

**UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**Union Gap, Washington**  
**October 8, 2007**

Call to Order Mayor Reeves called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 7:06 p.m.

Council Members Present Council Members Jim Lemon (7:10 p.m.), David Butler, Dan Olson, Toni Webb, Glenn Bateman, Dan Vanover, and Roger Wentz were present.

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

Audience Present Dave Matson, Ryan, Linda, & Katie Croffut, Tony Reise, Larry & Susan Bird, Jo Collier, James & Michael Murr, Phil Salzman, and others were present.

Invocation The Interim Fire Chief presented the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance The Development Coordinator 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 Adjourned Study Session Council Meeting Minutes, dated September 17, 1007, as sent out on pages 4708 through 4710 of the Minute Book.

Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated September 24, 2007, as sent out on pages 4711 through 4714 of the Minute Book.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 70047 through 70077 in the amount of \$686,275.08, dated September 28, 2007 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Approve Payroll Voucher Nos. 30992 through 31071 in the amount of \$152,341.11, dated September 28, 2007 and transfer from the operating funds to the Payroll Fund.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 70078 through 70174 in the amount of \$300,236.52, dated October 8, 2007 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

Set Public Hearing for the 2008 Revenue Sources, Including Ad Valorem, for Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Set Public Hearing for the 2008 Preliminary Budget for Tuesday, November 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Declare surplus and authorize staff to dispose of the Municipal Court Gateway Laptop Computer.

Motion carried unanimously; Council Member Lemon temporarily absent.

Amendment to 6-year Transportation Improvement Program The Public Works Director informed amendments to the 6-year Transportation Improvement Program are made every year, and this amendment is needed to release federal funds for the construction phase of Valley Mall Boulevard.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to

approve the amendment to the 2007 City of Union Gap Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program. Motion carried unanimously; Council Member Lemon temporarily absent.

Expenditure Request –  
City Shop Compound  
Fence

The Public Works Director informed \$40,000 was budgeted for this project. Three proposals were obtained with R n R Fencing coming in the lowest at \$31,333.99 including tax.

Council Member Olson questioned if EBJ was unable to provide the gate closure.

The Public Works Director stated that is correct.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to accept the lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$31,333.99, from R n R Fencing for the City Shop Compound fence. Motion carried unanimously.

Items from the  
Audience

There was no one present wishing to speak.

Departmental Reports

Mayor Reeves informed the following reports are in the packet and questioned if the Council has any questions of the departments: Building/Mechanical & Plumbing Report – September 2007; Fire Department Status Report – September 2007; and Treasurer’s Report – August 2007.

Development of Agenda  
for 10/22/07 Meeting

Parks Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Reeves stated the Parks Comprehensive Plan will be added to the agenda for adoption.

Consolidation of Fire Departments. Council Member Wentz informed he has received calls from the media about consolidating fire departments and requested a report from the Interim Fire Chief regarding the opinion of the department and the fire union on consolidation with Yakima.

Mayor Reeves informed former Chief Kehm arranged a meeting with Yakima the day before he left. Mayor Reeves attended the meeting thinking it was to discuss help while we were between chiefs, but the meeting mostly pertained to consolidating the departments.

Council Member Wentz stated the reporters have more information, numbers, etc. than our Council has.

Council Member Webb commented it seems Yakima’s Council knows more about it than Union Gap too.

The Interim Fire Chief stated former Chief Kehm set up a meeting with Yakima before he left, and the Interim Chief has also met with Yakima Fire Chief Hines. He informed Chief Hines put together a proposal, but the Mayor said thanks but no thanks, and unless the Council is interested in consolidation, he sees no need to pursue the issue. He stated he is a firm believer in consolidation if done correctly. He stated there are different ways of approaching consolidation and it would be a good idea to pursue at some point in time.

Council Member Wentz stated if consolidating will benefit the City, he is willing to look into it, and questioned if the Interim Chief could put together some information for the Council in the next two or three months.

The Interim Chief stated the general public wants competent service; they do not necessarily care who arrives to offer emergency aid. Union Gap is doing a good job, but the department needs more resources and this may be a way to accomplish that. He stated in the first 14 minutes of a structure fire, there should

be 11 people on the ground. In the fire last weekend we had one engine there quickly, but it was 21 minutes before the 2<sup>nd</sup> engine arrived.

Mayor Reeves stated he believes the residents want to choose who serves them, the same way they want to choose what doctor they see.

Council Member Lemon stated seeing a doctor is more personal and not quite the same situation. He stated he would like to have more information on consolidation also.

Council Member Vanover recommended a comparison between consolidation and automatic response plan be provided to the Council.

Council Member Vanover also questioned Yakima wanting to pull out of the agreement for Tender 1.

The Interim Chief stated he has not been able to get more information about Tender 1 yet, but the amount of money Union Gap pays for maintenance fees is very small and Yakima pays quite a lot and they do not use Tender 1. He stated Union Gap seldom uses Tender 1, but it is important when needed. He also informed when this agreement started there were no other tenders in the valley, and now West Valley has 3.

Council Member Olson stated the Council is in the dark on the consolidation issue and eventually needs to receive all of the information for review.

Council Member Lemon questioned if automatic aid would place a heavy demand on Union Gap.

The Interim Chief stated it is hard to tell what the level of service demand would be, but in 2006 Yakima came to Union Gap 22 times and Union Gap went to Yakima 27 times. He stated for example, a call to Miners today would be handled by Yakima, but under automatic aid Union Gap would handle it.

Mayor Reeves commented Union Gap has always responded to Yakima more than they have responded to us.

Recess to 20-Minute Executive Session

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Reeves recessed the Regular Council Meeting to a 20-minute Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

Reconvene Meeting

At 7:38 p.m., Mayor Reeves reconvened the Regular Council Meeting.

Resolution No. 683 – Authorizing 2006-2009 Collective Bargained Agreement with the Fire Fighters Union.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt Resolution No. 683, A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the 2006-2009 Collective Bargained Agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters Union Local 3680. Motion carried unanimously.

Housing for Larry Dickerson. Mayor Reeves informed Larry Dickerson started working with Interim Chief Whitehurst today. He informed when Mr. Dickerson previously worked for the City, he stayed in his 5<sup>th</sup> wheel and the City paid the park rental fees, however, this time he needs housing.

Council Member Wentz questioned how long it will take to hire a new Chief.

Mayor Reeves stated he is hoping Mr. Dickerson will not be here longer than a month. He informed he spoke with Tom Denlea of Best Western Ahtanum Inn and their room rate is \$90 a night, with a government rate of \$70 a night. For one month steady, he offered a regular room for \$40 a night or a kitchenette for \$50 a night.

Council Member Wentz commented that is \$1,500, and questioned how much the City is paying for his salary.

Mayor Reeves stated he already agreed to let Mr. Dickerson have next week off, but he is here this week. He stated the arrangement with Best Western would need to start when he returns from his week off.

Council Member Lemon suggested approving 30 days and then discussing this again, if necessary.

Council Member Wentz questioned if the Mayor checked with other motels.

Mayor Reeves stated the best the other motels would do was the government rate.

Council Member Wentz suggested expediting the hiring process.

Mayor Reeves stated Mr. Dickerson will help the City expedite the process, and commented he will be here this week plus 30 days.

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Webb to authorize the Mayor to arrange for Mr. Dickerson's housing at the Best Western Ahtanum Inn for 30 days at a cost of \$1,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

At 7:47 p.m., Mayor Reeves adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

*These minutes dated October 8, 2007 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of October 22, 2007.*

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Aubrey C. Reeves, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

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Kathryn Thompson, CMC, City Clerk