

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
UNION GAP COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Union Gap, Washington
October 12, 2026, Regular Meeting
MINUTES

<u>Call to Order</u>	Mayor Hodkinson called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.
<u>Council Members Present</u>	Council Members Wentz, Dailey, Galloway, Schilling, Sewell, and Fredrickson were present.
<u>Staff Present</u>	City Manager Cobb, City Attorney Plant, Police Chief Soptich, Fire Chief Lamoureux, Public Works and Community Development Director Cavanaugh, Civil Engineer Dominguez, and Finance & Administration Director Bisconer were present.
<u>Audience Present</u>	See attached list.
<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	Council Member Hodkinson led the pledge of allegiance.
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	<p>Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to approve the consent agenda as follows:</p> <p>Regular Council Meeting Minutes, dated September 28, 2026, as attached to the Agenda and maintained in electronic format.</p> <p>Claims Vouchers – EFT’s, and Check No’s. 112977 through 113048, in the amount of \$437,655.60</p> <p>Petty Cash Vouchers – Check Nos. 1950 through 1953 for September 2026 in the amount of \$140.00</p> <p>Advance Travel Vouchers – Check Nos. 1406 through 1409 for September</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<u>Public Hearing</u>	
2027 Ad Valorem Property Tax Levy	At 6:02 p.m., Mayor Hodkinson opened a Public Hearing to consider oral and written comments, to adopt a 2027 Ad Valorem Property Tax. Finance & Administration Director Bisconer gave a detailed overview of the 2027 Ad Valorem Property Tax. With no written or

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public testimony, Mayor Hodkinson closed the Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m.

Finance and Administration

Ordinance No. – 3174 –
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 2027

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to adopt Ordinance No. – 3174 – 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 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Bisconer reviewed the updated 2027 preliminary revenue spreadsheet, noting that the only change from the previous study session handout was an update to service fee amounts on page two. She also clarified the specific sources of income listed under judgments and settlements, which include WCIA insurance proceeds, court-ordered restitution, and roughly \$240 from a CenturyLink class-action settlement. Bisconer noted that staff will continue tracking revenues through October and November before making any adjustments to projected revenue figures.

City Manager

Ordinance No. – 3175 –
Amending and updating Title
1 of the Union Gap Municipal
code – General Provisions, to
reflect current laws and
ordinance

City Manager Cobb presented proposed revisions to Title 1 of the Municipal Code as part of an ongoing effort to modernize city regulations. The updates replace historical references to the "town" with "city," align administrative roles with the current council-manager form of government, and bring gross misdemeanour penalty language up to date with state law. In response to a question from Council Member Fredrickson, Cobb noted that some of the existing regulations had not been updated since 1969 or earlier. Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Sewell to adopt Ordinance No. – 3175 – Amending and updating Title 1 of the Union Gap Municipal code – General Provisions, to reflect current laws and ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

Police

Resolution No. – 26 – 65 –
Authorizing the City of Union
Gap to enter the Yakima
Valley Crime Lab Interlocal
Agreement and services as the
fiduciary and administrative
manager of the Yakima
Valley Local Crime Lab

Police Chief Soptich presented a resolution to approve an updated Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for the regional crime lab. Soptich confirmed that the agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City's legal team, Yakima County, and legal representatives from neighbouring cities. The agreement is expected to be signed by all participating regional agencies within the coming weeks. Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to accept Resolution No. – 26 – 65 – Authorizing the City of Union

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Gap to enter the Yakima Valley Crime Lab Interlocal Agreement and services as the fiduciary and administrative manager of the Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 26 – 66 –
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Police Chief Soptich requested Council approval to declare the Police Department's retired 2007 Ford F-150 animal control vehicle as surplus property. The vehicle will be sold through the City's online auction platform to obtain the best resale value. Following up on a prior Council request regarding local shelter capacity, Soptich presented disposition figures for 88 animals handled by local animal control: 37 were adopted, 22 were returned to owners, 18 were transferred to rescue organizations, 16 were euthanized due to public safety concerns, and one was deceased on arrival. Council Member Schilling thanked Chief Soptich for the detailed data and praised the department's work. Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Sewell to accept Resolution No. – 26 – 66 – Authorizing the City of Union Gap to enter the Yakima Valley Crime Lab Interlocal Agreement and services as the fiduciary and administrative manager of the Yakima Valley Local Crime Lab. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works & Community
Development

Resolution No. – 26 – 67 –
Amending the Basin Disposal
of Yakima, LLC
Comprehensive Solid Waste
Collection Services Contract,
Exhibit C

Public Works and Community Development Director Cavanaugh presented a resolution to fix a minor inconsistency between the City's Basin Disposal contract and its Schedule C fee/service attachment. While the primary contract gives residents 90 days before a temporary container is considered permanent, Schedule C listed 60 days. The resolution officially updates Schedule C to match the 90-day standard set in the main agreement. Motion by Council Member Sewell, second by Council Member Galloway to accept Resolution No. – 26 – 67 – Amending the Basin Disposal of Yakima, LLC Comprehensive Solid Waste Collection Services Contract, Exhibit C. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 26 – 68 –
Enter into the interlocal
agency agreement attached
hereto as Exhibit A with
Yakima County for on-call
services on federal funded
projects

Public Works and Community Development Director Cavanaugh presented the renewal of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Yakima County to assist the City with federally funded public works projects. The renewed agreement allows Union Gap to partner with County staff to meet technical certification, compliance, and oversight standards required for federally funded infrastructure, ensuring active projects like the Main Street pedestrian crossing remain on schedule and fully compliant with grant requirements.

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Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Schilling to accept Resolution No. – 26 – 68 – Enter into the interlocal agency agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A with Yakima County for on-call services on federal funded projects. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 26 – 69 –
Authorizing the City Manager
to sign a letter from Pacific
Power to transfer their
Franchise Agreement to Gem
Sub LLC and Portland
General Electric Company

Public Works and Community Development Director Cavanaugh presented an administrative amendment to the City's franchise agreement with Pacific Power. Following a corporate ownership reorganization, the utility requested that Gem Sub, LLC and Portland General Electric Company be formally added to the franchise agreement. The amendment updates City records to reflect the new corporate ownership structure without altering local service terms. Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Fredrickson to accept Resolution No. – 26 – 69 – Authorizing the City Manager to sign a letter from Pacific Power to transfer their Franchise Agreement to Gem Sub LLC and Portland General Electric Company. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 26 – 70 –
Entering into a Maintenance
Agreement attached hereto as
Exhibit A with Washington
State Department of
Transportation

Public Works and Community Development Director Cavanaugh announced that the City Attorney and WSDOT legal counsel have finalized terms for a joint maintenance agreement covering two interchange roundabouts. Under the agreement, the City will take over routine weed control for the WSDOT-owned roundabouts. In return, WSDOT will clear out the current vegetation and install durable rock landscaping, improving corridor aesthetics while substantially reducing long-term upkeep. Motion by Council Member Galloway, second by Council Member Sewell to accept Resolution No. – 26 – 70 – Entering into a Maintenance Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A with Washington State Department of Transportation. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Council Member Schilling shared details about a successful cancer fundraising 5K event in the Tri-Cities, which drew over 800 participants—far exceeding its 200-person goal. Schilling suggested the City consider hosting a similar fundraising run at a local park to encourage community participation. Council members briefly explored potential locations, such as the Greenway and Beltway, and discussed the planning and logistical coordination required for an event of that size.

Items from the Audience

None

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City Manager Report

City Manager Cobb updated Council on major budget and public safety matters, confirming that staff is working on a balanced 2027 budget. Addressing indigent defence shortages, Cobb reported efforts to hire two full-time attorneys to return the City's public defender team to four attorneys. In response to questions from Council Member Dailey on rising corrections expenses, Cobb noted that incarceration costs grow 10% to 15% annually and that staff is exploring cost-saving alternatives like electronic home monitoring, though statutory liability risks remain a barrier. Cobb also expressed concern over the distribution formula for the countywide 0.3% criminal justice sales tax, pointing out that Union Gap receives only \$125,000 to \$130,000 per year despite generating immense sales tax revenue at commercial hubs like the Valley Mall. He emphasized that non-residents account for most retail-related criminal activity, placing a heavy, disproportionate burden on Union Gap's police, courts, and jail budgets.

Communications/Questions/
Comments

Council Member Wentz announced an absence for the upcoming week's meeting. Council Member Galloway asked about parking enforcement for vehicles with expired registration tabs left parked on city streets for extended periods. City Manager Cobb clarified that expired tabs alone do not automatically result in a tow, but vehicles can be impounded if they violate city ordinances against long-term storage in the public right-of-way or qualify as junk vehicles. Cobb explained that legal issues, such as a deceased owner, can sometimes delay removal efforts. He encouraged residents to report potential parking violations or request welfare checks through the Police Department.

Development of Next Agenda

None

Adjournment of Meeting

Mayor Hodkinson adjourned the regular meeting at 6:39 p.m.

ATTEST:



Lynette Bisconer, City Clerk



Gregory Cobb, City Manager