

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

- Call to Order Mayor Lemon called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.
- Council Members Present Council Members David Butler, Dan Olson, Glenn Bateman, Dan Vanover, Roger Wentz, Dave Matson, and James Murr 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 Aubrey Reeves, Trent Marquis, Brian Curtain, John Cooper, Debbie Matson, Tony Reise, Michael & Joshua Murr, Stephanie Korn, Chris Dahl, Michael Moore, Phil Salzman, John Hodkinson, Erin Snelgrove, Jim E. Lemon, Mary Ann Lockhart, and others were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance Council Member Matson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Consent Agenda Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Butler to approve the consent agenda, as follows:
- Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated January 28, 2008, as sent out on pages 4756 through 4760 of the Minute Book.
- Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 71020 through 71045 in the amount of \$255,182.73 dated January 31, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.
- Approve Payroll Voucher Nos. 31320 through 31391 in the amount of \$145,540.98, dated January 31, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Payroll Fund.
- Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 71046 through 71135 in the amount of \$198,311.07, dated February 11, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.
- Ordinance No. 2548 – Amending 2008 Budget Creating Transit Fund Adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2548, An Ordinance creating the Transit System Fund No. 128 and authorizing the expenditure of \$542,000 from this fund.
- Ordinance No. 2549 – Amending 2008 Budget Establishing Housing Rehabilitation Fund Adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2549, An Ordinance amending the 2008 Budget to include the Housing Rehabilitation Fund No. 170 and to authorize an expenditure of \$455,000 for the Housing Rehabilitation program.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance No. 2550 – Amending Municipal Code – Commute Trip Reduction Program Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Butler to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2550, An Ordinance amending Union Gap Municipal Code section 9.50.020, City CTR Plan. Motion carried unanimously.
- Reconsider Award of Bids on Acquired Valley Mall Boulevard Right of Way Surplus Mayor Lemon informed the person who was the high bidder on these structures defaulted by not making timely payment to the City and the second highest bidders on two of the structures have made a claim for their bids to be accepted.

Structures

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to reconsider the award of bids on Valley Mall Boulevard Surplus Structures, as follows: Award to Larry Briggs 402 Pioneer Street \$2,622.00; 2301 So. 5th Avenue (House) \$1,056.00; and 308 Pioneer Street \$1,616.00; Award to Mark Gefre 2301 South 5th Avenue (Garage) \$505.00; Award to Lisa Jensen 2302 South 3rd Avenue (House) \$1,314.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Confirm Appointment -
Planning Commission

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to confirm the appointment of Michael Moore to the Planning Commission for the term ending January 2, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss Planning For A
Union Gap Convention
Center

Council Member Olson stated he would like the Council to consider planning for a future Union Gap convention center, but at this time he does not want to talk about how large of a convention center or where it will be located, etc. He informed the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee has discussed break out rooms or more, and he would like unobligated hotel/motel money to be used to begin building funds for the future.

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Bateman to establish a fund and set aside unobligated hotel/motel money for a future convention center, unless the City Attorney finds a reason that this cannot be done.

The City Attorney informed he will research this issue and if there is no problem, he will bring an ordinance back to Council on the Consent Agenda.

Council Member Murr questioned if the convention center could also serve as a youth center.

Council Member Olson stated hotel/motel money has to be used for tourism and the City would probably have to get a bond and pay the bond back from hotel/motel money. A convention center could be leased out to anyone so the youth might be able to meet in part of it.

Council Member Wentz questioned if this would be co-mingling funds.

The City Attorney informed the law requires the money be spent on tourism related uses.

Council Member Wentz requested the City Attorney see if tourism is the exclusive use or the primary use.

Mayor Lemon stated he thought this item was for discussion only and requested to be informed if a council member plans to take action on a discussion item. He then called for a vote on the motion to establish a fund and set aside unobligated hotel/motel money for a future convention center, unless the City Attorney finds a reason that this cannot be done. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Olson, Bateman, Vanover, and Murr voting in favor; Council Members Wentz and Matson voting no.

Council Member Matson stated he likes the idea but would like more details.

Report from Aubrey
Reeves, Jr. Regarding
TransAction Trip

Aubrey Reeves, Jr. informed it was a pleasure to be able to represent Union Gap with TransAction in Washington D.C. He informed they met with Senator Murray, and the aids of Senator Cantwell and Representative Hastings and the projects were very well received. He presented the Mayor with the pamphlet TransAction gave to the legislators and thanked Trent Marquis and his staff for putting the pamphlet together each year.

Trent Marquis, TransAction Chairman, informed the trip was a big success and

reviewed the projects they were seeking funding for as follows: 1) Valley Mall Boulevard; 2) the north/south connector; and 3) the south end interchange.

Expenditure Request –
Electrical & Plumbing
for Senior Center
Washer & Dryer

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to authorize the expenditure of approximately \$1,200 from the Executive Fund for electrical and plumbing work to install existing Senior Center washer and dryer, as follows: Linden Electric \$564.08 and A-1 Plumbing \$600. Motion carried unanimously.

Items from the
Audience

Visitor & Convention Bureau Annual Report. John Cooper, Visitors and Convention Bureau President and CEO, presented the 2007 Annual Report and informed it was a very good year for tourism and a record breaking year for the regional convention center. He stated he called the convention center the regional convention center because Union Gap, Yakima, and Selah are all partners in the convention center through the public facilities district. He stated the visitor information center had a successful year, sports recruitment increased as well as the number of room nights rented, and WIAA committed to 5 school years of tournaments at the SunDome. He also distributed the new visitors guide and stated in addition to the 2 pages the City pays for, the Valley Mall purchased 2 pages. He thanked the Council for their support and encouraged them to do a feasibility analysis study to see if there is a need prior to building a convention center.

Departmental Reports

Mayor Lemon informed the following reports are in the packet and questioned if the Council has any questions of the departments: Building/Mechanical & Plumbing Report – January 2008; Code Enforcement Activity Report – January 2008; and Council Agenda for February 25, 2008.

Adjourn to Executive
Session

At 7:27 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting to a 15-minute Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

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

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk