

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
March 9, 2009

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; William Rathbone, Development Coordinator; Dennis Henne, Public Works Director; Bill Steele, Fire Chief; Robert Almeida, Police Chief; Karen Clifton, City Treasurer; and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.

Audience Present Fred Thomson, Debbie Matson, Stephanie Korn, Michael & Joshua Murr, Joe & Linda Jackson, Ryan Croffut, Tyler Quantrille, Justin Heilman, Jo Collier, Barry Kerth, Ray Kempf, Ron Davis, Al Coyner, Lewis and Donald Beddoe, John Hodgkinson, Phil Salzman, and others were present.

Pledge of Allegiance Council Member Olson 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 23, 2009, as sent out on pages 4887 through 4891 of the Minute Book.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 73952 through 73982 in the amount of \$292,726.14 dated February 27, 2009 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Approve Payroll Voucher Nos. 32347 through 32416 in the amount of \$146,416.03, dated February 27, 2009 and transfer from the operating funds to the Payroll Fund.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 73983 through 74077 in the amount of \$322,133.49 dated March 9, 2009 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Set Public Hearing for 6-year Transit Plan for March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Set Public Hearing for 6-year Transportation Improvement Program for March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 763 – Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Community Service Officer Compensation The Police Chief explained this position used to assist the Code Enforcement Officer, but since the Code Enforcement Officer's retirement the Community Service Officer is responsible for nuisance abatement. He informed the union discussed raising the pay for the additional responsibilities with the Mayor and one Council person. After negotiating, the Mayor and union agreed to a 3 percent increase because the Community Service Officer spends 2 days in court and 3 days on code enforcement.

Mayor Lemon stated prior to the Code Enforcement Officer's retirement, the Code Enforcement Officer was handling the nuisance abatements.

The Police Chief agreed, and stated the Community Service Officer was doing his own work, and would forward complaints to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Council Member Wentz questioned if the Community Service Officer is now

responsible for nuisance abatement or code enforcement.

Mayor Lemon stated nuisance abatement and other duties, such as contacting people who start a business without a business license.

The Police Chief stated the Community Service Officer refers code complaints to the Development Coordinator.

Council Member Butler questioned what the Community Service Officer pay is compared to the Code Enforcement Officer pay.

The City Treasurer informed the Code Enforcement Officer had been here for more than 5 years so he was on step 5 making \$3,675 per month. The Community Service Officer currently makes \$3,285 per month and with the proposed increase would make \$3,384 per month. The Community Service Officer classification does not have steps, it is a flat amount.

Council Member Olson stated since this was voted down by a tie vote at the last meeting, to be reconsidered, it would have had to be reconsidered at the same meeting it was voted down.

Mayor Lemon informed the Council has never adopted Roberts Rules so that does not apply. He stated the Council does have a resolution that says an issue such as this can only be brought back up for discussion by the prevailing side, but there was no prevailing side since it was a tie vote. He explained he brought it back so there would be a clear vote of the entire Council instead of a tie.

Motion by Council Member Matson, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 763, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Union Gap Police Officers' Association regarding Community Service Officer compensation. Motion failed: Council Members Vanover, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Members Butler, Olson, Bateman, and Wentz voting no.

Resolution No. 773 –
Memorandum of
Understanding
Regarding Active
Shooter Training &
Programs

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 773, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding participation in active shooter training and programs.

The Police Chief informed a grant was obtained from Homeland Security and all the County agencies are participating in the same training together. The grant will cover training one or two officers. They are looking at bringing the school here so overtime should be minimal, but there may be some overtime in order to cover shifts. He stated with all agencies having the same training, if Union Gap had a major incident somewhere like the school or the mall, we would need to call on those trained officers for backup. He also informed the grant will pay for some equipment, and Union Gap is trying to get a ballistics shield.

Council Member Matson questioned if our trained officers would help Yakima also.

The Police Chief stated it would be mutual aid up and down the Yakima Valley.

Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 773, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding participation in active shooter training and programs. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider Continuing
the Listing Agreement

Mayor Lemon informed the city-owned property on South 3rd Avenue was listed with Almon Commercial Real Estate last year and that listing is about to expire.

with Almon
Commercial for the S.
3rd Ave. Property

He questioned whether or not the Council wished to re-list the property.

Motion by Council Member Bateman, seconded by Council Member Olson to continue the listing agreement at fair market value with Almon Commercial for the South 3rd Avenue property.

John Hodkinson, Almon Commercial, stated in the last 90 days on one of the four websites the property is on, the property was pulled up 320 times. Of those 320 times, it was viewed and looked at in more detail seven times. He informed right now there is not a lot of property moving and recommended the City consider lowering the price from 4.7 a foot to 3.5 a foot.

After discussion, Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion by Council Member Bateman, seconded by Council Member Olson to continue the listing agreement at fair market value with Almon Commercial for the South 3rd Avenue property. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Matson questioned if a museum consultant is really necessary.

Expenditure Request –
Recommendation from
the Lodging Tax
Advisory Committee
Regarding Hiring
Museum Consultant

Mayor Lemon explained he did not put this on the agenda; this is a recommendation from the Lodging Tax Committee.

Council Member Butler stated the Tourism Promoter is not present because he is in Olympia trying to get more grants.

Ray Kempf, Agricultural (Ag) Museum board member, informed Scott informally discussed this idea with some of the members of the Ag Museum and he highly recommended this consultant because she has done a wonderful job of promoting communities.

Council Member Butler stated she has also written books on this subject.

Mayor Lemon questioned whether or not this is already part of the Tourism Promoter's job.

Council Member Butler stated she also has expertise in working with museums on designing them to be attractive to visitors.

Council Member Vanover suggested tabling this item until the next Council meeting so the Tourism Promoter will be present.

Council Member Matson stated he would like a recommendation from the Agricultural Museum as well.

Mr. Kempf informed the Agricultural Museum board meeting is tomorrow at 8:00 a.m.

Council Member Olson agreed with Council Member Matson, and stated the Council needs to make sure this is something the Agricultural Museum wants.

Mr. Kempf stated the Museum board is open for ideas on how to promote the museum so it will become well known and recognized.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to declare the four Finance Department computers and the City Hall server as surplus and authorizing the three working computers to be transferred to the Youth Council for use at the Youth Center. Motion carried unanimously.

Declare City Hall
Server and Finance
Dept. Computers
Surplus

Mayor Lemon questioned if the Council members have seen the corrected Council Communication form that was distributed for tonight's meeting, and stated the City

is not gifting anything to anyone. He informed the computers were taken to the Valley Mall to have the confidential information erased off the hard drives, and the computers are going to the youth center.

Council Member Olson recommended tabling this item until the next meeting so the Council can read the details of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Hiring Temporary
Firefighters

The Fire Chief informed staffing of the Fire Department has been an issue over the last couple of years. There have been several discussions with the union and the Council committee about using the SAFER grant matching funds that are in the budget to help pay for the overtime being incurred. He stated the SAFER grant was turned down, but the matching money could be used to hire temporary fire fighters.

This will give the volunteers an opportunity to become temporary hires and it gives staff time to review the budget during the 6-month trial period.

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to place the Memorandum of Understanding on the consent agenda March 23rd. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Bateman, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Member Olson voting no.

Council Member Olson stated he disagrees with putting the Memorandum of Understanding on the consent agenda. Council Member Olson also stated he does not agree with starting the temporary fire- fighters on step 2 or increasing the rate of pay by 3 percent.

Council Member Wentz commented that any Council Member can remove the Memorandum of Understanding from the consent agenda if they do not agree with it.

The Fire Chief stated at the current rate the department is utilizing overtime to cover shifts, with the current training schedule of the volunteers, and the rate of loss of volunteers, the department will exceed the overtime budgeted. The overtime will be in excess of \$140,000 including the \$63,000 of matching money from the SAFER grant.

Council Member Vanover commented there is a severe staffing problem on weekends, which is another reason to hire two more firefighters.

The Fire Chief stated with the 7 days a week, 24 hour shifts there may be enough career and volunteers to support nights and weekends, and this gives the City the rest of the year to get more volunteers trained and in service.

Council Member Vanover commented the Council needs to deal with this problem because the City is paying about 50 percent more than needed because of the overtime.

Council Member Olson reiterated that he does not agree with putting the Memorandum of Understanding on the consent agenda. The Council needs time to review it.

Mayor Lemon expressed that the Memorandum of Understanding should be on the regular council meeting agenda and not the consent agenda.

Items from the
Audience

Youth Council Business Cards. Donald Beddoe, Youth Council President, presented samples of business cards in color and black and white. He also requested the Youth Council be added to the next agenda to show the website they have created.

6 Year Transit Plan. Ron Davis, T.C. Transportation, distributed samples of the 6 year transit plan and informed he will provide the City additional copies prior to the public hearing.

Council Member Olson commented part of the consent agenda was setting the public hearing for March 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Valley Mall Boulevard Project. Fred Thomson stated he read in the paper that the Valley Mall Boulevard extension project is on schedule.

The Public Works Director informed the Valley Mall Boulevard interchange project that is the State's project has recouped its shortfall and is proceeding. The City of Union Gap is waiting to hear if we will recoup the shortfall on our Phase IV project. Phase III is back under construction and will hopefully be open June 1, 2009.

Council Member Wentz questioned if the issues at Pioneer and Cornell have been resolved.

The Public Works Director informed the contractor is working on the problem now, and stated part of the problem was with communication with Qwest. He stated overall the project is doing well financially and the change orders have been minimal.

Youth Council. The Youth Council website presentation was added to the agenda, as well as items tabled from this meeting.

Development of Next
Agenda

6 Year Transit Plan. Ron Davis informed along with the public hearing, he would also like the Council to adopt the 6 year Transit Plan.

Mayor Lemon questioned if there is time to advertise the public hearing.

The City Clerk stated yes, and informed the ad is ready to be sent to the newspaper tomorrow.

The City Attorney informed he will prepare a resolution for adoption of the 6 year Transit Plan after the public hearing.

Condemnation Ordinance. Mayor Lemon informed Mr. Carmody and Mr. Truhler have been notified about the ordinance being on the agenda March 23rd.

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 – February 2009 and Tourism Promoter Status Report – February 2009.

There were no communications/questions/comments from the Council.

Communications/
Questions/Comments

Mayor Lemon informed the Council he placed a confidential memorandum in their mailboxes today.

At 7:54 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

Adjournment

These minutes dated March 9, 2009 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of March 23, 2009.

Jim Lemon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC, City Clerk