

UNION GAP CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Council Chambers, City Hall
Union Gap, Washington
February 13, 2012

<u>Call to Order</u>	Mayor Lemon called the Regular Meeting of the Union Gap City Council to order at 7:00 p.m.
<u>Council Members Present</u>	Council Members Dan Olson, James Murr, Dave Matson, Roger Wentz, Dave Butler, Chad Lenz and Dan Vanover were present.
<u>Staff Present</u>	Robert Noe, City Attorney; Dennis Henne, Public Works Director; Dave Spurlock, Development Coordinator; Christopher Jensen, Fire Chief; Greg Cobb, Acting Police Chief; Karen Clifton, City Treasurer; and Sherrie Testerman, City Clerk/Executive Assistant were present.
<u>Audience Present</u>	Joshua Murr, Michael Murr, Stephanie Murr, Jo Collier, Tim Whitehurst, Tyler Quantrille, Shane Macias, Aubrey Reeves, Jr., Mark Carney, Dawn Lemon, Jacob Lemon, Maryann Lockhart and others were present.
<u>Pledge of Allegiance</u>	Council Member Matson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
<u>Special Awards Presentation</u>	The Fire Chief presented Life Saver Awards to Captain Tim Whitehurst; Firefighter Tyler Quantrille; Firefighter Shane Macias and Administrative Secretary Jo Collier for their heroic, lifesaving involvement in saving a baby's life on January 24, 2012. Mayor Lemon presented certificates to Lynette Bisconer, Accounts Payable/Payroll Tech for 15 years of service and Robert Almeida, Police Chief for twenty-five years of service to the City.
<u>Consent Agenda</u>	Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Lenz to approve the consent agenda, as follows: Approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated January 23, 2012, as sent out on pages 5337 through 5341 of the Minute Book. Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 81533 through 81561 in the amount of \$378,019.56 dated January 31, 2012 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund. Approve Payroll Vouchers Nos. 40081 through 40136 in the amount of \$113,551.58 dated January 31, 2012 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund. Approve Claim Voucher Nos. 81562 through 81672 in the amount of \$548,610.18 dated February 13, 2012 and transfer from the operating funds to the Claims Fund. Adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2766, an Ordinance that renews a six month moratorium for an additional six months on the filing of applications for development permits licensing for the production, processing or dispensing of cannabis or cannabis products within the City limits; declaring an emergency; requiring a public hearing be set; establishing an effective date; and providing for severability. Adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2765, an Ordinance amending the 2011 Budget transferring \$21,000 from the Crime Prevention Assessment Fund and \$10,000 from the Criminal Justice Fund to the Current Expense Fund to pay for unbudgeted jail costs.

Adopt Resolution No. 981, a Resolution declaring miscellaneous Union Gap Fire Department Equipment surplus and authorizing its disposal. The equipment is listed in Attachment “A” of the resolution.

Adopt Resolution No. 980, a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement to extend the expiration date on the Falcon Video Communications, L.P. (Chapter Communications Franchise Agreement) to September 8, 2012.

Adopt Resolution No. 982, a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an amendment to the 2012 Interlocal Agreement between Wapato and Union Gap for jail services.

Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Public Hearing –
Washington Plaza
Binding Site Plan

At 7:09 p.m., Mayor Lemon opened the closed Public Hearing on the Washington Plaza Binding Site Plan. He advised there will be no new testimony taken in the hearing.

The Development Coordinator reported on January 11, 2012 a public hearing was held on the Washington Plaza Binding Site Plan. The Public Hearing Examiner has recommended approval of the site plan with conditions.

The Development Coordinator distributed the Washington Plaza Binding Site Plan for Council review.

Council Member Olson asked if the size of the lots will float.

The Development Coordinator explained there are some structures represented on the site plan, which may fluctuate some. However, the parcel lines represented on the plan will stay the same.

At 7:13 p.m., Mayor Lemon closed the Public Hearing on the Washington Plaza Binding Site Plan.

Resolution No. 983 –
Authorizing the Mayor
to Sign the Washington
Plaza Binding Site Plan

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to approve Resolution No. 983, a Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Public Works Director, Development Coordinator and City Treasurer to sign the Washington Plaza Binding Site Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2764 –
Amending UGMC
17.08 Signs

Council Member Wentz commented that the amendments to the UGMC Signs Ordinance seems like it gives a lot of discretion to the Development Coordinator in permitting Off-Premises Signs. He explained his concern is that it could lead to potential litigation by granting one sign application and not another.

The City Attorney explained the ordinance basically Prohibits Off Premises signs. This amendment will provide flexibility in unique situations such as tourism destination type of signs. The amendment provides some leeway for the Development Coordinator to make some discretionary calls on the criteria of the location of these unique types of signs. He further explained if there is a sign application denied there is an appeal process, which the appellant can argue the issue. He stated he does not see a liability issue due to the appeal provisions.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Lenz to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2764, an Ordinance amending the UGMC, Chapter 17.08 Signs by amending existing sections 17.08.020 and 17.08.150(H) and adding a new Section 17.08.125 addressing Off-Premises Signs. Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 2763 –
Providing City Health
Benefits for Elected
Mayor’s Position,
Recognizing Mayor’s
Position as Full-time

Mayor Lemon asked the Council to consider providing City health benefits for the elected Mayor’s position. He explained last Summer; employees were stating that they were sick due to City Hall being a sick building. City Hall was tested and it was found that only the Mayor’s office had high levels of toxic mold spores, which could have been the cause of nearly dying last year. He explained this is not an unreasonable request because the Mayor’s position is a full-time position. He explained the Council has decided not to fund a City Administrator position and the Mayor no longer has an Executive Assistant, which is funded in the Executive Fund. He stated he is not asking for a pay raise and it does not increase the cost for filing for the Mayor’s position; it is a benefit for a full-time position.

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Murr to adopt and publish Ordinance No. 2763, an Ordinance recognizing the demands placed upon the position of Mayor and understanding the entitlement of coverage under the City of Union Gap’s health, vision, and dental plans for the elected Mayor’s position. Roll Call: Council Members Wentz, Murr and Matson voted yes; Council Members Olson, Butler, Lenz and Vanover voted no. Passage of Ordinance No. 2763 failed 4 to 3.

Staffing for Adequate
Fire and Emergency
Response Grants

The Fire Chief requested that Council consider authorizing him to submit a grant for Staffing and Adequate Fire & Emergency Response through FEMA.

Council Member Vanover questioned the amount that the City would have to match.

The Fire Chief explained there have been changes in this year’s grant which requires no matching fund criteria and there is no carry-over of the employee beyond the two year performance of the grant. He stated last year the City applied and the City was in the final review but did not achieve it. This is a highly competitive grant and hopefully the City will achieve it this year.

Council Member Wentz stated he does have concerns of absorbing the staffing costs after the two year period and putting a strain on the City’s budget.

The Fire Chief explained the City no longer has the Automatic Aid with Yakima, which has put a strain on the department. Losing the Automatic Aid with Yakima put Union Gap Fire Department in the position of making strategic decisions or looking at a service level reduction.

Council Member Olson explained this just authorizes the Fire Chief to apply for the grant it does not mean we have to accept it.

Motion by Council Member Vanover, seconded by Council Member Wentz to authorize the Fire Chief to complete and submit a competitive grant for Staffing and Adequate Fire & Emergency response through FEMA. Two separate grant proposals will be required to be submitted to cover two separate staffing models. Motion carried unanimously.

Pre-Hospital
Participation Grant for
Fire Department

Motion by Council Member Wentz, seconded by Council Member Lenz to authorize the Fire Chief to complete and submit a grant for certain emergency medical service equipment. The grant is available through the Department of Health Trauma Care Fund for the amount of \$1,520. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Assigned
Police Vehicle Program

The Acting Police Chief gave a report on the cost savings of the assigned vehicle fleet in comparison to a pool fleet.

Council Member Wentz commended the Acting Police Chief on the report he prepared providing the benefits of the assigned police vehicle program. He asked for a cost analysis concerning usage of fuel for the Vehicle Take Home Program.

The Acting Police Chief explained the program began in 2007 and a lot of the purchase orders for fuel costs were not available going back to 2007. He explained there is a 20 mile limit for the take home vehicle program (20 miles outside City Limits). He explained the assigned vehicle program and take home vehicle program is one in the same. He explained the vehicle take home program provides benefits such as quicker response time and decentralizes the departments' equipment in case of an emergency. He stated it is costly to begin a vehicle take home program and the City has met those costs. The City needs to maintain the vehicle schedule replacement cycle by purchasing two cars per year. He explained even though there are additional costs in the commute to and from; overall the benefits of this program drastically outweigh the costs.

Discuss Concept of
Building RV Parking
Spaces at Ahtanum
Youth Park

Council Member Murr discussed the concept of building RV spaces at Ahtanum Youth Park to make the park self-sustaining. He explained KOA went out of business and Sportmans Park is the only park that offers RV parking spaces. He explained if the RV spaces were built it would bring in more events and increase revenue for the City.

Council Member Vanover asked if he had any idea of what the cost would be to build the RV spaces.

The Public Works Director explained before Union Gap took over the Ahtanum Youth Park, Yakima County did prepare plans to design an RV Park. He explained there will be costs involved such as power, sewer, water, lighting, and possibly security fencing. He suggested reviewing Yakima County Plans to save costs. He stated that he would work with Council Member Murr and the Park Board.

Council Member Olson advised concrete pads will need to be laid for each RV space.

Council Member Matson stated the idea of building RV spaces at the park is a good idea.

Development of Next
Agenda – February 13,
2012

There were no items for the February 13, 2012 agenda.

Items from the
Audience

John Hodkinson, Jr. stated he had questions concerning Ordinance No. 2764 – amending UGMC 17.08 Signs and would have liked the opportunity to present those questions before it was passed.

Mayor Lemon directed the Development Coordinator to meet with John Hodkinson, Jr. to answer his questions concerning Ordinance No. 2764.

Departmental Reports

Mayor Lemon informed the following reports are in the packet and questioned if the Council has any questions of the departments Tourism Promoter Report, New Businesses Report, Tax Revenue reports and Fire Department Staff Report.

Council Member Olson asked what the status is on the 12th Avenue project.

The Public Works Director stated that the 12th Avenue project is still under

environmental review.

Council Member Wentz asked when will the E. Washington Avenue and 18th Street Pavement Preservation project begin.

The Public Works Director explained the schedule on this project begins May 2012.

Mayor Lemon announced that he met with Fred Bruning CEO of CenterCal and was asked to make an announcement about the good news of what will be going in on the new pad next to JC Penny's. He stated that the tentative date for the announcement is this February 16, 2012.

Adjourn Meeting

At 7:46 p.m, Mayor Lemon adjourned the Regular Council Meeting.

These minutes dated February 13, 2012 was approved at the Regular Council Meeting of February 27, 2012.

Jim Lemon, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherrie Testerman, City Clerk