

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
February 25, 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 (7:05 p.m.), 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; Robert Almeida, Police Chief; Keith Yamane, Fire Chief; William Rathbone, Development Coordinator; Karen Clifton, City Treasurer; and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.
- Audience Present Joe & Linda Jackson, Evonne Goeken, Carol Kastl, Aubrey Reeves, Debbie Matson, Michael Murr, Stephanie Korn, Ray Kempf, John Hodkinson, Lewis & Donald Beddoe, Lea Driskill, Phil Salzman, Phyllis Marshall, Jim Pauly, Mary Ann Lockhart, and others were present.
- Pledge of Allegiance Council Member Wentz led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Consent Agenda Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to approve the consent agenda, as follows:
- Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated February 11, 2008, as sent out on pages 4761 through 4763 of the Minute Book.
- Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 71136 through 71219 in the amount of \$221,303.87 dated February 25, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Ordinance No. 2551 – Amending 2008 Budget Creating Union Gap Convention Center Fund Motion by Council Member Olson to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2551, An Ordinance amending the 2008 Budget, creating the Union Gap Convention Center Fund No. 114.
- Council Member Wentz expressed concern that this ordinance makes it sound like all funding not specifically designated will be going into a fund for a convention center and the Council does not know if a convention center is viable. He suggested setting a specific amount of money aside for a feasibility study instead of a convention center fund.
- Council Member Vanover commented the feasibility study could come out of the convention center fund.
- Council Member Wentz suggested leaving the money in the existing fund and developing a budget for a study.
- The City Treasurer informed she asked the State Auditor’s office about setting up a convention center fund, but they have not yet responded. She stated the fund would have to be totally designated for a convention center and kept for tourism purposes only and tracked from year to year so new staff and leadership would know what the fund is for.
- Council Member Wentz informed budget workshops instruct cities to avoid setting up these types of funds because future staff and Council members will not know the history of the fund and understand the purpose of the money.

Council Member Bateman seconded the motion to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2551.

Council Member Matson expressed concern about locking down money that could be used for other tourism promotion such as the Agricultural Museum.

Mayor Lemon informed the City Attorney and City Treasurer have looked into using hotel/motel tax money to pay for utilities and maintenance at the Agricultural Museum instead of using general fund money. He stated putting all the money into a convention center fund will not allow for this expenditure and future staff and officials may forget what the fund is for.

Council Member Olson stated the intent is not to lock up all the money because some of the money is obligated and there are other things the money could be used for on a case-by-case basis if approved by the Council.

Council Member Wentz stated the way the ordinance is written this is poorly defined because it appears that all non-budgeted money goes into the convention center fund.

Council Member Matson stated he would be more comfortable with a percentage of the money going to a convention center fund but this ordinance looks like all money goes to the convention center fund. He informed he likes the idea of supporting the hotel/motel people with a convention center, but wants to see the money used for other things also.

Council Member Butler informed the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee discussed meeting rooms for lectures and workshops in the past, but there needs to be a study to see if this is feasible.

Council Member Wentz informed he is not objecting to some of the money being set aside for a convention center, but this ordinance is too vague. He stated he would like a recommendation of a dollar amount to set aside from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee.

Mayor Lemon informed the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee has no knowledge of this subject and suggested this be added to the agenda for their next meeting. He also informed the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee wants to spend money on a contracted tourism promotion coordinator also.

After discussion, Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2551, An Ordinance amending the 2008 Budget, creating the Union Gap Convention Center Fund No. 114. Motion failed: Council Members Olson and Bateman voting in favor; Council Members Butler, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr voting no.

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to refer this item to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee for a specific recommendation. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Members Olson and Bateman voting no.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 706, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute documents to implement the attached Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) Scope of Work for the Valley Mall Boulevard Phase IV Project.

Resolution No. 706 –
Approving WSDOT
Scope of Work for
Valley Mall Boulevard
Phase IV

The Public Works Director explained this is a scope of work from Washington State Department of Transportation for Phase IV of Valley Mall Boulevard,

Main Street to I-82. He informed he is in the process of making applications for funding and a couple of our Council members will be going to Washington D.C. to ask for money also. He informed we have the \$19,231 to fund this scope of work.

Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion to adopt Resolution No. 706, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute documents to implement the attached Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) Scope of Work for the Valley Mall Boulevard Phase IV Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Butler, seconded by Council Member Wentz to authorize staff to submit a letter of intent to make application to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for a \$30,000 grant with a \$15,000 match from the Park Development Reserve Fund (106) for park maintenance.

Recreation and
Conservation Funding
Board Park
Maintenance Grant
Application

Council Member Wentz questioned if this application is for the tennis court at Loudon Park.

The Public Works Director stated the City owns three tennis courts: one at Loudon Park and two at Ahtanum Youth Park. This application would be for funding to resurface all three courts, replace the nets, fences, etc. He stated this is an expensive project and the grant would only pay 50 percent, but our \$15,000 would not be spent until mid 2009.

Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion to authorize staff to submit a letter of intent to make application to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for a \$30,000 grant with a \$15,000 match from the Park Development Reserve Fund (106) for park maintenance. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Bateman to authorize the expenditure of approximately \$2,185 from the Executive Fund for a handicapped auto door opener and related electrical work for the rear door of City Hall, as follows: The Glass Door approximately \$1,900 and Linden Electric, Inc. \$285.94. Motion carried unanimously.

Expenditure Request –
Handicapped Auto
Door Opener for Rear
Door of City Hall

Council Member Wentz commented he was not involved in the Transit Committee meeting.

Advertise for Proposals
for Transit System
Alternatives

Mayor Lemon informed Council Member Bateman took Council Member Wentz' place on this committee.

Council Member Olson, Transit Committee Chairperson, informed there is a draft request for proposals that is being recommended by the committee on the back of the Council Communication form. He stated this draft gives the intent, but the committee is leaving it up to the Public Works Director, City Attorney, and City Clerk to make sure the legal wording is correct.

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Bateman to authorize the Mayor to advertise for alternative proposals for the transit system. Council Member Wentz questioned if the request for proposals will require that each proposal be consistent with the others so we are able to make comparisons.

The Public Works Director informed the intent is to direct other interested parties to the existing agreement with City of Yakima transit and have them develop a proposal for the same service. The committee will then need to review the costs and services against what the City of Yakima provides.

Mayor Lemon questioned how much money the Council wishes to spend on advertising.

Council Member Olson suggested the ad run a couple of times in the Yakima Herald, and the Tri Cities Herald if the Council wishes, and up to \$1,000 be spent on advertising.

Council Member Matson stated he likes the idea of another company and getting a competitive edge, but he would like to give the current provider a chance to prove themselves first.

Council Member Bateman commented that if the City changes the route to provide an early morning or late evening bus, the service would cost more money.

Council Member Olson commented he wants to see what other services are out there. He informed these types of ads get picked up and distributed over the internet and when we advertised for an engineer, we had proposals from New York and the Midwest, so advertising in two papers should be enough.

After discussion, Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion to authorize the Mayor to advertise for alternative proposals for the transit system. Motion carried unanimously.

Graffiti. Phyllis Marshall, Union Gap citizen, stated her property was recently tagged. She informed she would like the boys who did this to come back and fix what they did. She also stated she has had items stolen and in the past the Police Department has said they have more important things to do.

Items from the Audience

Mayor Lemon introduced Police Chief Robert Almeida and informed the chief is very responsive to citizens and encouraged Ms Marshall to call him with her concerns. He also informed the City will be doing volunteer painting for people who need help, and the City is working with the judicial system to set up a program for the offenders to do the cleanup.

The Police Chief informed there are two juveniles in custody for this tagging and the detectives were assigned to a graffiti emphasis last week and made several other arrests also. He stated the Police Department has been in contact with the juvenile authorities and probation and are trying to get part of the juvenile sentences to include community service in Union Gap so they can be part of the graffiti removal crew.

Problem House. Evonne Goeken informed there is a vacant house at 1913 South 10th Avenue that has become a place for kids to congregate.

Mayor Lemon informed the City is working to remedy that situation.

The Police Chief encouraged citizens to call the police department or 911 if they see criminal activity and not to approach the people involved.

Graffiti. Ray Kempf presented the Mayor with a display of graffiti pictures taken two blocks from City Hall at the north end of the Union Gap school. He informed his house and a garage down the alley were hit last Monday during the day, he painted the structures over on Thursday, and the garage was hit again Friday. He questioned if the city can declare an emergency and institute a curfew to help with this problem. He also stated there is a problem of houses with junk in the area.

Mayor Lemon informed the City is working with our Municipal Court Judge and the Yakima County judges on these issues and the Code Enforcement Officer has been given a letter from all of the Council members supporting code enforcement in the City.

Agricultural Museum. Mr. Kempf introduced Jim Pauly, a volunteer at the Agricultural Museum.

Jim Pauly, Tieton, explained a proposal to paint large letters on five of the buildings at the Agricultural Museum so the buildings would say “Central Washington Ag Museum Union Gap” to advertise both the museum and Union Gap to everyone flying over.

Mr. Kempf informed the letters would be 14 feet high and 24 inches wide. He stated they would like to hire professionals to do the work because of the slick tin roofs.

Mayor Lemon informed he brought up the issue earlier of using hotel/motel tax money to promote the Agricultural Museum, and asked Council Member Butler to invite Mr. Pauly to the next Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting. He encouraged Mr. Pauly to obtain price quotes for review by the hotel/motel people prior to the meeting.

Friends of the Union Gap Library. Evonne Goeken, President of Union Gap Friends of the Library, informed they have outgrown the space available at the library for meetings, craft nights, and their book sale. She questioned if they could use the Council Chambers or the former Senior Center for their activities.

Mayor Lemon stated they could use the former Senior Center if it is available, and informed there is also some space in the former probation services building.

The City Clerk informed there is a calendar in the front office of City Hall to reserve meeting rooms, and stated the committee can call City Hall and reserve the building if it is available at the times they need.

Mayor Lemon informed the following reports are in the packet and questioned if the Council has any questions of the departments: Public Works Department Status Report – January 2008; Police Department Status Report – January 2008; Fire Department Status Report – January 2008; Treasurer’s Report – December 2007; New Businesses Report – January/February 2008.

Departmental Reports

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to excuse Council members Wentz and Olson from the March 10, 2008 Council meeting due to the National League of Cities trip to Washington D.C. Motion carried unanimously.

Development of Agenda
for March 10, 2008
Council Meeting

Audit. Council Member Matson informed other organizations he has been involved with have had audits when there is a change of leadership. He stated he likes our Mayor and City Treasurer and wants to see them protected against anything that could crop up.

Communications/
Questions/Comments

Council Member Vanover questioned if the City has an annual audit.

The City Treasurer informed the State Auditor recently called to say they will be here March 31st to prepare for an audit they will be conducting the first 3 weeks of April. She stated they will be auditing 2004, 2005, and 2006, and they indicated they have been hesitant to conduct the audit sooner because they were waiting for the annual reports to be current. The City Treasurer completed the annual reports last August, so the State Auditor is now ready to begin the audit.

Fire Department Recognition. Council Member Butler commended the Fire Department on the superior job they performed and the compassion they showed in rendering aid at the scene of Mr. Johnson’s recent passing.

Volunteer Fire Fighter Recruitment. Mayor Lemon informed the Fire Department has 4 people ready to start the recruit academy, which will increase the short-term overtime for training, but the long-term overtime will decrease.

Youth Council. Council Member Olson informed the youth council has been meeting and they have been coming up with some good ideas, including having a youth center.

At 8:16 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting to a 10-Minute Executive Session to discuss property disposition.

Adjourn to Executive Session

These minutes dated February 25, 2008 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2008.

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk