

**MINUTES**  
**UNION CITY BOROUGH WORK SESSION**  
**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2011**

The Work Session of the Union City Borough Council was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Brumagin. The meeting was held at the City Building.

Councillors present were Brumagin, Bowes, Kolaja, McCrillis and Steadman. Councillor Hoban was absent.

Officials present were Borough Manager Cheryl Capela, Mayor Bill Hinkle and Street Supervisor Paul Maynard.

Visitors present were Dave Himes.

**UNION CITY MUSEUM:** Councilor McCrillis said he will be checking out the roof on the Museum.

**TOT LOT PARK:** Councillor McCrillis said that Tot-Lot Park needs to get mowed.

**STREET SIGNS:** Councillor Steadman said that Dave and Bob have been working on making new street signs. He said they have done a great job on these signs. He said they have about one-hundred of these signs completed.

**FIRST AVENUE:** Councillor Bowes said there are a couple of holes at the lower end of First Avenue that need to be fixed.

**PROPERTIES THAT ARE IN CODE VIOLATIONS:** The Borough Manager said she has prepared a spread sheet showing all the properties that are in code violation.

Councillor Bowes said that he would like the Code Enforcement Officer to update Borough Council each month on the progress he is making

for each property listed on the spread sheet.

Code Enforcement Officer Dave Himes said he would like to know if Union City Pride would be interested in obtaining the property on Warden Street. He said the last time he spoke with Mr. Huckno about his property, he informed him that he was going to give the property to Union City Pride.

He said he wants to condemn the property located across from NAPA. He said he has some questions on what are the procedures in condemning a property. He said he needs to speak to the Borough Solicitor about this.

Councillor Bowes said the window at the corner diner is out and it needs to be boarded up.

**CONCORD STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT:** The Borough Manager said she has an issue with the sidewalk project on Concord Street.

She said the sidewalk project consisted of five foot sidewalks on both sides of Concord Street.

She said when project was awarded; a meeting was setup with PennDot to walk the project. She said at this meeting, it was determined to eliminate sidewalks from Miles up to Pleasant Street. She said the reason for this was due to the high bank. She said this bank would have required the Borough to purchase handicap rails. She said PennDot informed her that the rails would cost approximately \$40,000.00. She said it was agreed upon to eliminate this section of sidewalks from the proposed project.

She said when a Pennsylvania One Call was called in for this project, it was noticed by our Street Supervisor that the one call was only for one side of Concord Street. She said this was brought to her attention by the Street Supervisor. She said the Street Supervisor spoke with the contractor

and he was informed by the contractor that the bid does not call for sidewalks from the railroad tracks up to the Evergreen Cemetery. She said this is approximately 2000 square feet of sidewalks that was to be part of this project.

She said representatives from PennDOT, Borough Engineer, Street Supervisor and myself met several times after the first initial meeting and at no time was it ever mentioned to eliminate this section of sidewalks.

She said she spoke with PennDOT representatives to see if they had changed the bid specs without letting her know. She said she was informed by PennDOT that they do not have the authority to change the scope of the project.

She said she found out later that the Borough's Engineer had changed the scope of the project. She said the engineer never forwarded these changes onto the Borough for their approval.

She said the cost to replace the 2000 feet of sidewalk is around \$65,000.00.

She said she has spoken with John Morgan from the Department of Transportation concerning this issue and he is looking into any funding that would be available for the Borough to finish this project.

She said she feels the Engineer should be held liable for his negligence. She said that she has been trying to get a hold of him so she can address these issues and he refuses to return her phone calls.

President Brumagin said he would like Borough Council to hold off on pursuing this issue until the Borough Manager has heard back from the Department of Transportation on whether there are any funds available to finish this project.

**UNION CITY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY:** President Brumagin said the Union City Water Authority is looking into obtaining a 30 year Pennvest loan. He said however, the authority only has a term of existence until 2039 which are a couple of years shy of what the Authority needs to get a Pennvest loan.

He said the Borough Solicitor will be providing information to Borough Council on what needs to be done to extend the authority's life.

**WEATHER ALERT SIREN:** Councillor Kolaja said the weather alert siren on top of the City Building is not working. He said the siren has to be set off manually.

He said the part to fix the siren would cost approximately \$1700.00.

Councillor Bowes asked "are you sure this is the right part needed to repair the siren?" He said he does not want the Borough to spend this kind of money and find out that this is the wrong part.

Councillor Kolaja said the Fire Department is pretty sure that this is the correct part.

Councillor Bowes said the siren does need to get fixed as soon as possible.

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

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Borough Manager