, it would be raised twenty cents per thousand gallons. That would change the charge from \$1.55 to \$1.75 a thousand, or a 12.9 percent increase.

Mr. Miklos proposed the question, was this an affordable increase? He explained what the Ohio EPA considered is affordable which is 4.75 % of household median income. He said the rates that the city is proposing would be an affordable rate and not a dramatic increase. He added that the city's rates have remained low because of proper planning and operation of the plant and because of that, even with a substantial change, rates will still be considered low.

Mr. Applegate said rate increase legislation will come before the council at their next council meeting.

Mrs. Winemiller said they would also have three notes and a firehouse bond coming up. Mr. Applegate said if they can combine all of the bonds, they will get a better interest rate on the higher amount.

Mr. Applegate said they will save money on the renovations because they can do much of the work themselves and they have done it before. He said they can lay the lines and install the controls.

# **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

## **MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**September 25, 2017**

Mr. Miklos said they were third in the Oakwood survey on water and had an extremely low rate. In sewer rates, they are eight and after 2017 with the increase, they will be eleventh. Union will still be in a very good position.

Mr. Applegate gave a brief history of the wastewater treatment plant. It was built in 1959 and the first expansion was in 1968. The second expansion was in 1983. Mr. Applegate said his goal is to have a zero discharge plant. He said he and Mr. Miklos are very excited about this. Mr. Applegate said they do a very good job, along with West Milton and Englewood.

Mr. Applegate said this will be a big improvement, will have unique aspects and will be very interesting. When they achieve their goal of zero discharge, especially in the summer, it will be a huge help to the Stillwater River. Mr. Applegate said the end result will set the state for the city for quite some time. He said it would be the best run, most economical operating system in the whole area.

Mr. Applegate explained that written into the city charter was that rate changes or bonds must have three readings before the council. Mr. Applegate said they had been talking to Ed Cavezza, their bond counsel, and Mr. Moore and they will be asking the council to waive three readings on the bond notes for the upgrade on the plant. He said Ed Cavezza would be present at the meeting to explain what they were doing.

Mr. Applegate said they could have three readings on the sewer rate increase legislation

### 5. Open Agenda

# **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

## **MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**September 25, 2017**

6. Mr. Bruns moved that the September 25, 2017 council meeting be adjourned. Mr. Blackwell seconded the motion. All concurred and the meeting was adjourned.

The next council meeting will be October 10, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Denise A. Winemiller,  
Clerk of Council

---

John Bruns, Vice Mayor