

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
January 28, 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 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; Karen Clifton, City Treasurer; and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.

Audience Present Aubrey Reeves, Debbie Matson, Tony Reise, Michael & Joshua Murr, Stephanie Korn, Ray Kempf, John Hodkinson, Rich Lindros, Lewis Beddoe, Joe & Linda Jackson, Erin Snelgrove, Mary Ann Lockhart, and others were present.

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

Invocation Council Member Olson presented the invocation.

Presentation Rich Lindros, Brooklyn Baseball Club, thanked the Mayor and Council for agreeing to develop a baseball field at Cahalan Park, and presented the gold shovel and a picture from the ground breaking ceremony to Mayor Lemon.

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 January 14, 2008, as sent out on pages 4752 through 4755 of the Minute Book.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 70872 through 70917 in the amount of \$175,043.59 dated January 18, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 70918 through 71019, with the exception of voucher nos. 70989 through 70999, which were not included in the printed stock, in the amount of \$252,324.90 dated January 28, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

Resolution No. 695 – Agreement with City of Yakima – Battalion Chief Services The Fire Chief informed this agreement was started last year. He stated the purpose of the agreement is to have a Battalion Chief available when our Fire Chief is on vacation and for calls when two engines or more are required. He stated he may also request Yakima send Battalion Chiefs on evenings and weekends, because they will be able to respond faster than he will.

Council Member Wentz questioned the financial impact of this agreement.

The Fire Chief stated the price is \$38 an hour and most calls will be \$38. The Fire Department is estimating the cost to be \$500 to \$1,000 per month.

Council Member Olson questioned why this is a new agreement instead of an amendment to the existing Interlocal Agreement.

The City Clerk informed the existing agreement is for mutual aid.

Mayor Lemon informed the Yakima Fire Chief said Yakima would back out of the mutual aid agreement if Union Gap does not approve this agreement for Battalion Chief backup.

The Fire Chief informed mutual aid is enacted when Union Gap calls for additional help. This Battalion Chief agreement is the first step in automatic aid, which means the closest vehicle would respond regardless of which City the call is in.

Mayor Lemon stated the Yakima Fire Chief explained that our Captain needs to stay with our truck so we have a full crew and then Yakima's Battalion Chief would take command because there has to be an incident command person.

Council Member Olson questioned if the assumption is that there will not be volunteers on duty to man the trucks.

The Fire Chief stated Union Gap now has Captains on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week, with career staff covering days and volunteers covering evenings.

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to adopt Resolution No. 695, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement between the City of Union Gap and the City of Yakima for Fire Battalion Chief services. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

Resolution No. 705 –
Authorizing Adoption
of Regional Stormwater
Public Involvement &
Participation Policy
Directive

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 705, A Resolution adopting the Regional Stormwater Public Involvement and Participation Policy Directive as required by the NPDES Phase II General Permit.

Council Member Matson requested more information regarding this item.

The Public Works Director informed the entire Regional Stormwater book is available for review in his office. He then explained the Department of Ecology requires the NPDES for areas with a population of over 10,000 or a regional area such as Yakima. There are six directives to comply with, and this is the first of the six. He informed the permit was issued in February of 2007, but this issue has been discussed for three or four years.

Council Member Olson informed we are part of a regional plan with Yakima City, Yakima County, and Sunnyside so it isn't costing us as much as if we were on our own. He also informed this is being paid for by money left over from a grant we received.

The Public Works Director stated another requirement the City will have to meet is implementing a stormwater department to inspect and prevent stormwater from getting into the wells.

After discussion Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion to adopt Resolution No. 705, A Resolution adopting the Regional Stormwater Public Involvement and Participation Policy Directive as required by the NPDES Phase II General Permit. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

Expenditure Request –
Fire Dept. Roofing &
Windows

Council Member Wentz commented these repairs have been needed for a long time.

Mayor Lemon stated the money for these repairs will be taken out of the funding for a City Administrator in the Executive Fund.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to authorize the Mayor to accept the quote from Midstate Glass Company in the amount of approximately \$4,200 for window replacement and the quote from Powell Insulation & Roofing in the amount of approximately \$21,000 for roof repair, and authorize staff to use money from the Executive Fund to pay for these expenses. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

Discuss Funding of the Public Transportation System

Council Member Olson stated there are other options that have come up for funding this system. He stated Ken Mehin, Yakima Transit Manager, stated Yakima would bill us quarterly so we won't need the money monthly. He also stated the City needs to keep the Municipal Capital Improvement Fund 118 available in case the bids on Valley Mall Boulevard come in higher than expected.

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Bateman to authorize staff to fund the Public Transportation System's temporary shortfall with an Interfund Loan from the building fund reserves to be reimbursed with interest as the revenues are generated from the 2/10's percent sales tax.

The Public Works Director informed the first invoice from Yakima will be due about April 1st and the City will be billed monthly after that.

Mayor Lemon thanked the City Treasurer for the good job she did in finding funds to pay for the transit service, and in making sure the paperwork was in order so we could collect the sales tax in the 2nd quarter.

Council Member Matson questioned if the building fund would have the least amount of impact on future programs and operations.

The Public Works Director stated the building fund is the fund that we are least apt to need for the next 5 years or so until there is enough money to build a new City Hall. He informed the 118 fund builds slowly, but can be used to fall back on if needed for Valley Mall Boulevard.

After discussion, Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion to authorize staff to fund the Public Transportation System's temporary shortfall with an Interfund Loan from the building fund reserves to be reimbursed with interest as the revenues are generated from the 2/10's percent sales tax. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

Consider Authorizing Staff to Advertise for Proposals for Transit System

Council Member Olson stated he would like the title of this item amended to consider authorizing the Mayor to advertise for proposals instead of authorizing staff. He informed the City is paying \$505,000 a year for transit service and he believes the Council should save as much money as they can, and the same service could be provided with 15 passenger vans. He stated the City could advertise for proposals or develop a proposal package and then advertise for bids.

Council Member Wentz commented it seems like advertising now is getting the cart before the horse, and recommended a committee be formed to set the perimeters and bring the item back to the Council before going out to bid.

Mayor Lemon questioned how much it would cost to advertise.

The City Clerk informed she does not know until she knows the size of the advertisement and how many days the Council wishes to advertise.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to create a committee to develop the perimeters for a proposal for transit system alternatives. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that the Transit Committee be Council Members Olson, Murr, and Wentz.

Report from Aubrey Reeves, Jr., regarding TransAction priorities for Washington D.C.

Aubrey Reeves, Jr., TransAction Committee, reviewed a draft of the TransAction priorities and informed the brochure is at the printer. He stated the committee leaves Tuesday for Washington D.C. and will be meeting with the legislators and their staff.

Council Member Wentz questioned if DRIVE is going to Washington D.C. with TransAction.

Mr. Reeves stated Jesse Palacios might be attending from DRIVE, but if not, TransAction will present information for DRIVE.

Mayor Lemon informed he has spoken with the TransAction Chairman, Trent Marquis, and Mr. Marquis was very pleased that the City was sending Mr. Reeves to Washington D.C.

Mr. Reeves informed Paige Scott from Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG), Norm Johnson from City of Yakima, and Rand Elliott from Yakima County are also part of the group representing TransAction.

Selection of Engineering Firm for Valley Mall Blvd. Phase III Construction

Mayor Lemon informed the Engineering Selection Committee interviewed JUB and Huibregtse Louman and is recommending JUB.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to select JUB Engineering, Inc. as the engineering firm for Valley Mall Boulevard, Phase III construction project. Motion carried unanimously. Council Member Butler absent.

Items from the Audience

Transit Service. Ray Kempf commented that Council Member Olson expressed concern about the cost of the transit service, but there may not be a choice. He informed he served on a committee with YVCOG thirty years ago trying to get regional transit service and nothing happened. He questioned if the City of Yakima is willing to grant a franchise to another bus company to operate on their streets, and if not, he suggested we keep Yakima Transit so we have service from Union Gap to Selah and inside Yakima.

Departmental Reports

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 – November/December 2007; Police Department Status Report – December 2007; New Businesses Report – December 2007/January 2008; Agenda for February 11, 2008 Council Meeting.

Communications/ Questions/Comments

Study of Police & Fire Departments. Council Member Olson stated the City hired Larry Dickerson to do a study for the Police and Fire Departments but the Council never saw a written report, and he would like a report.

The City Clerk stated to her knowledge, there was no written report. She informed Mr. Dickerson was hired as Interim Police Chief for the Police Department and as a consultant to assist the Interim Fire Chief in the Fire Department.

Mayor Lemon requested the City Clerk check to see if there is a report and call Mr. Dickerson if necessary.

Council Member Wentz clarified the City does not want to pay more for a report.

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee. Council Member Olson commented the minutes from the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee say that \$24,000 was

approved in the budget and questioned what that was for and if it was in the budget.

The City Treasurer informed the \$24,000 was for repairs and improvements to the Modern Living Building at the Fairgrounds and was listed as a capital expenditure in the Convention Center Reserve Fund. She stated the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee felt that the Modern Living Building directly relates to tourism and overnight stays in the City of Union Gap.

Council Member Olson commented there needs to be a way of improving the Council's knowledge of what is being budgeted. He also questioned who the two at large people on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee represent.

The City Clerk informed Curtis King represents the Central Washington State Fair Board and Tony Reise was appointed to replace Bill Ackerman who represented the Agricultural Museum.

Council Member Olson questioned if Curtis King can still serve on the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee since he is an elected official.

The City Clerk stated Mr. King can still serve on the committee as long as he is representing the Central Washington State Fair Board. The City Clerk also advised that Mayor Lemon has requested minutes of this committee's meetings, so the Council will be receiving minutes from now on.

Adjournment

At 7:48 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

These minutes dated January 28, 2008 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of February 11, 2008.

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk