

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
November 23, 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 Dave Butler (7:02 p.m.), Dan Olson (7:02 p.m.), Dan Vanover, Roger Wentz, Dave Matson, and Jim Murr were present.

Staff Present Robert Noe, City Attorney; Dennis Henne, Public Works Director; William Rathbone, Development Coordinator; Bill Steele, Fire Chief; Chase Kellogg, Police Sergeant; and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.

Audience Present Joe and Linda Jackson, Lewis and Donald Beddoe, Michael Murr, Jo Collier, Chad Lenz, Debbie Matson, Ashley Davis, Robert Amezcua, Angel Mo, Kip Kendrick, and others were present.

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

Consent Agenda Council Member Matson requested Resolution No. 833, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Amendment to the Professional Services Contract with the Tourism Promoter and Coordinator be pulled from the consent agenda.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to approve the consent agenda, as amended, as follows:

Approve the Study Session Council Meeting Minutes, dated November 9, 2009, as sent out on page 4999 of the Minute Book.

Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated November 9, 2009, as sent out on pages 5000 through 5005 of the Minute Book.

Approve Petty Cash Check Nos. 1577 through 1579, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$115.00.

Approve Municipal Court Check Nos. 3237 through 3255, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$58,153.46.

Approve Advanced Travel Check No. 1077, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$218.00.

Approve Treasurer's Check Nos. 10208 through 10210, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$643.06.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 75894 through 75973, in the amount of \$105,414.91 dated November 23, 2009 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Adopt and Publish Ordinance No. 2649, An Ordinance creating the position of Deputy Police Chief and setting the salary for the position.

Adopt Resolution No. 832, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the attached 2010 Agreement with Yakima Valley Newspapers for the Advertising Guide.

Adopt Resolution No. 834, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute the attached 2010 Interlocal Corrections/Detention Agreement with Yakima County.

Motion carried unanimously; Council Members Butler and Olson temporarily absent.

Resolution No. 833 –
Amendment to Contract
with Tourism Promoter

Council Member Matson commented this is the most spoiled contractor he has ever seen and he does not want to pay him an extra \$7,500 until the Council can see how he performs this assignment. He informed the Tourism Promoter is letting the lighted holiday parade die and he has received numerous calls and is getting all kinds of grief over that, as the parade is important to a lot of people. He stated the Tourism Promoter's contract already says he is to be involved in events; if he wants to get paid for events he should have picked this up and run with it.

Council Member Murr agreed with Council Member Matson and stated this is a lot of money to add to his contract.

Mayor Lemon stated the Council can vote to rescind the motion from the November 9, 2009 meeting if they wish, and asked the City Clerk to read the action taken at the November 9, 2009 meeting.

Council Member Matson stated he also thinks a community committee needs to be involved in the event planning.

Council Member Butler stated that was the idea the Lodging Tax Committee had of letting the Tourism Promoter do this for one year. The Tourism Promoter was apprehensive about doing this, but the Lodging Tax Committee wanted him to take it over for one year to get more people involved for next year. The Lodging Tax Committee did not want to see this die for a year and then try to bring it back.

Motion by Council Member Matson, seconded by Council Member Murr to rescind the motion to approve the request to increase the Tourism Promoter's contract by \$7,500 for the year 2010 to promote and oversee Old Town Days; and authorize the City Attorney to prepare a resolution and amended contract for the next Council meeting. Motion carried: Council Members Olson, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Members Butler, Vanover and Wentz voting no; Mayor Lemon voting in favor to break the tie vote.

Mayor Lemon announced the Council may bring this back at a later date when there is a full Council if they wish.

Public Hearing – 2010
Budget

At 7:09 p.m. Mayor Lemon opened the public hearing on the 2010 Budget.

Donald Beddoe, President of the Youth Council, and Youth Council members Robert Amezcua, Yakima, Ashley Davis, Union Gap, and Angel Mo, Yakima, presented a request to the Council to hire an employee to take charge of the Youth Center.

Council Member Matson questioned if the youth realize the Council had to eliminate employees due to budget constraints.

Mayor Lemon questioned if the volunteer coordinator is doing a good job.

Donald Beddoe stated she is doing a good job, but that is totally separate, this person would not be for the Youth Council, this person would be supervising the Youth Center during the open hours.

Council Member Matson questioned what the cost would be.

Donald stated whatever minimum wage is.

Council Member Wentz requested the letter to the Council be read into the record.

Robert Amezcua read the letter into the record.

Mayor Lemon stated the Council will consider this request, but no budget amendments will be made tonight.

The City Clerk announced no written comments have been received for this public hearing.

Council Member Matson commented he watched a news broadcast about volunteer firefighters and questioned if we would be able to hang onto our volunteer firefighters better if we paid them more money.

The Fire Chief stated the volunteers are reimbursed on a point system the City Council established several years ago. He stated the amount of reimbursement varies based on the training and time put in by each volunteer.

Council Member Matson commented Yakima volunteer firefighters are getting minimum wage up to \$12.00 an hour when fighting a fire.

The Fire Chief informed that is the Lower Valley Fire District and they do not have a union that would prohibit that type of pay. He informed he introduced the subject of part-time firefighters to the union, but the current budget took that proposal out.

Council Member Matson commented Union Gap counts on our volunteers quite a bit and we need to be able to keep them.

The Fire Chief informed he made a recommendation for next year's budget, but those numbers changed due to budget constraints.

Council Member Matson questioned how much has been spent on volunteer firefighters this year.

Jo Collier, former Fire Department Administrative Secretary, stated probably close to \$60,000. She informed the volunteers receive \$6.00 per point and if they work an entire shift they receive 8 points which is \$48.00 a shift.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, Mayor Lemon closed the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Ordinance No. 2650 –
Adopting 2010 Budget

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2650, An Ordinance adopting the 2010 Budget for the City of Union Gap, Washington.

Council Member Olson stated he already voiced his opinion and concerns to the Mayor and City Treasurer regarding this budget. He stated he disagrees with depleting reserve funds and questions whether some of this is legal.

Mayor Lemon stated the only way to have an ending fund balance is to use the 10 percent sales tax from the Infrastructure Fund for next year.

Council Member Olson stated without transfers the ending fund balance is only \$50,000 and the transfers need to be loans paid back with interest. He also stated the Council needs to know the City's bond rating, he knows the rating, but the Council needs to know the rating.

Mayor Lemon stated this ordinance will need to be followed with amending ordinances to move money.

Mayor Lemon called for a vote on the motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2650, An Ordinance adopting the 2010 Budget for the City of Union Gap, Washington. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr

voting in favor; Council Member Olson voting no.

Ordinance No. 2647 –
Amending 2009 Budget
– Municipal Court
Overtime

Council Member Matson questioned how the Court overspent the overtime.

Judge Kendrick explained in order to prepare for court on Mondays and Thursdays, the court clerks come in at 6:00 a.m. and do not finish until the end of the day. He thought they were taking comp time, but found out they had maxed out on comp time and had to be given overtime pay. Since then, he instructed the clerks to take time off during the same week so they are not receiving overtime pay.

Council Member Matson questioned if they are alternating the time off.

Judge Kendrick stated yes.

Council Member Olson questioned who is supposed to be keeping track of the budget.

Judge Kendrick stated it is his responsibility with the help of the Court Clerk.

Council Member Olson stated the Council needs to know before the budget runs over, because it is illegal to spend money that is not in the budget.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Butler to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2647, An Ordinance amending the 2009 Budget authorizing an expenditure of \$1,500.00 from the Current Expense Fund (Court) for Municipal Court overtime costs. Motion carried unanimously.

Greater Yakima
Chamber of Commerce
Presentation and
Annual Report

Mayor Lemon informed Mike Morrisette, President & CEO of Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce is ill tonight and questioned if the Council wishes this item to be rescheduled.

Council Member Butler requested this item be rescheduled.

Items from the
Audience

City Finances. Jo Collier, Accounts Payable Finance Tech, questioned who is handling the City's finances since the City Treasurer is on leave for 12 weeks.

Mayor Lemon stated the Council does not know who will be handling the finances yet, but he will let her know when a decision is made.

Develop Agenda for
December 14, 2009
Council Meeting

CDBG Public Hearing. Council Member Vanover requested a public hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) be added to the agenda.

Cancelling Council Meeting. Council Member Olson requested cancelling the December 28, 2009 Council meeting be added to the agenda.

Oath of Office. Council Member Vanover commented the newly elected Council members will need to be sworn in December 14th if there is no meeting December 28th.

Mayor Lemon stated there is a vacant Council position and he understands past practice has been to appoint the successor early.

Council Member Olson stated there is no past practice because this does not happen often and he does not believe it would be right to appoint someone to attend one meeting and receive \$400.

The City Clerk informed she can swear in all the newly elected Council members, with the newest member taking office January 1, 2010.

CITY OF UNION GAP REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – November 23, 2009 - CONT.

Departmental Reports Mayor Lemon informed the following reports are in the packet and questioned if the Council has any questions of the departments: Police Department Status Report – October 2009; New Businesses Report – October/November 2009; and Fire Department Status Report – October 2009.

Communications/
Questions/Comments Engineering Contract. Council Member Olson questioned if the contract with Huibregtse, Louman Associates ends this year.

The City Clerk stated no, it ends at the end of next year.

Bond Counsel. Council member Olson questioned if the City Treasurer received a response from the bond counsel.

The City Clerk informed she does not have access to the City Treasurer's e-mail, but she can see if the Deputy Treasurer can check it.

Adjournment At 7:35 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

These minutes dated November 23, 2009 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of December 14, 2009.

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk