

**UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**Union Gap, Washington**  
**August 11, 2008**

Call to Order Mayor Lemon called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 7:05 p.m.

Council Members Present Council Members David Butler, Dan Olson, Glenn Bateman, Roger Wentz (7:08 p.m.), and Dave Matson were present.

Staff Present Robert Noe, City Attorney; Dennis Henne, Public Works Director; William Rathbone, Development Coordinator; Robert Almeida, Police Chief; Keith Yamane, Fire Chief; Karen Clifton, City Treasurer; and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.

Audience Present Fred Thomson, Al Coyner, Ron Davis, Joe & Linda Jackson, Debbie Matson, Phil Salzman, John Hodkinson, Mike Balasina, and others were present.

Pledge of Allegiance Council Member Bateman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Award Presentation Mayor Lemon presented a certificate to the Police Chief for Joe Vanicek, Police Officer, for 10 years of service to the City.

Consent Agenda Motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Council Member Matson to approve the consent agenda, as follows:

Approve the Study Session Council Meeting Minutes, dated July 28, 2008, as sent out on page 4824 of the Minute Book.

Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated July 28, 2008, as sent out on pages 4825 through 4827 of the Minute Book.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 72410 through 72449 in the amount of \$259,737.36 dated July 31, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Approve Payroll Voucher Nos. 31803 through 31884 in the amount of \$149,996.40, dated July 31, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Payroll Fund.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 72450 through 72517, in the amount of \$1,145,790.31 dated August 11, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Wentz, Vanover, and Murr absent.

Public Hearing – Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program Mayor Lemon opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

There was no one present wishing to speak on this item.

The City Clerk announced no written comments have been received.

At 7:08 p.m. Mayor Lemon closed the public hearing.

Res. No. 730 – Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Bateman to adopt Resolution No. 730, A Resolution providing for an amended Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (Comprehensive Street Program) for the City of Union Gap. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Wentz, Vanover, and Murr absent.

Res. No. 731 – Memo Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Bateman to

of Understanding with  
Centercal Properties,  
LLC Regarding Street  
Vacations

adopt Resolution No. 731, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Centercal Properties, LLC Regarding Street Vacations. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Vanover and Murr absent.

Res. No. 732 –  
Agreement with Police  
Officer Association for  
6-month trial period for  
12-hour shifts for patrol  
officers

Mayor Lemon requested the Council consider changing this trial period from 6 months to either 4 months or 8 months because 6 months falls in the middle of shift change for the patrol officers.

Council Member Matson questioned who would cover if someone calls in sick on the 12-hour shifts and asked if officers would be working 18 hours to provide coverage.

Mayor Lemon reminded the Council this is just a trial and can be cancelled at any time if it does not work out.

Council Member Wentz commented that approving 12-hour shifts will dictate an increase in benefits of an estimated additional \$3,900 a year.

Council Member Matson questioned how the officers figured there would be a \$6,000 savings by having 12-hour shifts.

The Police Chief stated the savings was figured because of the rotation period every four months.

Council Member Wentz commented when someone covers sick leave instead of being paid 8 hours of overtime, they will be paid 12 hours of overtime. He stated this could be a very expensive program. He also questioned if having a trial period will give more power to the union to demand the 12-hour shifts. He also questioned if due to the longer weekends it will be harder to find officers to cover and some officers will end up working 16 or 18 hours. He stated 12-hour shifts are draining and he feels this would be negative and detrimental to the citizens of Union Gap because officers will be working with fatigue and emotional trauma.

Mayor Lemon commented a trial period would be nice to give both sides a feel for the 12-hour shifts. He stated the association might ask for this during negotiations and if the Council approves it, it would be a permanent change with no trial period.

The Police Chief informed a 4-month trial period would be more workable for the department. He also called the Council's attention to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the association's memorandum and pointed out there will be costs to the City.

Council Member Matson stated he needs more answers before making a decision, and commented these are long shifts for people making life or death decisions.

The Police Chief stated the 12-hour shift change would be a morale boost for patrol, but the Council must also factor in safety. He informed rather than holding an officer over to provide coverage, they would try to bring someone off duty in.

Council Member Matson questioned if there could be a provision for someone to be on call.

Council Member Wentz commented that still means overtime and the City has to pay someone to be on call. He then questioned if the City has the correct number of sergeants for the 12-hour shifts.

The Police Chief stated right now there are 3 patrol sergeants and 1 administrative sergeant so someone would probably need to be promoted into a 4<sup>th</sup> patrol sergeant position. Without creating a 4<sup>th</sup> patrol sergeant, they would have to have 2 patrol sergeants work the middle of two shifts and probably demote the 3<sup>rd</sup> patrol

sergeant.

Motion by Council Member Bateman, seconded by Council Member Olson to indefinitely table Resolution No. 732, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with the Union Gap Police Officer Association Representing Uniformed Officers and Sergeants to enter into a 6-month trial period allowing for 12-hour shifts for patrol officers. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Vanover and Murr absent.

Expenditure Request –  
Parks Department  
Tractor Replacement

The Public Works Director informed it will cost \$7,500 to repair the Case tractor and it is only worth \$5,500 after it is repaired. He stated they have looked at used tractors, but tractors are in high demand this time of year and good used ones are almost the price of new ones. He informed they can purchase a new tractor on state contract for about \$17,000.

Council Member Wentz questioned the life span for the tractors.

The Public Works Director stated 20+ years and this City usually keeps equipment until it is run into the ground because we do not have an equipment replacement schedule.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to accept the lowest quote from Burrows Tractor and authorize the expenditure of up to \$21,000 (\$14,964 from Park Development Reserve Fund; remaining \$6,000 will come from other line items in the Parks Budget) for the purchase of a new tractor from Burrows Tractor utilizing the Washington State bid contract. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Vanover and Murr absent.

Confirm Attendance –  
Yakima City Council  
Study Session  
Regarding Aquatics

Council Member Matson stated he might be able to attend the Yakima City Council Study Session regarding aquatics on August 26, 2008.

The other council members confirmed they would not be able to attend.

Items from the  
Audience

Transit Service. Ron Davis, T C Transportation Services informed he has a meeting with Yakima Transit tomorrow regarding where connections will be made in the transit system.

Mayor Lemon informed the termination date for Yakima Transit was extended to November 30, 2008 so T C Transportation will begin December 1, 2008.

Council Member Butler questioned what the buses will look like.

Mr. Davis informed they will use the City's logo and look like the sample they showed the Council.

Development of Next  
Agenda

The City Clerk announced the contract with T C Transportation will be added to the August 25, 2008 Council agenda.

Departmental Reports

Mayor Lemon informed the following report is in the packet and questioned if the Council has any questions of the departments: Building/Mechanical & Plumbing Report – July 2008.

Adjourn to 30-Minute  
Executive Session

At 7:35 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting to a 30-Minute Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

*These minutes dated August 11, 2008 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of August 25, 2008.*

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Jim Lemon, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kathryn Thompson, CMC, City Clerk