

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
November 24, 2008

Call to Order

Mayor Lemon called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 7:04 p.m.

Council Members Present

Council Members David Butler, Dan Olson, Glenn Bateman, Dan Vanover, Roger Wentz, Dave Matson, and Jim Murr were present.

Staff Present

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

Audience Present

Wendy & John Berber, Ken & Kelsey Kilsemer, Michael & Joshua Murr, Debbie Matson, Fred Thomson, John Hodgkinson, Lewis & Donald Beddoe, Dawn & Erika Lemon, Ray Kempf, Sahl Martin, Greg Cobb, Alba Levesque, Aubrey Reeves, Shane Macias, David Butterfield, Erin Snelgrove, and others were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Greg Cobb led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

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

Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated November 10, 2008, as sent out on pages 4856 through 4860 of the Minute Book.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 73163 through 73252 in the amount of \$1,465,125.77 dated November 24, 2008 and Claim Voucher Nos. 73116 and 73148 in the amount of \$20,609.81 dated November 10, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Approve Petty Cash Check Nos. 1538 through 1540 issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$46.00.

Approve Municipal Court Check Nos. 3113 through 3130, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$36,868.62.

Approve Advanced Travel Check No. 1044, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$390.00.

Approve Treasurer's Check Nos. 10199 through 10200, issued and paid in the month of October, in the amount of \$973.51

Adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2598, An Ordinance amending the 2008 Budget authorizing the expenditure of \$7,500 from the Convention Center Reserve Fund to the Central Washington State Fair Association to pay for part of the cost to resurface a basketball court at the Sundome.

Adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2599, An Ordinance amending the 2008 budget for the City's Police Department.

Adopt Resolution No. 744, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to seek statements of qualifications and proposals concerning the provision of public defender services for the City of Union Gap.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing – 2009 Budget

At 7:06 p.m. Mayor Lemon opened the public hearing for the 2009 Final Budget. The City Clerk announced there were no written comments received.

There was no one present wishing to comment on the 2009 budget.

At 8:07 p.m. Mayor Lemon closed the public hearing.

Ordinance No. 2595 – Fixing the 2009 Ad Valorem Property Taxes

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2595, An Ordinance fixing the estimated amount of ad valorem taxes to be levied to meet the financial requirements of the City of Union Gap, Washington for the year 2009. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Bateman, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Member Olson voting no.

Ordinance No. 2600 – Adopting 2009 Budget

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2600, An Ordinance adopting the 2009 Budget for the City of Union Gap. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Members Olson and Bateman voting no.

Ordinance No. 2601 – Amending Municipal Code – Fees and Charges Schedule for Ahtanum Youth Park

Mayor Lemon informed the new rate schedule offers a different winter rate to promote more usage of the park.

Council Member Wentz commented the rates seem high for only two hours.

Mayor Lemon informed the rates have actually been lowered, and the parking fees have been removed.

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2601, An Ordinance amending Union Gap Municipal Code Chapter 10.16, Fee and Charge Schedule For Ahtanum Youth Activities Park. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 745 – Amendment to 1997 through 2012 Solid Waste Agreement with Basin Disposal, Inc.

Mayor Lemon announced this item has been moved to the December 8, 2008 Council meeting.

Expenditure Request – Recomm. From Lodging Tax Advisory Committee Regarding Selection of a Tourism Promoter

Mayor Lemon stated this request from the Lodging Tax Committee is to increase the budgeted amount for the tourism promoter from \$48,000 to \$65,000.

Council Member Olson commented he is concerned because the committee's October minutes indicate they are asking for office space for the tourism promoter at either the former probation office or the house at the youth park, and if the City provides the person an office they become an employee rather than contracted.

Council Member Vanover commented the City could rent office space to the tourism promoter.

Mayor Lemon stated this request is related to the amount of money for the contracted position; this will not be an employee.

Council Member Wentz recommended the Lodging Tax Committee make a recommendation and proposal for renting office space from the City.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to authorize raising the budgeted amount for the tourism promoter from \$48,000 to

\$65,000. Motion carried: Council Members Butler, Vanover, Wentz, Matson, and Murr voting in favor; Council Members Olson and Bateman voting no. Council Member Olson commented his big concern is that he does not know what this person will be doing.

Mayor Lemon stated the person will be promoting tourism for Union Gap.

Council Member Olson stated the City is already paying the Visitor & Convention Bureau for those services and if the Lodging Tax Committee is not happy with the service, they need to go to the Bureau and tell them they are not happy with their services.

Mayor Lemon stated the Visitor & Convention Bureau submitted a proposal for this position also.

Mayor Lemon questioned if the Council wished to cancel the December 22, 2008 Council meeting, and stated there might be an issue with paying the bills if the meeting is cancelled.

Consider Cancelling
December 22, 2008
Council meeting.

The City Attorney informed the Council could make a motion to pay the normal monthly bills and all other payments could be held.

Council Member Matson stated he is fine with having the meeting.

Council Member Vanover commented the second meeting in December has been cancelled for the last several years with no ill effects.

Council Members Olson and Bateman stated they will not be here December 22nd.

Motion by Council Member Matson, seconded by Council Member Wentz to hold the December 22, 2008 Council meeting, as scheduled. 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 Matson to excuse Council Members Olson and Bateman from the December 22nd Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 746 –
Memorandum of
Understanding with
Police Officers’ Assoc.
Regarding November’s
Pay

Mayor Lemon explained this agreement is necessary because the police contract calls for the pay period to end on the 26th of the month with pay checks being issued on the last day of the month. Due to the holiday this month, it will be impossible to have their pay checks ready the day the timesheets are turned in.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 746, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union Gap Police Officers’ Association regarding end of pay period for November 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 747 –
Memorandum of
Understanding with
City of Yakima
(Yakima Transit)
Regarding Transfer
Points

The Public Works Director informed this agreement authorizes Union Gap transit to stop along the Yakima transit route to transfer people. He stated the agreement lists three locations: So. 1st Street by Miner’s Drive-In, So. 3rd Avenue and Washington, and So. 10th Avenue and Washington, however, Yakima has asked that two more locations be added: So. 1st Street by the Blossom Shop and Main Street by the Yakima Watermill.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 747, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (as amended to add stops by the Blossom Shop

and Yakima Watermill) with the City of Yakima (Yakima Transit) regarding transfer points. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wentz questioned if there is money in next year's budget for building covered bus shelters.

Mayor Lemon informed there is money for covered shelters, and the issue will come before the Council if more money is needed, because there is additional revenue for that purpose.

Council Member Olson stated at least two bus turnouts are needed on Washington Avenue because the bus just stops in front of people.

Council Member Wentz questioned where the sewer improvement work will occur.

Mayor Lemon informed this project is for the repairs identified in the infiltration and inflow study.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to accept the most qualified, lowest bid submitted by Halme Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$360,459.45 for the Wastewater (Sewer) Collection System Improvement Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lemon stated Council Member Olson has requested a press release and news conference be sent out regarding transit.

Council Member Olson stated this is a historical moment in the history of the City of Union Gap and he would like to let everyone know about our transit system. He stated he would like to hold this December 1st.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Bateman to send out the news release and hold the press conference on December 1st at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Lemon informed Council Member Olson will be the lead speaker for the City at the press conference.

T C Transportation Insurance. Mayor Lemon informed he has yet to receive confirmation that T C Transportation has adequate insurance coverage and they will not be allowed to hit the road without insurance.

Council Member Wentz questioned if the City wants to allow the \$5 million coverage T C Transportation requested.

The City Attorney stated he does not recall what the contract calls for, but the Council can reduce the amount of insurance by motion if they wish.

The Public Works Director informed Ron Davis of T C Transportation said the state typically requires \$5 million, but Yakima Transit carried \$12 million. He also informed Mr. Davis said the insurance certificate was mailed last Friday.

Mayor Lemon instructed staff to let Mr. Davis know the City has to approve the insurance certificate before they begin on December 1st.

Council Member Olson commented the reason the City of Yakima carries \$10 or \$12 million is because of the larger buses. Smaller buses have less liability because they carry less people.

Mayor Lemon questioned if the Council wishes to authorize \$5 million insurance.

Bid Award –
Wastewater Collection
System Improvements

Discuss Transit Press
Release & News
Conference

Council Member Wentz stated the City is stuck now because Yakima Transit stops providing bus service to Union Gap on Sunday.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Bateman to approve \$5 million in insurance coverage. Motion carried unanimously.

Items from the Audience

Thank You. Ray Kempf, resident speaking on behalf of the Agricultural Museum, thanked the Police Department for providing escorts through town when they recently moved a silo.

Youth Council Request. Erika Lemon and Donald Beddoe, Youth Council members, requested the City Clerk's old computer for the youth center.

Mayor Lemon thanked them for their request, and informed the Council already approved the request at a prior meeting.

Transit Transfers. Wendy Berber, resident, informed certain transit drop offs worry her because it will be difficult for people to get to other buses if the Union Gap transit does not go to the Yakima transfer station.

Mayor Lemon informed the Public Works Director will explain the transfers to Ms Berber after the Council meeting.

Develop. Agenda for December 8, 2008 Council Meeting

Aquatic Center. Mayor Lemon questioned if the Council wishes to vote on whether or not to support the ballot measure for the aquatic center on the next agenda.

Council Member Bateman said no.

Council Member Vanover commented he needs more information.

Council Member Matson stated he would like the location identified before voting.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to not add this item to the December 8, 2008 agenda.

Agreement Renewals. The City Clerk informed she anticipates several agreement renewals between the police department and City of Yakima, as several existing agreements expire at the end of the year.

Council Travel. Mayor Lemon informed there are forms to fill out and return to Sherrie if the Council wishes to attend AWC or National League of Cities next year. He stated he would appreciate it if the Council would limit the number of people going to Washington D. C. because of the budget issues, and this year the Council overspent their travel budget.

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 – October 2008; Police Department Status Report – October 2008; New Businesses Report – October/November 2008; Fire Department Status Report – October 2008; Treasurer's Report – October 2008; and Tax Revenue Report – October 2006/2007/2008.

Letter of Support. The Public Works Director informed he is preparing a letter of support for the Valley Mall Boulevard/I-82 Washington State Department of Transportation project and he would like the Mayor and Council to sign it this week.

It was the consensus of the Mayor and Council to sign the letter of support.

National League of Cities. Council Member Matson thanked Council Member Wentz for bringing information back from National League of Cities.

Communications/
Questions/Comments

Council Member Wentz stated one piece of information is beneficial to the citizens. There is a program for discount prescription cards for Union Gap residents that will be publicized in the newsletter and on the website.

Aquatic Center. Council Member Wentz commented he was out of town when Mayor Edler presented information on the aquatic center, but agreeing to put the measure on the ballot does not approve the center, it allows the citizens to vote on it. He stated he would think the location would be clearly defined before it is placed on the ballot, but if Union Gap does not vote it will not be on the ballot and takes the vote away from the people. He stated he is in favor of leaving the decision up to the voters.

Council Member Matson commented the people may get disillusioned if they think it will be in one place and then the location changes.

Main Street Committee. Council Member Butler stated he and Council Member Wentz brought back some ideas from National League of Cities for Main Street revitalization and he would like to discuss this in committee.

After discussion, Council Members Wentz, Butler, and Vanover agreed to serve on the Main Street committee.

At 7:50 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

Adjournment

These minutes dated November 24, 2008 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2008.

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk