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## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:00 PM

Council Chamber

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Honorable Vince R. Williams, Mayor, *Presiding*  
Honorable Lawanna Owens-Twaites, Mayor Pro Tem  
Honorable Christina Hobbs, Council Member  
Honorable Brian K. Jones, Council Member  
Honorable Angelette Mealing, Council Member

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### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

### I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Vince R. Williams  
Mayor Pro Tem Lawanna Owens-Twaites  
Councilmember Angelette Mealing  
Councilmember Christina Hobbs  
Councilmember Brian Jones  
City Attorney – Dennis Davenport  
City Manager – Sonja Fillingame  
Assistant City Manager – Tarsha Callaway  
Deputy City Clerk – Sharday Freeman

#### Present:

Finance Comptroller – Britney Gordon  
Police Chief – Cassandra Jones  
Public Services Director – Lonnie Ferguson  
Human Resources Director – Brittany Sainnatus  
Operations Director – Cindy Givens  
Community Development Assistant Director – Janna Keller  
Court Services Director – Shenika Wright  
Fire Chief – Joe Maddox

#### Absent:

City Clerk – Darryl J. Terry, II

### II. INVOCATION

Invocation given by Min. Gavin Lane.

### III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

### IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs, the Council approved the agenda. Vote was unanimous, 4-0.

## V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: (2 Minutes Per Person)

- **Bolaji Cole** of 9518 Lakeview Rd. expressed his concerns regarding the overall cleanliness of the city and shared that his nonprofit organization will be contributing to efforts aimed at keeping the community clean. He also expressed his concerns with the speed cameras, specifically the inability to contest the citation in court.
- **Carolyn Mazyck** of 5638 Liberty Rd. Union City expressed her concerns regarding the code enforcement department not keeping the community clean and following up with legal actions when necessary.

## VI. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 2025-P-16** A **Presentation** from the Community Teen Coalition - Upward Bound  
Presentation led by Dion Stokes.
- 2025-P-17** An **Acknowledgement** in recognition of the Employee of the Month for April 2025  
Xandria Shields was recognized as Employee of the Month for April.
- 2025-P-18** An **Acknowledgement** in recognition of the Employee of the Month for May 2025  
Dimitri Cooper was recognized as Employee of the Month for May.
- 2025-P-19** A **Proclamation** in recognition of National EMS Week to be held May 18th – 24th, 2025  
The Union City Fire Department accepted the Proclamation.
- 2025-P-20** A **Proclamation** in recognition of National Public Works Week to be held May 18th – 24th, 2025  
The Union City Public Works Department accepted the Proclamation.
- 2025-P-21** A **Proclamation** in recognition of Municipal Court Clerk's Week to be held June 9th – 13th, 2025  
The Union City Court Services Department accepted the Proclamation.
- 2025-P-22** A **Proclamation** in recognition of May as National Cities, Towns and Villages Month  
Mayor and Council accepted the Proclamation.

## VII. CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be approved by one motion. No separate discussion will take place on these items. If discussion of any Consent Agenda item is desired, the item will be moved to the Regular Agenda for separate consideration.

### *Items for Council Action*

- 2025-A-34** An **Action** to review an agreement between Metric One Training & Consulting and the Union City Police Department, and for other purposes.
- 2025-A-35** An **Action** of the Governing Authority to review an agreement between the City of Union City, Georgia and Peachtree Recovery Services, Inc.; for property damage recovery services, and for other purposes.
- 2025-A-36** An **Action** of the Governing Authority to ratify an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Union City, Georgia and Fulton County, Georgia; for the conduction of municipal election services, and for other purposes.

### ***Report of the Journal***

- 2025-A-37** An **Action** of the Governing Authority to review the Work Session Minutes dated March 18, 2025.
- 2025-A-38** An **Action** of the Governing Authority to review the Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated March 18, 2025.
- 2025-A-39** An **Action** of the Governing Authority to review the Minutes from the State of the City Address delivered by Mayor Vince Williams dated April 16, 2025.

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Owens-Twaites, the Council approved the Consent agenda. Vote was unanimous, 4-0.

## **VIII. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **City Manager Sonja Fillingame:**

#### *Remarks:*

- Introduced Mr. Kent Johnson as the Water Division Manager in the Public Works Department.

### **Assistant City Manager Tarsha Callaway:**

#### *Remarks:*

- Thanked Operations for the Creative Exchange Art Show.

## **IX. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Owens-Twaites, the Council motioned for City Manager Fillingame to receive a 6% pay increase. Vote was unanimous, 4-0.

## **X. REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**

### **Councilmember Hobbs:**

#### *Congratulatory acknowledgements extended to:*

- Employee of the Month of April Xandria Shields
- Employee of the Month of May Dimitri Cooper
- All Proclamation honorees
- Police Department for their promotion ceremony

#### *Remarks:*

- Acknowledged Teen Coalition Upward Bound Students
- Acknowledged the staff for their hard work for the State of the City Address
- Acknowledged Parks & Rec for the Mother's Day Jazz Under the Stars Sip and Paint
- Acknowledged the Grants Team for their hard work
- Extended a heartfelt welcome to Mr. Kent Johnson
- Acknowledged May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Older Americans Month
- Extended well wishes for safe travels over the Memorial Day weekend.
- Recommended Dr. Wydril Dee Nelson to be on the board for the Downtown Development Authority.

### **Councilmember Mealing:**

*Congratulatory acknowledgements extended to:*

- Employee of the Month of April Xandria Shields
- Employee of the Month of May Dimitri Cooper

*Remarks:*

- Acknowledged The Miracle League Game
- Discussed the Grady Townhall
- Extended gratitude to the individuals who were present at the Listening Session Meeting
- Acknowledged the Data Center Virtual Town Hall Meeting
- Discussed the Comprehensive Planning meeting
- Expressed enthusiasm regarding the grant opportunities
- Acknowledged the Human Resources Department for facilitating the ongoing learning sessions.
- Acknowledged 2025 Graduates and highlighted the Youth Council seniors
- Encouraged everyone to have a safe summer
- Welcomed Mr. Kent Johnson to the team
- Recommended Vivian Lett to be on the board for the Downtown Development Authority.
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### **Councilmember Jones:**

*Congratulatory acknowledgements extended to:*

- Employee of the Month of April Xandria Shields
- Employee of the Month of May Dimitri Cooper
- Honored Mayor Pro Tem Owens-Twaites for her 37 years of service in the school system and congratulated her on her retirement.

*Remarks:*

- Recognized the numerous initiatives and programs currently underway in the city
- Acknowledged the students from Banneker High School and the Teen Coalition
- Acknowledged his 25<sup>th</sup> reunion from Morehouse College and expressed appreciation for the individuals in attendance who spoke positively about the great work being done in Union City.
- Recommended Mr. Shedrick Williams to be on the board for the Downtown Development Authority.

### **Mayor Pro Tem Owens-Twaites:**

*Congratulatory acknowledgements extended to:*

- Employee of the Month of April Xandria Shields
- Employee of the Month of May Dimitri Cooper

*Remarks:*

- Recognized the Teen Coalition and Upward Bound students and conveyed her desire for the Grants Team to assist them with future opportunities.
- Recognized the proclamations and extended thanks to the departments for their continued dedication and efforts.

- Recognized the concerns raised by residents about the city's cleanliness and reiterated her dedication to fostering a well-maintained community, emphasizing that achieving this goal depends on the shared responsibility of all stakeholders.
- Shared her excitement for the summer season and the launch of new literacy initiatives, such as the Mobile Book Program and the Summer Program.
- Thanked Coach Blitch and his team for their continued dedication and the successful execution of various events.
- Highlighted the positive impact of Grady Hospital's presence in the area and its potential to enhance community healthcare services.
- Expressed appreciation to the residents for their participation in the Listening Session and highlighted the value of understanding community perspectives.
- Expressed appreciation to the Grants Department for their efforts in securing additional funding to help advance key projects.
- Discussed her excitement for the Downtown Development Authority
- Recommended that the Zoning Department work toward minimizing and discontinuing the establishment of additional package stores.
- Thanked Union City residents, employees, and her colleagues for their ongoing commitment to the community.
- Recommended Marguerite Carter to be on the board for the Downtown Development Authority.

#### **Mayor Vince R. Williams:**

*Congratulatory acknowledgements extended to:*

- Employee of the Month of April Xandria Shields
- Employee of the Month of May Dimitri Cooper

*Remarks:*

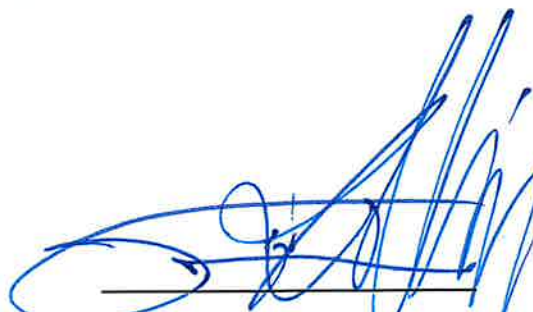
- Urged residents to remain engaged by providing feedback to the board on community improvements, and noted the city's ongoing efforts, including addressing blight, implementing the Adopt-a-Spot program, and advancing the Growing Together campaign.
- Expressed appreciation to the Upward Bound individuals for their presence and insightful presentation.
- Highlighted the record-breaking graduation rates achieved this year.
- Expressed appreciation to the City Manager and Senior Leadership Team for motivating their staff and acknowledging their excellent work.
- Welcomed Mr. Kent Johnson to the team
- Expressed appreciation to colleagues for their outstanding support and collaboration
- Encouraged colleagues to give names for the Downtown Development Authority
- Recommended Mayor Pro Tem Lawanna Owens-Twaites, Mr. Profail Grier, and former Councilmember Shayla Neely to be on the board for the Downtown Development Authority.
- Shared a thank you card from First Lady Sharon Williams and updated attendees on the follow-up visit, noting the good news regarding her clearance.
- Thanked everyone for their prayers during this time

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of Councilmember Mealing, seconded by Councilmember Jones, the Council adjourned the meeting. Vote was unanimous, 4-0.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.**

  
Sharday Freeman, Deputy City Clerk

  
Vince R. Williams, Mayor