

UNION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.
Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilor Leslie McMillan, Councilor Brian McDowell, Councilor Jay Blackburn, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Matthew Later, Councilor John Farmer excused, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Student Liaison Emilee Freeman, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

Mayor Flint stated that another item needs to be added, it will be 6c. Vouchers. There was not any public comment on agenda items.

Under correspondence CA Wiggins stated the deer issue is the only correspondence we have gotten.

Under old business was listing the Ranger Station as a historic site. Councilor Later briefly reviewed what was discussed in the previous regular meeting on this topic. Council began discussing the standards for listing the Ranger Station as an historic site. Gary Graham stated we provided this info to the city already. Staff, Council, and Gary Graham discussed the limitations of the program. Councilor Later motioned to approve the application. Councilor McDowell second. Councilor Blackburn asked if the building can be demolished. CA Wiggins answered yes, you can but the historic preservation committee has to approve of it. Motion passed 4 yes votes and 1 no vote from Councilor Blackburn.

Next, on new business, the first item was to elect a Council President for the 2020 calendar year. Councilor Later and Councilor Hawkins were nominated. Council unanimously nominated Councilor Hawkins. Councilor Hawkins was then unanimously voted as new Council President for the 2020 calendar year. Mayor Flint thanked Councilor Later for his hard work. He also thanked Councilor Hawkins.

On the next item Mayor Flint appointed a working committee for a deer study. He gave the committee questions to answer: Is this a city issue? If it is, we need a study of cultural, environmental, agricultural, and economic impacts to the city. The liaison will be Councilor McDowell. We would like a diverse group, meaning those who like the town deer and those who don't.

Under the next agenda item was Resolution 2020-01 Budget Adjustment Ranger Station. CA Wiggins stated a few employees got paid out of this fund that shouldn't be paid out of that. It doesn't change the budget; it just corrects my errors. I forgot to change the software during the transition. Councilor Later motioned to approve the resolution. Councilor Hawkins second. Motion passed with 5 yes votes.

The next item under new business was Resolution 2020-02 Budget Adjustment Library. CA Wiggins stated we received a grant from the Read to Read Program and I need approval to add it to the budget line. Councilor Later motioned to approve the resolution. Councilor Hawkins second. Motion passed with 5 votes.

The final item under new business was discussing a date to hold a Goal Setting Session. After a brief discussion Council decided to hold the session on February 24, 2020 starting at 6 p.m. The work session was canceled for this date.

The next agenda item was the consent agenda. The minutes for December 9, 2019 meetings and December 2019 vouchers were listed. Councilor Later motioned to approve, Councilor McMillan second. After approval, Councilor McDowell stated an error with the work session minutes, it should be carrying capacity. CA Wiggins stated it would be corrected.

The next item was any updates on the City Council Working Committees. Under Police Services CA Wiggins stated there is a COPS grant, and we can apply with the sheriff's office. It will allow us to have one permanent officer in the City of Union. You have to have the officer for five years; the first three years are paid for with the grant. The last two years would have to be paid by the sheriff's office and the city. It wouldn't start until October 1st of this year if we get the grant.

On Rural/City Fire and EMS CA Wiggins stated the meeting was canceled for December and we need to get a new one set up. I just got some bids on a new fire hall, the bids are coming in about \$600,000, I am trying to get grants as well.

Under Economic Development, Councilor McMillan stated we are going to take a survey through the newsletter, hopefully that will be in March. We are going to have a training in the Main Street Program in March on surveys, and we would like to have a volunteer day on April 25th, 2020 to work on Main Street and spruce it up. The next meeting is on January 20th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Lastly, on the City Charter update, Mayor Flint stated we have been reviewing the Charter and we are making progress.

On the next agenda item, informational items, CA Wiggins stated our transfer between banking institutions is almost complete. We are still working out kinks.

Next, on the Buffalo Flats update, Aaron Bliesner 559 Dearborn Union, stated we are early in this process. This is an example of the 15% mark on designs. He passed two concept design books to Council for review. This is just phase 1 of 2 phases, of the Southern Cross. We have had two meetings in December 2019, and we had another meeting on January 7th. The informational meeting is January 30th, 2020 from 6 to 8 pm at the Miller Gym. We hope that you will help spread the word about the informational meeting to the public. The design engineers will talk about the project. We will be looking at cost estimates on the highway redesign this next month.

Under the City Administrator/Public Works Report, CA Wiggins stated we are progressing with renovations at the ranger station. I have been working with an architectural group and we are working on becoming bid ready for the electrical and plumbing. They are drawing up plans, the quote is \$2500 which is a good price. On the water/sewer we had some mishaps at the plant, we

got those cleaned, there won't be any fines from the DEQ. We are having issues with the lighting along the path at the park. Paul is researching new lights for the park path. There are grants to help with that.

Finally, under public comment, Terra Richter 101 E Bryan Union, stated we have shared the Buffalo Flats informational meeting on our websites, we have had a lot of questions about this, is this going to be voted on or handled by the government.

Mayor Flint answered no, that is why we requested the informational meeting. This is a private owner, working with tribes, and no, the public won't vote on it. It is a thing that is being looked at for fish recovery and land modification.

Terra asked what are our steps in rebuttal.

Mayor Flint answered I think the first step is to find out what is happening exactly. It does touch the city property line and I understand the citizens' concerns on this matter.

Terra asked is there a way to fight against it.

Mayor Flint answered what is the possibility of happening.

Councilor Hawkins stated if you are asking if we have control over this, no we don't, what has control over this sits back there.

Terra stated as a property owner what can we do.

Mayor Flint answered attend the informational meeting.

Aaron Bliesner stated my contact information is on everything, have these people call me. I have a lot of literature to share.

The final item on tonight's agenda was upcoming meetings and suggestions. Councilor Hawkins asked that the water/sewer automatic rate increase be added to the agenda.

This meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins