

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
September 22, 2008

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, Dan Olson, Glenn Bateman, Dan Vanover, Roger Wentz, and Dave Matson were present.

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

Audience Present Tim Whitehurst, Bill Steele, Ron Davis, Al Coyner, Stephanie Korn, Michael Murr, Debbie Matson, Fred Thomson, John Hodgkinson, Mary Ann Lockhart, Ray Kempf, Jo Collier, Ryan Croffut, Chad Lenz, Phil Salzman, and others were present.

Pledge of Allegiance The Fire Chief 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 September 8, 2008, as sent out on pages 4836 through 4839 of the Minute Book.

Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 72718 through 72815 in the amount of \$2,170,235.74 dated September 22, 2008 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund.

There were no Petty Cash Checks for the month of August.

Approve Municipal Court Check Nos. 3097 through 3100, issued and paid in the month of August, in the amount of \$38,209.51.

Approve Advanced Travel Check No. 1040, issued and paid in the month of August, in the amount of \$523.00.

Approve Treasurer's Check No. 10198, issued and paid in the month of August, in the amount of \$594.02.

Set public hearing regarding property taxes and revenue sources for November 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Set public hearing for the 2009 Preliminary Budget for November 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2584 – Employment Agreement with Fire Chief Council Member Vanover questioned why there is a need for an agreement for a position that traditionally has never had an agreement.

Mayor Lemon stated for the comfort of the applicant, but it is still an at-will position. He also informed it is apparently common with cities on the west side of the state.

Council Member Wentz commented the applicant requested a contract and it seemed reasonable to the committee.

Council Member Vanover questioned if contracts are going to be considered for the balance of the department heads.

Council Member Wentz questioned if Council Member Vanover is referring to drawing up contracts for all new department heads, when existing department heads change.

Mayor Lemon stated no, and informed Mr. Steele will also be conducting fire plan reviews, which will keep the City from hiring another \$85,000 or so employee for fire plan review. Mayor Lemon then introduced Bill Steele.

Council Member Vanover requested Mr. Steele give an overview of his background.

Mr. Steele informed he is a deputy in the Pierce County Fire Marshall's office where his main responsibilities are fire inspections and plan reviews. He stated most of his career has been in law enforcement while serving as a volunteer fire fighter. He has 33 years as a Fire Chief and about 20 years in fire prevention, training, and education, and he certifies fire fighters statewide.

Council Member Matson commented fire investigations must be interesting work and questioned if Mr. Steele has caught any arsonists.

Mr. Steele stated fire investigation connects his training in fire and police services and he has arrested 8-10 arsonists.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2484, An Ordinance of the City of Union Gap authorizing the Mayor to sign an Employment Agreement for the position of Fire Chief with Bill Steele. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2585 –
Amending Municipal
Code – Compensation
for Volunteer Fire
Fighters

The Fire Chief informed in 2007 the volunteers presented information at a Study Session requesting to raise their reimbursement from \$5 a point to \$8 a point. He stated it was his understanding that the Council wanted to consider a lower amount, but since the volunteer who presented the material no longer works for the department, this fell through the cracks. He informed he is requesting the reimbursement be raised from \$5 a point to \$6 a point beginning in 2009, and he has included that increase in his preliminary 2009 Budget.

Council Member Butler questioned if the point system is used elsewhere.

The Fire Chief stated it is used all over the state.

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2585, An Ordinance amending Section 2.36.100 of the Union Gap Municipal Code relating to compensation for Volunteer Fire Fighters. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2586 –
Contract with T.C.
Transportation Services
for Transit Service

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Vanover to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2586, An Ordinance of the City of Union Gap authorizing the Mayor to sign a Contract with T.C. Transportation Services LLC for transit services. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2587 –
Interlocal Agreement
with Washington State
Transit Insurance Pool

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2587, An Ordinance of the City of Union Gap authorizing the Mayor to sign an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Transit Insurance Pool for Transit related Insurance Coverage. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 735 –
Adopting Wash. State
Transit Insurance Pool's
Minimum Best

Motion by Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Wentz to adopt Resolution No. 735, A Resolution providing for the adoption of Washington State Transit Insurance Pool's (WSTIP) "Minimum Best Practices Recommendations" and implementing the same for the City of Union Gap's Transit Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Practices Recommend.
Resolution No. 736 –
Appointing a Director
and an Alternate
Director to the
Washington State
Transit Insurance Pool’s
Board

Mayor Lemon informed he asked the Public Works Director to serve as the director and Council Member Wentz to serve as the alternate director.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Olson to adopt Resolution No. 736, A Resolution designating and appointing Dennis Henne to serve as a member director to Washington State Transit Insurance Pool’s (WSTIP) Board and designating and appointing Roger Wentz as the alternate director. Motion carried unanimously.

Items from the
Audience

New Fire Chief. Tim Whitehurst, President of International Association of Fire Fighters Local 3680, informed they did some research on Mr. Steele and met with him and discussed visions for the department and he is here to support him. He informed Mr. Steele has very strong feelings for volunteer support and understands the need for more career staff in the fire department.

Bill Steele introduced his wife Donna.

Council Member Matson questioned if Donna is involved in Mr. Steele’s work.

Ms Steele stated she has always supported Bill on his career decisions.

Develop. Agenda for
October 13, 2008
Council Meeting

Ordinance. Council Member Olson requested an ordinance allowing the City Treasurer to send the T.C. Transportation payment within 10 days of the billing so the City can receive a discount.

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 – August 2008; Police Department Status Report – August 2008; New Businesses Report – August/September 2008; Treasurer’s Reports – June & July 2008; and Tax Revenue Report – August 2006/2007/2008.

There were no communications, questions, or comments.

Communications/
Questions/Comments

At 7:24 p.m., Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council meeting.

Adjournment

These minutes dated September 22, 2008 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of October 13, 2008.

Jim Lemon
Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk