

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
May 26, 2009

- Call to Order Mayor Lemon called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 7:02 p.m.
- Council Members Present Council Members David Butler, Glenn Bateman, Roger Wentz, Dave Matson, and Jim Murr were present.
- Staff Present Robert Noe, City Attorney; 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 Lewis & Donald Beddoe, Joe & Linda Jackson, Ted Marquis, Jr., Michael & Joshua Murr, Stephanie Korn, Debbie Matson, Scott Steinloski, Ray Kempf, and others were present.
- Council Members Excused Mayor Lemon informed two council members are not present tonight; one is working and the other is out of town helping a relative.
- Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Matson to excuse Council Members Olson and Vanover from tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Council Members Olson and Vanover absent.
- Pledge of Allegiance Council Member Matson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Consent Agenda Mayor Lemon asked if the Council members saw the paperwork for the revised claims voucher on the consent agenda.
- The Council members acknowledged they saw the revised paperwork.
- Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Butler to approve the consent agenda, as follows:
- Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated May 11, 2009, as sent out on pages 4915 through 4921 of the Minute Book.
- Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 74557 through 74656 in the amount of \$921,388.49 dated May 26, 2009 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.
- Approve Petty Cash Check Nos. 1555 through 1556, issued and paid in the month of April, in the amount of \$122.12.
- Approve Municipal Court Check No. 3179, issued and paid in the month of April, in the amount of \$62,538.17.
- Approve Advanced Travel Check Nos. 1057 through 1063, issued and paid in the month of April, in the amount of \$1,903.76.
- Approve Treasurer's Check Nos. 10203 through 10204 issued and paid in the month of April, in the amount of \$1,175.31.
- Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Olson and Vanover absent.
- Ordinance No. 2618 – Amending Municipal Code – Temporary Use of City Fire Hydrants The Public Works Director explained current ordinances allow hydrant meter rental to contractors. In 2002 the City had issues with contractors returning the meters in a timely manner because the deposit was minimal, but the meters cost the City \$1,100. An ordinance was passed in 2002 increasing the cost of the

deposit, however, that ordinance was not codified in the Municipal Code and in 2008 when an ordinance was passed amending water and sewer fees, the 2002 ordinance was overlooked and the 2008 ordinance retained the fees in existence prior to 2002. It was recently brought to the City's attention that the fee listed in the Municipal Code is not what the City has been charging.

Council Member Matson questioned why the ordinance says rent if the \$1,100 is a deposit.

The Public Works Director stated he needs to check to see if the City is also charging rent for the meters.

Council Member Wentz questioned if a small user fee on the meters should be charged to help with replacement costs.

The Public Works Director stated he could look into charging a user fee, and questioned if the Council would like to adopt this ordinance and amend it later, if necessary.

The City Attorney stated the City needs to pass the ordinance for the purpose of collecting the deposit. He informed the language regarding rent is from the previous ordinances, but he does not know if Public Works is charging rent.

After discussion, Mayor Lemon announced this ordinance will be tabled to the June 8, 2009 Council Meeting, and the Public Works Committee will meet to discuss this issue.

Use of Fire Station 86
by Yakima Fire Dept.

The Fire Chief informed Yakima is rebuilding the fire station at the Yakima Airport and needs a place to locate during construction. He stated they have asked if they can use Fire Station 86 during the construction. He stated it is his understanding that Station 86 is owned by the old Broadway Fire District, District 11, but insured by the City and the City owns the vehicles.

Mayor Lemon stated he disagrees with the Fire Chief about the ownership of the building; if the City insures the building, the building should belong to the City.

The Fire Chief stated Yakima will pay for the cost of utilities and computer connection costs, as well as replacing the refrigerator in exchange for allowing Union Gap access to the training station on Nob Hill.

Council Member Wentz commented this would benefit everyone.

The City Attorney informed if Fire District 11 owns the building, they will need to be a party of the agreement.

The Fire Chief stated Fire District 11 has meeting minutes showing they agree with this arrangement.

Council Member Butler questioned if there are sleeping quarters in Station 86.

The Fire Chief stated no; Yakima is planning to put temporary walls in the training room for sleeping quarters.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Butler to authorize staff to prepare a resolution and agreement for the Yakima Fire Department to use Fire Station 86. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Olson and Vanover absent.

Consider Hiring Part-
time Employee to work

Mayor Lemon informed Council Member Wentz requested this item at the last Council meeting, and he believes it is a good idea.

with the Youth Council

Council Member Matson questioned what the function of the part-time employee would be.

Council Member Wentz stated the City has a youth center that is not being utilized because of lack of supervision. He informed the youth would like the center open from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. or maybe 6:00 p.m. during the school year and maybe more in the summer, but the reality is that it is extremely difficult to get consistent volunteers to commit to set hours. He stated a part-time employee would have a fairly low wage and no benefits because the City cannot afford benefits.

Mayor Lemon stated the wage would probably be \$10-12,000 a year. He informed the youth approached the senior citizens about volunteering, but they do not have the time to volunteer for this. He informed he had a parent come to his house looking for their child because the kids had decided to meet without supervision. He stated one Council member is not enough supervision and guidance.

Council Member Wentz suggested the position be called Youth Council Liaison/Youth Center Supervisor.

Council Member Butler questioned if the City still has the summer recreation program at Loudon Park, and if the leader of that program could also fill this position.

Mayor Lemon stated yes, the City still has the summer program; that employee is also a substitute teacher and possibly could fill this position also. He stated part-time employees are limited to 860 hours so the wage will probably be less than \$10,000 a year. He stated right now there are three active youth members, but there is a lot of interest from the children at Union Gap School.

Donald Beddoe, Youth Council President, stated there are actually four active youth members and there was interest from the school, but those kids are too young. He stated they would like to have someone at the center with them; he knows the lady that runs the summer program and she is a nice lady. He said they could possibly operate with volunteers, but it would help a lot to have a hired person.

Mayor Lemon stated he does not realistically see the youth center getting anywhere without a hired person.

Council Member Wentz questioned if the volunteers have had background checks.

Donald informed two of the volunteers are Council Members.

Council Member Wentz informed being a Council Member does not mean they have had a background check.

Mayor Lemon stated the City has not run background checks on any of the volunteers, but he does not think it is wise to operate without paid adult supervision.

Council Member Wentz questioned if the City's insurance will cover the youth center with volunteers.

The City Attorney stated the City's insurance provider will require background checks for volunteers.

Council Member Matson questioned what kind of activities the youth are planning.

Donald stated right now they would have computer games, homework help, television, and air hockey.

Council Member Wentz commented that people will probably donate more once the center is operating. He stated the youth have done a wonderful job, but a paid person will keep the center operating.

Mayor Lemon informed funding for this position could be included for a seasonal parks person or a new temporary position could be created.

Council Member Wentz questioned if it is realistic to have volunteers keep the center open.

Donald stated no, the volunteers have just been available for the Youth Council meetings.

Council Member Matson stated he would like more time to discuss this issue so the Council will have more information and a better plan.

Council Member Butler suggested a 6 month trial period.

The City Attorney informed the Council could adopt an ordinance for a part-time pilot program.

Council Member Wentz recommended forming a Council committee to work on the job description duties and other information.

Council Member Bateman stated the Youth Council needs more members before anyone is hired.

Council Member Wentz stated this employee would not be for the Youth Council meetings, they would be hired so the youth center could open.

Mayor Lemon commented no one under 18 should be supervising the kids and stated the center could be for 8 to 10 year olds as well.

After discussion, Council Members Wentz, Butler, and Bateman agreed to serve on the committee to review this issue further.

Letter of Commitment for Continued Participation in the Regional Stormwater Group

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Matson to authorize the Mayor to sign a Letter of Commitment to Yakima County for continued participation, through an Intergovernmental Agreement, in the Regional Stormwater Group for developing and implementing the final two (2) years of the Stormwater Permit period. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Olson and Vanover absent.

Valley Mall Blvd., Phase III Change Order Nos. 9, 10, and 11

The Public Works Director informed change order No. 9 is for signal pole bases at the request of the Yakima Airport, and \$43,000 will be reimbursed back to the City.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Murr to approve Valley Mall Boulevard Extension Phase III Project Change Order Nos. 9, 10, and 11 in the total amount of \$103,551.47. Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Olson and Vanover absent.

Presentation from the Tourism Promoter

Scott Steinloski, Tourism Promoter, presented a PowerPoint presentation showing an overview of the issues he has been working on for the last several

weeks. He stated the meeting with the museum consultant was very productive and the Agricultural Museum Board is very receptive to making changes.

Council Member Butler agreed the meeting with the Agricultural Museum and the museum consultant was a really good meeting.

Mr. Steinloski also showed samples of upcoming advertising, as well as the new tourism website, stayinthegap.com.

Items from the Audience

Peddlers. Ray Kempf informed a vacuum salesman was going door to door last Friday and when he returned home he found that his wife had purchased an expensive vacuum cleaner they did not need. He said the vacuum company has a City of Yakima business license. He telephoned City Hall and was referred to Code Enforcement, but they said it was a civil matter, not criminal. He informed staff was very polite, but did not seem to know how to handle peddlers. He thanked the Development Coordinator for giving him the Municipal Code Chapter on peddlers. He informed he left a message for the City Attorney to find out if this is a civil or criminal matter because the code chapter says it is a misdemeanor. He stated with the recession peddlers may become more prevalent and suggested this be a topic in the next newsletter. He also informed he met with the manager of the business and she convinced him he needed to purchase the vacuum for his wife, so he still has the vacuum.

Mayor Lemon informed people need to contact the Police Department and an officer will go out and let the peddlers know they cannot go door to door.

Mr. Kempf stated he called the Code Enforcement Officer at the Police Department and he said it was not his jurisdiction.

Mayor Lemon stated to call the Police Department, but not the Code Enforcement Officer.

Council Member Wentz requested Chief Almeida let the Code Enforcement Officer know the procedure for this type of complaint.

Mayor Lemon requested Chief Almeida send a memo out to the officers reminding them of the procedure, and requested the City Clerk notify the Executive Assistant to add this issue to the next newsletter.

Youth Council Thank You. Donald Beddoe, on behalf of the Youth Council, thanked Council Member Wentz for the air hockey table.

Agricultural Museum Thank You. Ray Kempf thanked the Public Works employees for their cooperation in excavating and doing ground work for the Agricultural Museum to put the silo back up.

Develop Agenda for June 8, 2009 Council Meeting

Mayor Lemon commented the Youth Center Supervisor issue will be added to the June 8th Council meeting.

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 – April 2009; Police Department Status Report – April 2009; New Businesses Report – April/May 2009; Fire Department Status Report – April 2009; and Tax Revenue Report – April 2007/2008/2009.

He informed he is going to start having the department heads report at the meetings as well.

Police. The Police Chief informed they have had an increase in domestic and fight calls, and have recently had a few hit and run accidents.

Council Member Wentz questioned what the average response time is.

The Police Chief informed the response time is normally 3 to 5 minutes.

Fire. The Fire Chief informed usually when the police receive a call fire is called also. He stated there has been an increase in calls of about 100 over last year, and they have been seeing a lot of people for medical issues that would normally be seen at a clinic. He informed they are now operating with 3 career people working 24 hours a day most of the time, it appears to be working well, and they are using much less overtime.

Council Member Wentz commented it is very important overtime stay down this year.

The Fire Chief stated they are about half way through the recruit academy and hopefully will have four recruits ready by mid June. He also reported he is preparing for the 2010 reassessment of the department.

City Treasurer. The City Treasurer reviewed the April tax revenue report pointing out that property taxes have raised a little and sales tax increased 24 percent over last year. Water, sewer, and garbage revenues are close to last year's amounts.

Public Works. The Public Works Director stated the crew finished the street striping on Sunday. He informed they try to do the striping when there is less traffic on the road. He stated a different product is being applied to the alleys, it is a better product, is clear, and it makes less mess on the cars. Water and sewer connections have increased, Spring clean up went well last week, and the Youth Park is seeing a lot of activity.

Council Member Wentz questioned if we are still staffing weekend parking collection.

The Public Works Director stated we tried staffing the summer weekends, but are now on the honor system. He stated the parks department has been very busy cleaning transit stops, picking up roadside garbage, and cleaning graffiti in addition to their normal summer mowing and maintenance. He informed an employee is at the Youth Park on the weekends now because of the high usage.

Communications/
Questions/Comments

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

Adjournment

At 8:26 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

These minutes dated May 26, 2009 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of June 8, 2009.

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC

City Clerk