

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
UNION GAP COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Union Gap, Washington
November 9, 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, Schilling and Dailey, 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.

Recognition City Manager Fisher stated that because this Wednesday is Veterans day, she would like to Recognize Mayor Hodkinson and Council Members Galloway and Hansen, and thank them for their service.

Consent Agenda Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to approve the consent agenda as follows:

Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated October 26, 2020 as attached to the Agenda and maintained in electronic format.

Payroll Vouchers – EFT’s and Voucher No. 102022 through 102028 for November 9, 2020, in the amount of \$408,572.14.

Claims Vouchers – EFT’s, and Voucher Nos. 101952 through 102021 for November 9, 2020, in the amount of 463,199.65.

Motion carried unanimously.

Items from the Audience None.

General Items

Public Hearings

2021 Preliminary Budget Mayor Hodkinson opened a Public Hearing in regards to the 2021 Preliminary Budget at 6:09 p.m. Finance and Administration Director

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Clifton gave an overview. With no written testimony or public comments Mayor Hodkinson closed the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

2021 Ad Valorem Property Tax Revenue

Mayor Hodkinson opened a Public Hearing in regards to 2021 Ad Valorem Property Tax revenue at 6:09 p.m. Finance and Administration Director Clifton gave an overview. No written testimony or public comments were received. Council Member Schilling asked when the last time the tax passed, and Council Member Wentz replied that it had been at least ten years or more. With no other questions, Mayor Hodkinson closed the public meeting at 6:11 p.m.

Finance & Administration

Ordinance No. – 2995 – 2021 Ad Valorem Property Tax

City Manager Fisher addressed the Council and explained that it has been over ten years since Ad Valorem Property Tax has been passed and with recent cost increases in court costs and public safety, she would advocate passing the tax this year.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to adopt Ordinance No. – 295 – with 1% increase, 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 2021.

Voting on the motion – Ayes – Murr, Wentz, Galloway, Hansen, Dailey and Hodkinson. Nays - Schilling. Motion passes.

2021 Budgeted Expenditures Breakdown and 2020 Revenue Comparison through 10/31/2020

Finance and Administration Director Clifton presented a 2021 Budget Current Expense Expenditure Breakdown and Revenue Comparison through 10/31/2020.

2021 Finance & Administration Budget

Finance and Administration Director Clifton presented the 2021 Finance and Administration Budget and stated that she and the City Manager are working on future cost allocations, and will bring them back to the Council for review. Council Member Schilling asked if changes could be made before the final budget for the parade. Clifton replied that this is preliminary and can be changed before the final budget is approved.

2021 Legislative and Court & Legal Budgets

Finance and Administration Director Clifton presented the 2021 Legislative Budget. Council Member Hansen stated that he was having trouble hearing, but would continue as is for now.

Public Works & Community Development

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Resolution No. – 20-42 –
Agreement for Services –
CWA Consultants

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to adopt Resolution No. – 20-42 – authorizing the City Manager to sign an agreement with CWA Consultants of Port Orchard, WA. for the 2021 calendar year.

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

Resolution No. – 20-43 –
2021 Land Use Planning/GIS
Analyst Services Contract –
Yakima Valley Conference of
Governments

Motion by Council Member Galloway, second by Council Member Wentz to approve Resolution No. – 20-43 – authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) for Land Use Planning and/or GIS Analyst Services.

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

City Manager

2021 Executive Budget

City Manager Fisher presented the 2021 Executive Budget. Council Member Schilling wanted to make sure that the salaries, wages and benefits are all according to her contract. Fisher replied that they were. Schilling inquired about the fuel amount and Fisher stated that it was for Teresa Lopez who uses the city car, that her fuel is included in her contract.

CARES Act Small Business
Grants

City Manager Fisher presented information regarding Businesses who qualified for the \$5,000 grant. YCDA has issued the contracts and will advise as to the amount of funds the city will disburse. Schilling stated that she spoke with two business owners and they were thrilled that they were accepted, and Johnathan was wonderful to work with; it was a good decision on Council's part to do this.

Library Discussion

City Manager Fisher opened a Library discussion with a Yakima Herald Republic article that Council Member Schilling sent out, dated 6/16/2019. Fisher stated that at that time, they had just been awarded Senator Honeyford's award for the Library and Community Center. They had no idea what the contract would call for, how much the Department of Commerce would allow, or what could be built within the budget. At that time they were very hopeful as she quoted from the article, approximately 6000 square feet could be built. When numbers were put to paper and budgets were realized, we realized that due to the

LEAD requirements, and the cost estimates of that footprint, it was not practical for the City of Union Gap. Therefore on April 2nd the Council awarded that the City would build a 4997 square foot complex. The design and the build, according to BORArchitecture went before the Council in April and was approved. That was packet information No.2 The last few Council meetings, Council member Schilling and members of the Friends of the Library have continually asked about the 6000 square foot cost with LEAD. Fisher included all emails and budget for the 6000 square foot library and stated that it would be over \$500,000 more than what the City had put in originally.

Fisher stated that she had received a phone call from the Department of Commerce, Cathy Brockman. “The legislative staff has received several calls from Union Gap about the 6000 square foot library project; Arlene due to the continued influence and the calls, it has caused so much confusion that the Department of Commerce has placed our project on hold.” Fisher stated that she had no more answers or information more than that, as of tonight our project has stopped. Council Member Wentz asked who made the calls. Fisher replied that they would not share that information with her, but that it was not City staff and she was completely blindsided and disappointed. Mayor Hodgkinson stated that he was told Honeyford was washing his hands of it all together. Fisher asked where the calls are coming from. Council Member Wentz stated that he thought it was clear why they went with 4997 and not LEAD and thought the community partners were in understanding; at this point could potentially lose out on the Library and is very frustrating. Mark Crochet stated that it wasn’t him but that they had been on Arlene ever since it was passed, they had been asking all along if they could get the information, and had people who wanted to donate some money and had to have it in by the end of October. As far as the other item he had no idea what that was all about. Fisher stated that BORA was given a directive, it takes them time to redesign the building, which they have done. According to her email that has cost \$8,500. Crochet stated that they had been asking for it ever since it was voted on and didn’t understand why they have to wait to the end to have to deal with it. Fisher replied, because she takes direction from the City Council as a whole. Council Member Schilling explained that the reason they asked for it was because in order to get donations, they needed to have some facts going in front of bankers and business people they need to know what the money is used for, and if you need it increased than they want to know how much it’s going to cost. Council Member Wentz replied, to counteract Schilling and Crochet’s statements, he believed that it was pretty clear that they were going to be moving on with the 5000, because at that point it was too late to backtrack and go after the donations. Crochet thought it was stated by the Mayor that it was something that

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they could look at. Wentz replied that since then they expended enough time that became moot unless there is a donor for the additional \$600,000 more. Crochet replied that they may have had that if they would have had the information before the 1st of November. Council Member Galloway stated that Crochet had the information back when the Council voted for a 5000 square foot building, it's been voted for and that's what we're going to do. Crochet stated that they are not holding up the building here, this thing has been postponed for so long. Galloway stopped him and said "you just stopped the finance." Fisher stated that as of today we're dead in the water, and at this moment she does not know how to get us out of this. Mayor Hodkinson stated that it took over a month to get the information from BORA, and was curious to know who will pay for the additional \$8500 cost. Bill Cox asked who at the Department of Commerce, at what level the decision was made. Fisher replied that it was her Grant manager's boss. Fisher didn't know if they could get the funding back, because it was the second time it had been derailed. Mayor Hodkinson stated that he would suggest that the Council by unanimous vote, reaffirm the original agreement. Fisher added that she wanted a motion that the committee, from this point forward let the Mayor and herself work on this problem, and from this point forward no one but the project manager (Arlene Fisher) and Dennis Henne contact any legislative staff or The Department of commerce.

Motion by Council Member Dailey, second by Council Member Murr to reaffirm the April 27, 2020 vote of the Council to approve Site no. A4 presented by BORArchitecture, which represents a 4,800 square foot library and Community Center Building. And from this point forward only the City Manager and Dennis Henne have the authority to contact legislative staff and representatives from the Department of Commerce. No other individuals have such authority.

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

None.

None.

Items from the Audience

City Manager Report

Helen Canatsey thanked Chief Cobb for his work because they do not have the race car down 4th street anymore.

Communications/Questions/
Comments

Council member Hansen thanked Dennis for putting up a sign, it looks really good on the corner.

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Mark Crochet wanted to extend his condolences to Council Member Murr for his recent loss.

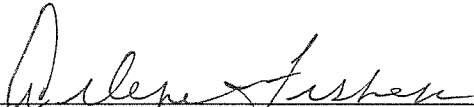
Mayor Hodkinson stated that he has a letter from the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority, they are looking for nominations for Board of Directors, and he will bring it up at the next meeting to see who would like to serve on that board.

None.

Mayor Hodkinson adjourned the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Development of Next Agenda

Adjournment of Meeting



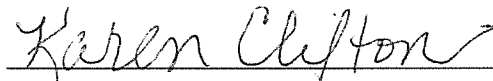
Arlene Fisher-Maurer, City Manager

ATTEST:



Karen Clifton, City Clerk

I do hereby certify that these minutes are a true and correct copy of the original filed at the City of Union Gap.



Karen Clifton, City Clerk