

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
August 22, 2011

- Call to Order Mayor Pro Tem Wentz called the Study Session Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.
- Council Members Present Council Members David Butler (6:08 p.m.), Dan Olson, Dan Vanover, Dave Matson, James Murr and Chad Lenz were present.
- Staff Present Chris Jensen, Fire Chief and Kathryn Thompson, City Clerk were present.
- Audience Present Stephanie Murr, Jo Collier, and others were present.
- Discussion Regarding Fire Apparatus The Fire Chief reviewed a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "The State Of Fire Apparatus" and provided the Council with a single line drawing of a proposed fire engine.
- He reviewed the types and functions of the apparatus currently owned by the City and the condition of each piece of equipment and stated the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau dictates the type of equipment the City must have. He explained the City has three engines, but we are only capable of getting one out to a fire because of staffing. He also informed he is working on a strategic plan for the organization that he will be presenting to Council at a later date.
- He then discussed the life span of engines and explained our engines look nice on the outside, but are having mechanical problems. He informed since 2005 Engine 85 has had 95 mechanical issues and Engine 285 has had 66 mechanical issues. He informed Tender 85 is also having mechanical problems and on the last call none of the electrical system was working. He informed we rotate use of the engines to keep the mileage down making better trade in value. He explained if we only had one engine that engine would have 117,000 miles. He informed most of the apparatus was purchased in 1999, which is problematic for a small City because replacing all the apparatus at about the same time is a huge burden. He explained the current engines seat five people with no equipment, but become cramped with gear having to be placed in front and behind the fire fighters. He informed the department has had to leave volunteers in training behind on calls because there is not enough room. He stated the extra people used to ride in a staff vehicle, but recently the Chief's vehicle had a dash fire that took out all the signalling devices on the way to a fire so he is now driving the staff vehicle. He informed the proposed new engine has more capacity and increases storage over 100 percent. He stated he recently conducted a survey in the fire department and 100 percent of the fire fighters were concerned about safety on the fire engines.
- He informed if purchase of a new engine is approved during tonight's regular Council meeting, it will take 8 to 9 months for it to arrive. He stated the trade in offered was \$20,000; he has seen similar engines in magazines and that seemed low so he had the engine appraised. The appraisal was \$50,000, but that includes the percentage they keep for selling the vehicle. He suggested trying to sell Engine 85 ourselves after the new engine arrives.
- He stated Engine 285 has more mileage but does not have all the mechanical issues Engine 85 does. He suggested holding Engine 285 in reserve status and trying to replace it in approximately 5 years. He stated he is proposing using the equipment reserve fund to pay the down payment on the new engine and commented the City needs to be placing money into an equipment replacement reserve fund for replacement of high dollar items.
- He stated the goal for Brush Truck 85 is to maintain it in the fleet. He informed there is some damage under the driver's door, but it runs well.
- Council Member Vanover questioned if Brush Truck 85 could be used as an interim vehicle to back up the engine.

The Fire Chief stated we cannot add weight to Brush Truck 85 because it is at its weight limit.

Council Member Matson questioned if personnel could be added to the brush truck.

The Fire Chief stated yes, but the personnel would need equipment for structure fires and medical equipment. The brush truck carries wild land fire gear.

Council Member Vanover questioned if the emergency equipment could be cut out of the Chief 85 vehicle and it could be sold as a regular Ford Expedition.

The Fire Chief stated the Chief 85 vehicle is being assessed right now, but it may be possible to fix it and sell it or perhaps another department could use it.

The Fire Chief stated Tender 85 is a water tender and type 1 engine that is mostly used for protection to tribal lands. He informed he is looking at grant funding to replace the Tender 85. The Fire Chief then reviewed pictures and examples of future fire apparatus the department would like to have.

The Fire Chief explained the proposal on the regular meeting agenda is to put \$200,000 down and pay approximately \$27,000 a year for 10 years at the interest rate of 3.89 percent. He stated there is an early payoff penalty of 2.5 percent of the balance. He also informed the City recently signed an agreement with District 11 for \$30,000 a year, but he does not recommend counting on that money to always be available because District 11 can pull out at any time. He informed District 11 has been a great partner to the City, but they are also part of the Regional Fire Authority discussion.

Mayor Pro Tem Wentz questioned if the debt for the engine would transfer to the Regional Fire Authority if the Regional Fire Authority were to happen.

The Fire Chief stated yes, the transfer of the debt would be part of the negotiations.

At 6:50 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Wentz adjourned the Study Session meeting so the Council Members wishing to view Engine 85 could go outside and view the engine.

Adjournment

These minutes dated August 22, 2011 were approved at the Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2011.

Jim Lemon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kathryn Thompson, CMC, City Clerk