

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
UNION GAP COUNCIL CHAMBERS
Union Gap, Washington
October 24, 2022, Regular Meeting
MINUTES

<u>Call to Order</u>	Mayor Hodgkinson 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, Murr, Galloway, Hansen, Schilling, and Dailey were present.
<u>Staff Present</u>	Interim City Manager Bounds, Fire Chief Markham, Public Works and Community Development Director Henne, Civil Engineer Dominguez, Finance and Administration Director Clifton, and Acting City Attorney Michael Rio were present.
<u>Audience Present</u>	See attached list.
<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	Council Member Schilling 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 October 10, 2022, as attached to the Agenda and maintained in electronic format. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Payroll Vouchers – EFT’s, Voucher No. 105395 through 105401 for the month of September, 2022, in the amount of \$458,430.76.</p> <p>Claims Vouchers – EFT’s, Voucher No. 105402 through 105463 for October 24, 2022, in the amount of \$218,506.22.</p> <p>Motion carried unanimously.</p>
<u>Items from the Audience</u>	None.
<u>General Items</u>	
<u>Presentation</u>	
Lisa Gredvig, Union Gap School Superintendent	Union Gap School Superintendent, Lisa Gredvig addressed the Council and stated that there are currently 564 students enrolled and is at a 93% low income rate, which puts them in a community eligibility program for the

district, meaning all of the students, regardless of income eat free. The district also applies for a fresh fruit and vegetables grant each year to make sure their students have fresh fruits and vegetables. Current enrolment is 85% Hispanic, and 12% white, with the remaining two or more races. 29% are English learners, and Union Gap School is the number one district in the state as it relates to students who exit out of the program on a yearly basis. Special Education students are at 13%, and have the highest academic achievement in the State of Washington. Migrants are at 2%, and homeless at 2.1%. Staffing is 39 teachers with an average of 12 years of experience, and over 50% of them have at least a master's degree. The school also has 17 para-professionals. They have one of the lowest student class size ratios in the valley, which is 14 to 1.

Gredvig stated that they are in need of a Facilities Bond because they are currently in a situation where they are unable to house all students in the current gymnasium; they need to restructure the office with safer access points, and need to extend the back of the current building for additional kitchen storage space. The current storage space are outdoor sheds, which require staff to go outside in very cold weather to access supplies.

Gredvig explained that they function with a balanced calendar, which follows quarters and allows for periodic breaks for staff, students and family. The schedule also allows for interventions, or extensions to kids who are highly capable. The most recent program held during the break, which Gredvig was hoping for 20% of the student body to attend, got 41%. The program included robotics, a hiking and outdoor safety class, basketball, math camps, and a volcano research and writing class. Gredvig stated that students commented that they would like those programs to last longer because they really enjoy them. The School also has pre-school programs for 3 and 4 year olds.

Council Member Wentz asked about out-of-district students, and Gredvig replied that there are very few out-of-district students allowed, also explaining that a lot of people do not understand that there are several areas within Union Gap City limits, that are not within the Union Gap School district, but are part of the surrounding School districts. She said she has to explain that quite often to new residents of Union Gap.

Eric Patrick, Grant J. Hunt
Marketing Director

Mayor Hodkinson informed that he invited Eric Patrick to speak due to winning a prestigious award recently. Mr. Patrick explained that he is contracted with the City of Union Gap as the Tourism Director. Patrick said he recently had the great honor of receiving *The Outstanding Marketing Program Award for 2022*, by the WA. State Department of Tourism. The award was for "The Small Town Tourism Chat for Union Gap". Patrick explained how the chat started, and has continued to grow over the years. Patrick stated that the speaker at the conference said the one thing that really stood out to them was the collaboration and community. He said the Union Gap Tourism Chat campaign is reaching out to different Washington

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communities and is helping tourism as a whole throughout the State. Patrick stated that it was a huge honor and thanked the City for allowing them do this.

Public Hearing

2023 Preliminary Budget

At 6:30 p.m. Mayor Hodkinson opened a Public Hearing regarding the 2023 Preliminary Budget. Finance and Administration Director Clifton addressed the Council stating that she had given the Council a packet providing the current budget information, but that staff is still working on it, so the information is very preliminary. Clifton discussed highlights of the information provided. With no written or public testimony, Mayor Hodkinson closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Finance & Administration

Resolution No. – 22-47 –
OIC of Washington Vendor
Agreement for Delinquent
Utility Payment Assistance to
Low-Income Citizens

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to approve Resolution No. – 22-47 – authorizing the Interim City Manager to sign a Vendor Agreement with OIC of Washington, to allow for utility payment assistance to low-income households. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works & Community
Development

Resolution No. – 22-48 – Set
Public Hearing – UGMC
Title 11 Chapter 20 – Fences
on Street Right of Way

Motion by Council Member Wentz, second by Council Member Galloway to approve Resolution No. – 22-48 – setting a public hearing November 14, 2022, to consider amending Union Gap Municipal Code Title 11 Chapter 20 – Fences on Street Right of Way. Motion carried unanimously.

City Council

Resolution No. – 22 – 49
Recommendation of South
Union Gap Bridge Naming

Mayor Hodkinson explained that he was approached by the WA. State Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) in regards to changing the name of the South Union Gap Bridge after the long-time City of Union Gap Council Member, Dan C. Olson. Hodkinson spoke to Mr. Olson’s nephew and he was excited to hear that we are finally going to do something. City Attorney Bronson Brown clarified that it would be a formal recommendation per resolution to WSDOT since they own the bridge, that the City Council agrees with and recommends the naming.

Motion by Council Member Hansen, second by Council Member Schilling to approve Resolution No. – 22-49 – recommending to Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) that the South Union Gap Bridge be named in honor of Dan C. Olson.

Council Member Schilling stated that she thought it was a long time coming, that Dan did a lot of things for the City, she is glad this is happening. Mayor

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Hodkinson stated that Dan was instrumental in the building of the bridge, and that WSDOT said the bridge or the beltway for that matter, would not have been built if it wasn't for Dan pestering them all of the time. The Mayor mentioned that he and Olson played around with different designs, and, it is, basically, Dan's design that is out there.

Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney

Email Disclaimer

City Attorney, Bronson Brown distributed copies of email correspondence and Council Member Hansen's Google search on email disclaimers. He stated that, in response to Council Member Hansen's request, his research found that there is no state requirement that a public employee or Council Member have an email disclaimer at the bottom of their email, but can if they like. Brown provided a couple of examples, including disclaimers stating that the information may be, or is, a public record. Another disclaimer notified people that the email may contain privileged or confidential information and is only attended to go to the addressee's email, which is most common with employees within a police department or legal professions. Council Member Wentz stated that he did not see the need for talking about disclaimers. Schilling replied that she has received emails from people that do not realize the information in the email is subject to public disclosure. Wentz replied that any information sent to a government agency, including a City is public record and should be basic knowledge. Mayor Hodkinson stated that it can be used or not, it is up to the individual. Council Member Hansen stated that it would be a liability if a disclosure were not included on emails. City Attorney Brown explained that it was not a liability. Mayor Hodkinson explained to Council Member Hansen that every text message between them was also subject to public records, regardless if disclaimer is there or not. Council Member Hansen stated that he did not know that.

City Manager Report

Interim City Manager Bounds shared a letter from Sheriff Udell relating to the Crime Lab being voted in, which is a great benefit to the City. For \$6,000 we will be getting some great work from them relating to forensics, instead of waiting for months for results; would like to have Union Gap School Superintendent, Lisa Gredvig back annually for a report on the school; attended the last YVCOG meeting where YCDA showed a presentation of Commercial Development Web application showing available properties throughout the county, with zoning and other layers that will be useful for developers.

Items from the Audience

Helen Canatsey informed Council that they had a very nice book sale, met some nice people, and are very happy with the outcome.

Communications/Questions/
Comments

Council Member Schilling asked if Council Members could receive reminders of upcoming meetings, so if there's a dinner they don't miss it.

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Development of next Agenda None.

Recess to 15 Minute
executive Session


City Attorney Brown requested that the 15 Minute executive session be changed to 10 minutes with no action to follow. Mayor Hodkinson then announced a recess to 10-minute executive session with no action to follow for potential litigation, per RCW 42.30.110(i) at 7:05 p.m. Council Members, City Attorney and Interim City Manager attended.

Adjournment of Meeting

At 7:15 p.m., Mayor Hodkinson reconvened and adjourned the October 24, 2022 regular Council Meeting.


Sharon Bounds, Interim City Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen Clifton, City Clerk

CITY OF UNION GAP
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET

6:00 P.M. - October 24, 2022

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS

NAME (Please Print)	ADDRESS
Helen Canale	Helen Canale
Stephanie Murr	Stephanie Murr
USA Breeding	USA Breeding
Terry Shilling	26 Eagle Crest Dr.
Theresa Chavitt	4th St
Benine McAnnell	Yakima
ERIC PATRICK	YAKIMA