

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

Call to Order Mayor Reeves called the Study Session Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Council Members Present Council Members Jim Lemon, David Butler, Dan Olson, Toni Webb, Glenn Bateman, Dan Vanover, and Roger Wentz were present.

Staff Present Bob 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 Gregg Dohrn, Dixie Van Tassel, Tony Reise, Phil Salzman, Bob Eschbach, Ray Kempf, Jo Collier, Larry & Susan Bird, Ryan, Linda, & Katie Croffut, Dave Matson, and others were present.

Overview of 2008 Preliminary Budget Mayor Reeves informed the budget information distributed is very preliminary. He stated the enhancement requests are included for Council's information, and his recommendations regarding the enhancements will be provided in a future meeting.

Council Member Wentz commented it is his understanding that the City's income is about \$75,000 less than the projections made last year.

Mayor Reeves stated if the income remains the same as it was on the August Treasurer's report, the City is estimated to be \$200,000 short. He informed he and the City Treasurer will be closely watching the figures.

Council Member Webb questioned the reason for the discrepancy.

Mayor Reeves stated he told the previous City Treasurer to estimate 5 percent over the previous year, but it appears she estimated 10 percent over the previous year.

Council Member Wentz questioned what the projection for next year will be.

Mayor Reeves stated not quite \$500,000 with the new businesses expected to open, but with the benefits and insurance increases taking about \$300,000, the City will be at the breakeven point. He informed he will have more accurate information next month.

Council Member Wentz suggested minimal enhancements be approved until at least June of next year.

Council Member Olson commented hopefully this comes out better than it looks, and hopefully there is some emergency money. He also commented some of the enhancements are critical and need to be done, but he would like the enhancements prioritized better.

Mayor Reeves stated the enhancements will be discussed in more detail later.

Update of Comprehensive Parks Plan The Public Works Director informed Gregg Dohrn is present to discuss the Comprehensive Parks Plan he has been working on. He distributed the draft plan and stated he would like to finalize the plan as soon as possible.

Gregg Dohrn informed the City will need to officially adopt this plan and send it to the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) so they can also adopt the plan. He stated this plan will be a good reference tool during the

budget process and will also need to be adopted by reference in the City's Comprehensive Plan so the City will be eligible for grants. He informed this City has an outstanding foundation for an excellent parks system. He encouraged the Council to review Chapters 2 and 5 and make sure they agree with them before adopting the plan as the official policy of the City.

Dixie Van Tassel, Park Board Chair, encouraged the Council to adopt the plan as soon as possible because the Park Board has been working on this for 9 years.

After discussion, the Council requested this document be presented for approval at the next Council meeting.

Ray Kempf, Agricultural Museum, informed they met with the Park Board and the Public Works Director and reviewed this plan. He informed he is not here to delay the plan, but would like the wording in paragraph 3 on page 36 changed because the Ag Museum does not charge admission fees and receives donations only. He stated personally, as a citizen, he finds this statement very negative.

Mayor Reeves agreed stating the people volunteering at the Museum are also the ones paying for the expenses. He stated whoever wrote that paragraph needs to have a full understanding of how the Ag Museum operates.

Ms Van Tassel informed the original statement was because of the Antique Farm Equipment Club charging admission, but that statement should have been changed in this draft.

The Public Works Director agreed the statement should have been changed, and stated he needs to read through this draft to see if all the Park Board's changes have been made.

Bob Eschbach, Ag Museum, informed that any money made by the Museum is spent on Fullbright Park. He informed they seeded two lawns and installed sprinklers, a pathway, etc. in the past.

Council Member Lemon stated he thought the City paid to seed that park.

The Public Works Director stated the City seeded 11 acres on the North side, but the Museum seeded the South side.

Adjournment

At 6:40 p.m. Mayor Reeves adjourned the Study Session meeting.

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

ATTEST:

Aubrey C. Reeves, Jr.
Mayor

Kathryn Thompson, CMC
City Clerk