

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
UNION GAP COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Union Gap, Washington
April 24, 2023, 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 Murr, Wentz, Galloway, Hansen, Schilling, and Dailey were present.
<u>Staff Present</u>	City Manager Bounds, City Attorney Foltz, Police Chief Cobb, Fire Chief Markham, Public Works and Community Development Director Henne, Civil Engineer Dominquez, and Finance and Administration Director Clifton were present.
<u>Audience Present</u>	See attached list.
<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	Council Member Hansen led the pledge of allegiance.
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Hansen to approve the consent agenda as follows: Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated April 10, 2023, as attached to the Agenda and maintained in electronic format. Claims Vouchers – EFT’s, Voucher No. 106347 through 106412 for April 24, 2023, in the amount of \$928,623.34. Advance Travel - Voucher No. 1304, in the amount of \$221.39. Motion carried unanimously.
<u>General Items</u>	
<u>Presentation</u>	
Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Karma Suchan, Yakima County Solid Waste	Karma Suchan, Solid Waste Manager of Yakima County addressed the Council about the Solid Waste Management plan they are currently working on, which is updated every five years per the Department of Ecology rules. Suchan stated that Yakima County is fortunate to have two active land fill sites, and that some counties do

not have any land fill's at all. Yakima puts away about 300,000 ton per year. In comparison, Kittitas county puts away 35,000 ton and do not have a land fill. They have to ship theirs to a regional land fill in Wenatchee. Therefore, while we are looking at \$44.00 per ton, they are \$133.00 per ton. They are putting in two gas collection systems, one at each location, and are working on alternatives for organics management in the upper valley. There is a Solid Waste advisory Committee made up of Councilmen, people in the industry, businessmen, and regulators who approve the plan which is then presented to the regulators, Ecology, the UTC, and Department of AG for approval. The plan is then brought to the 14 cities within Yakima County for approval. Council Member Hansen asked how they control vermin and gasoline oil by-products. Suchan replied that they try to re-home animals such as cats, but have spay or neutered some cats, keeping them on-site to help control mice. Employees try to pull out hazardous waste materials and direct people to the hazardous waste facility, which allows free drop-off. Mayor Hodgkinson asked what is done with recyclables. Suchan replied that it is hard to find a market for the plastics, but cardboard and paper go to Michelsen's Packaging, to be used for fruit trays. There is legislation that has not passed, where it puts it back on the manufacturer to subsidise recycling of those products.

City Manager

Resolution No. – 23-23 –
Solid Waste Management
Plan – Yakima County Solid
Waste

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to approve Resolution No. – 23-23 –adopting the Solid and Moderate Risk Waste Management Plan for the City of Union Gap, Washington. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance & Administration

Ordinance No. – 3044 –
2023 Budget Amendment –
Lodging Tax Advisory
Committee

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to adopt Ordinance No. – 3044 – amending the 2023 budget authorizing an expenditure of \$2,743 from the Tourism Promotion Fund, for costs associated with printing of the 2023 updated Union Gap Travel Guide. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 23-24 –
Professional Services
Agreement – Juven Ruiz
Garcia

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to approve Resolution No. – 23-24 – authorizing the City Manager to sign a professional services agreement with Juven Ruiz Garcia, for translations and interpreter services. Motion carried unanimously.

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Resolution No. – 23-25 – Personnel Policies Handbook Amendment – Travel Policy

Motion by Council Member Murr, second by Council Member Wentz to approve Resolution No. – 23-25 – eliminating section 4.5 Travel Away from the City, and 4.6, Travel Expense Reimbursement, from the Personnel Policy Handbook, and adding Chapter 9 Travel Policy and Procedures While in Travel Status. Motion carried unanimously.

Police

Ordinance No. – 3045 – 2023 Budget Amendment – PD Impound and FD Storage Building

Motion by Council Member Schilling, second by Council Member Wentz to adopt Ordinance No. – 3045 – amending the 2023 budget authorizing an expenditure of \$235,401 from the 123 Criminal Justice fund and 113 Fire Truck Reserve fund, for costs associated with the construction of a police department impound and fire department storage building. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works & Community Development

Resolution No. – 23-26 – JUB Engineers, Inc.; Local Agency A&E Professional Services Cost Plus Fixed Fee Consultant Agreement – Regional Beltway Connector Project

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to adopt Resolution No. – 23-26 – authorizing the City Manager to sign a Local Agency A&E Professional Services Cost Plus Fixed Fee Consultant Agreement with JUB Engineers, Inc. for the Regional Beltway Connector Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 23-27 – WSDOT State Consolidated Grant Program – Operating Grant Agreement #PTD0605

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to approve Resolution No. – 23-27 – to authorize the City Manager to sign a Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Consolidated Grant Program – Operating Grant Agreement #PTD0605. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 23-28 – Set Public Hearing – Amend UGMC Code Chapter 17 – Electric Vehicles

Public Works and Community Development Director Henne stated that a code amendment would focus on commercial type electric vehicle charging stations, which will be a zoning issue. Council Member Schilling asked if charging stations would be a hazard to the public. Fire Chief Markham responded that he did not believe charging stations themselves would be a hazard, no more than the cars themselves are. Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to approve Resolution No. – 23-28 – setting a public hearing to consider amending Union Gap Municipal Code Chapter 17 – Electric Vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

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Discussion – Valley Mall
Blvd/Main Street Crosswalk
Timing

Public Works and Community Development Director Henne stated that at the April 10th Council Meeting a resident approached Council with concerns regarding the crosswalk at Valley Mall Blvd. and Main Street, regarding the pedestrian timing. Staff contacted the Washington State Department of Transportation who operates all of our traffic signals to their standards. An email was attached to Council's packet from WSDOT, dated April 13th, 2023, which explained crosswalk timing, and verified the distance calculations, and that the total required time is correct at that crosswalk.

Items from the Audience

Teresa Charvet addressed the Council to announce a Dining for dollars event to be held at Sea Galley May 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and is good for take-out as well.

Benine McDonnel, with the Friends of Union Gap Library and Community Center (Friends) gave a report of a public meeting that they had, stating that they had handed out a survey asking individuals what they would like to see the facilities used for. The report was not complete, but for the Library, some ideas were things such as round table discussions, story time and author visits. For the Community Center the items were cooking, food prep, parenting classes, a place to hold events, with the list continuing. McDonnel then asked about the ground breaking ceremony, and invited all Council Members to a joint meeting of the Friends, They have set aside either May 2nd or May 4th at Sea Galley's conference room at 6:00 p.m. Council Member Galloway asked what the purpose of the meeting would be. McDonnel replied that it is needed because there will be an upcoming agreement with the Friends and the City, and they have differences of opinions on some of the specific items. Council Member Wentz stated that will go through the City Manager to negotiate through attorneys if needed, but he did not think a special meeting between the two, to negotiate in public would work. City attorney Foltz agreed, and stated the concern of the open public meetings act, and that type of contract is generally negotiated with City staff, and then Council can weigh in in a public forum, give direction to the City Manager, who can relay that to City staff as they negotiate. City Manager Bounds stated that she asked for direction at the last meeting, and got some clear guidance. She thought the commercial kitchen might be one of the issues McDonnel was referring to. After discussions with staff, Bounds said the challenge with a commercial kitchen, and some of the items discussed, was that the project had to be divided into Phase I and Phase II, due to the funding. If the funding is mixed, we can plan to lose one of them, because we cannot combine

the funding on the project. If we were to build a commercial kitchen the Phase I would have to be redesigned. Public Works and Community Development Director agreed with Bounds, adding that the current design is not large enough to accommodate a commercial kitchen. Mayor Hodkinson stated that he believes the Council would have to rescind the motion, and part of the agreement for the Library. Council Member Galloway stated that we have talked about the kitchen for years, and remembers the Council talking about this, no, we are not going to do this, the architect has already designed it for a warming kitchen, and believes Council agrees we are going to keep it that way. Council Member Wentz stated we have had enough delays and complications already. McDonnell asked if it was possible to get a list of what is in Phase I and Phase II. Galloway replied that it has been out there for two years, look at the construction details, what we want is what we applied for, what we have paid for, and what we are going to get. McDonnell replied, then there is what the Friends applied for and got funding. Galloway replied, it has nothing to do with their funding, were talking about the money we are going to use right now to build the building that they are constructing now. McDonnell stated they were told by the Council to seek funding, which they did. Galloway stated he was glad they did, and when it is built, they can put in a patio and a big screen T.V., but let's build it with what we have right now on the books. Public Works and Community Development Director Henne recommended that we have more meetings with the Friends, and assured them that information or design criteria is not being withheld. Staff is willing to work with the Friends, but when it comes to modifying the structure and construction phases that have already been awarded, now is not the time to go back into that. Council Member Schilling asked if all of the alternates that were listed were approved, because they were included in the original bid. Henne replied that when it went out for bid originally, we did not have the funding, so the alternates were removed. Now there are no alternates in the project. Now we are negotiating what alternates we want to put back in with the Friends' funding. Staff is hesitant when it comes to affecting the structural design that has already been approved, and is under construction. If there are alternates that do not require removal, redesign of walls, siding, counter tops, etc., then we can talk about it. This would be considered Phase II of the project, and the Friends' funding could be used at that time. Council Member Schilling stated that they hired an accountant to oversee the funds of the OMNI Grant. The City would not oversee the funds, the CPA will. Bounds explained why the funds could not be combined. The City is trying to

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avoid delays, and will continue to communicate with Council Member Schilling on any updates for the Friends.

City Manager Report

City Manager Bounds stated she attended a meeting last week where new Airport Director, Rob Hodgman, presented their plan for the airport. They are hoping to gather community support to write a grant that would pay to bring two additional flights into the airport. Alaska Airline is waiting to come in, but this would be costly. Bounds stated there is a lot of commerce personnel that fly in and out of the region, and thought all agree, that it would be a win- win for the communities. Hodgman will be visiting next month to talk to Council about the issue and explain their efforts.

Communications/Questions/
Comments

Council Member Hansen asked Fire Chief Markham why electric cars start on fire. Markham replied he has not done enough research on the topic to know for sure. Hansen just wanted to let everyone know that if a charger is hot when you run your hand over it you better get in touch with somebody, and he wanted more information on the topic. Council Member Wentz suggested that Council Member Hansen have a private meeting with Chief Markham to discuss his concerns.

None.


Development of next
Agenda

Mayor Hodgkinson adjourned the April 24, 2023 regular Council Meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Adjournment of Meeting


Sharon Bounds, City Manager

ATTEST:


Karen Clifton, City Clerk

