

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
UNION GAP COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Union Gap, Washington
November 23, 2020, Regular Meeting
MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Hodkinson called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present

Council Members Murr, Wentz, Galloway, Hansen, and Schilling were present telephonically.

Staff Present

City Manager Fisher, Police Chief Cobb, Civil Engineer Dominguez, Public Works and Community Development Director Henne and Finance and Administration Director Clifton were present. City Attorney Brown was present telephonically.

Audience Present

See attached list.

Consent Agenda

Council Member Schilling stated that there are things that are misquoted in the minutes, would like the April 27th minutes brought forward to the next meeting so they can pass the November 9, 2020 minutes. City Manager Fisher requested that Council Member Schilling email Finance and Administration Director Clifton the information that she feels is incorrect. Schilling stated that it was on the voice tape of the April 27th minutes, it's misquoting the vote and what was said, so that when we do a vote, we do a good vote. Fisher replied that we would take a look at it.

Council Member Hansen stated that Governor proclamation No. 2028 says if technology the City is using to conduct remote meetings is inconsistently not working, if all persons can't hear each other, it's in violation of Governor's proclamation 2028 and RCW 42.30 section b, provides ability for all persons attending the meeting to hear each other at the same time, if not they're in violation of 42.30. With these inconsistencies he abstained from the last meeting because he could not hear.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to approve the consent agenda Claim Vouchers only, as follows:

Claims Vouchers – EFT's and Voucher No. 102030 through 102082 for November 23, 2020, in the amount of \$622,174.33.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hodkinson stated that the minutes will be brought back to the

next meeting after staff has a chance to review them.

Previous minutes review

*Per request from Council Member Schilling, staff reviewed the April 27, 2020 Council Meeting **recording** and during the roll call to accept plans numbered **A4**, Council Member Schilling asked “if we vote this way, does it mean we can’t add onto it”? Mayor Hodkinson responded “we bump into other situations besides just money when we start doing that, but if it’s possible, he didn’t think the City has an objection to that, but we don’t want to tip over the edge and double our costs.” Schilling agreed but didn’t think 3% would be tipping over the edge, so she will vote for it with the restriction that they at least look at adding on to it. Voting on the motion – Ayes – Murr, Wentz, Galloway, Dailey, Schilling (with restriction), and Hodkinson. Council Member Hansen abstained. Motion passed.*

*Staff reviewed the April 27, 2020 Council Meeting **approved minutes** which say The City Manager and Sheri Brockway, from BORArchitect, PLLC presented draft floor plans and elevations for the Library and Community Center project. After some discussion, Mayor Hodkinson requested a roll call agreeing to move forward with Site #A4. Voting on the request – Ayes – Murr, Wentz, Galloway, Schilling, Dailey and Hodkinson. Hansen abstained. Motion passes.*

The minutes of November, 9, 2020, also notes to reaffirm the April 27, 2020 vote of the Council to approve Site No. **A4**.

Items from the Audience

Mark Crochet from the Friends of Union Gap Library and Community Center, apologized to the Council for his attitude at the November 9th Council meeting, that they were all in shock and thought that the blame games could have been avoided if discussion was held in an executive session and accumulated some factual evidence. Crochet requested an apology from the Mayor and Council Member Galloway for the comment made November 9th meeting, when they stopped him to say “You just stopped the Finance”; he had never made a call to the Department of Commerce or Senator Honeyford regarding this project, that he had the same DOC paperwork that they had received as well as the Resolutions to go by and he could read; It was a very reckless and slanderous statement coming from Councilmen and a violation of the City of Union Gap code of conduct 2.04.015 and code of ethics G.1 and 2; I.; K. 1,2,4,5, and 6. If this happens again, he’s sure they will be having a discussion with the City Attorney, as he will with his, so a simple apology is all that he asks and would like to put it behind them and move forward, knowing that they want to achieve the same goal of completion. Mayor Hodkinson replied that if he took it as a personal remark, he apologizes. Crochet replied that it wasn’t up to the Mayor, that it was up to Councilman Galloway. Council Member Galloway

stated that it was not specifically directed to Crochet, that it was to an organization that has caused the funding to be dropped twice, and from this point on the issue needs to be dropped. Galloway apologized if he stopped Crochet, he meant the group, not him specifically. Crochet thanked Council Member Galloway, Mayor Hodkinson, and the Council for their time.

Cathy Cluck stated that she had a point of order with Mr Galloway in that when they had their meeting last week, they did a specific head count, and those that are involved with the board 5013(c), and none of them had been in touch with anybody in Olympia related with Department of Commerce, and any of the paperwork. She would like to know specifically where Council Member Galloway is getting his information and what's being said because it is not factual and is inappropriate to have said, without some kind of specific evidence. Council Member Galloway stated that he is calling for an investigation to find out who has caused the issue.

General Items

Public Hearings

2021 Final Budget

Mayor Hodkinson opened a Public Hearing regarding the 2021 Final Budget at 6:15 p.m. Finance and Administration director Clifton presented the 2021 Final Budget and gave an overview and stated that it includes the WA. State Auditor's recommendation to include a cost allocation plan. With no written or verbal testimony, Mayor Hodkinson closed the public meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Council Member Schilling asked if due to the recent pandemic, if it would be wise do a roll back on the budget. City Manager Fisher replied that the budget had been decreased from last year, have been spending minimally, staff is keeping a close eye on finances, and they are keeping Council updated.

Christmas Parade discussion

Council Member Schilling stated that the Christmas Parade had to be changed this year and have been fortunate to have Jacob Butler, from the Valley Mall who has been an intricate part of redesigning the parade which will be on Main Street in front of the Valley Mall. Schilling explained that the \$5,000 budget will be short, and is asking the Council to expand this year's budget. Jacob Butler stated that the Mall has seen a strong increase in traffic and believes this year's parade is an absolute necessity, especially given all of the events and family times that kids are losing for Thanksgiving; they've designed a parade that keeps everyone safe with a drive through concept. Schilling requested a current

year only budget increase of at least \$1,600. City Manager Fisher stated that she supports the request. Wentz inquired what fund the money should be taken from. Fisher replied that it could be taken out of the ending fund balance which would be included in the year end budget amendment.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to Increase the Holiday Parade budget by \$1,600 to be taken out of the ending fund balance.

Voting on the motion – Ayes – Murr, Wentz, Galloway, Hansen, and Hodkinson. Council Member Schilling abstained. Motion passes.

Finance & Administration

Ordinance No. – 2996 –
Creating fund number 406 –
Garbage Reserve Fund

Finance and Administration Director Clifton addressed the Council to explain that it was necessary to create a garbage reserve fund that will be used for the newly created cost allocation plan, and balances will continue to roll each year.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to adopt Ordinance No. – 2996 – creating fund number 406 – Garbage Reserve Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Excuse Council Member

Motion by Council Member Schilling, second by Council Member Wentz to excuse Council Member Dailey. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works & Community
Development

Ordinance No. – 2997 –
Amending Union Gap
Municipal Code Chapter 5.04
– Garbage Rates and Fees

Motion by Council Member Murr, second by Council Member Galloway to adopt Ordinance No. – 2997 – amending Union Gap Municipal Code Chapter 5.04 “Garbage and Rubbish” by amending section 5.04.110, “Classification – Collection – Fees” and section 5.04.112, “Annual Rate Increase”. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager

Resolution No. – 20-44 –
Authorizing Yakima County
Development Association to
Distribute Coronavirus Relief
Funds to Union Gap Small
Businesses

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Schilling to approve Resolution No. – 20-44 – approving the distribution of Coronavirus Relief Funds by Yakima County Development Association. Motion carried unanimously.

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Police

Resolution No. – 20-45 –
Police Interlocal Dispatch
Services Agreement – City of
Yakima

Motion by Council Member Murr, second by Council Member Wentz to approve Resolution No. 20-45 – authorizing the City Manager to sign a Police Interlocal Dispatch Services Agreement with the City of Yakima for 2021 – 2025. Council Member Hansen asked why the contract is for a five year period. Chief Cobb replied that it allows staff to predict and keep stable the costs for a longer period of time. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. – 20-46 –
Interagency Agreement – WA
State Traffic Safety
Commission

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Murr to approve Resolution No. – 20-46 – authorizing the City Manager or designee to sign an Interagency Agreement with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for overtime reimbursement relating to High Visibility enforcement (HVE) traffic safety emphasis patrols. Motion carried unanimously.

Items from the Audience

None.

City Manager Report

City Manager Fisher stated that she has not heard from the Department of Commerce; 75 people on a conference call organized by County commissioner, Ron Anderson and County Prosecutor, Joe Brusica who explained the Governor's power and authority during a pandemic; City staff is currently on a modified holiday schedule of 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Communications/Questions/
Comments

Council Member Schilling read a quote “If freedom of speech is taken, than dumb and silent we may be lead, like sheep to the slaughter”. And freedom of speech is the number one thing that this country was founded on, and would ask City Attorney Bronson Brown if the Council can take away freedom of speech. Brown responded by saying that he didn't know if the Council has ever voted to take away the constitutional right.

Council Member Hansen stated his bike was stolen of the back porch of his home Saturday night, if anybody spots it please let him or the Chief know.

Council Member Galloway wanted Mark Crochet to know that the word “you” can be used to refer to any person in general, and also with other people within the same class, and if he took it as a personal attack when he said “you”, he apologizes. Crochet thanked Council Member Galloway.

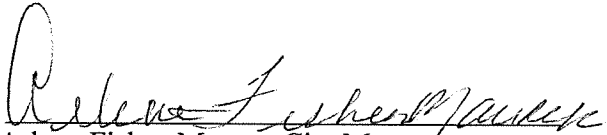
Development of Next Agenda

2021 Budget.

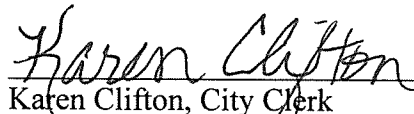
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Adjournment of Meeting

Mayor Hodkinson adjourned the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m. wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.


Arlene Fisher-Maurer, City Manager

ATTEST:


Karen Clifton, City Clerk