

UNION CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING SESSION MINUTES
February 24, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St. Union, OR 97883

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilor Leslie McMillan, Councilor Brian McDowell arrived at 6:03 p.m., Councilor Jay Blackburn arrived at 6:01 p.m., Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Student Liaison Emilee Freeman arrived at 6:02 p.m., and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

To begin the goal setting staff and Council went over last year's goals on the Charter, economic development, police services, and rural fire and EMS.

We have made progress on economic development, police, and the charter.

The goal was to come up with a long-term solution on police. Part of that solution is trying to get the grant and see if that will help us afford contracts with the sheriff. That grant is due March 11th. The grant pays \$125,000 over three years. It is used to fund one police officer for three years and then we have to fund the fourth year of the contract. The sheriff would like to fund at 50% on the fourth year.

Council discussed the deputy and hours worked. CA Wiggins stated I think we have met the goal of finding a long-term solution, if a new sheriff is elected this year it may change the whole game. I am talking to the candidates about the grant.

CA Wiggins stated on Fire/EMS I think that one failed, we struggled with negotiations on terms and conditions. Everything was rejected, and they never came back to the table to negotiate.

They just flat out pushed it aside. Councilor Hawkins stated I think communications failed. We need to talk to the whole group.

Councilor McDowell stated we need to make sure to have a fallback position.

CA Wiggins stated I think there was a change of heart as well.

Mayor Flint stated I think we will try and work that out. I think we should allot money for plan B. Be thinking about which item you would like to work on.

Council and staff discussed Economic Development and that it has made huge strides, I think the development just didn't provide short- and long-term goals. They would like to see Economic Development continue. They have made a lot of progress.

We need to refocus the group. Identify and achieve goals that are identified. Need to narrow to the core things and focus on those. We don't want this group to burn out. Council and staff clarify what the liaison does. Council clarifies how to work on these goals better.

CA Wiggins stated we wanted to get the corrections on the Charter on the election this year. I talked to Robin Church and we need to get a title to her by August and the rest turned in by September of this year. Hopefully, if we get it to it tonight. We have to hold a public hearing and advertise it. I think we are good on the Charter and it is close to ready to go.

Council discussed adding a part time grant writer to the staff and to look at reserving budget money to do so.

After writing down ideas on sticky notes Council discussed and added these short- and long-term goals for this year.

Short term going forward 2020-2021: Charter, Councilor Hawkins & Councilor McDowell and Fire/EMS- budget consideration.

Their Long Term going forward 2020-2021: Develop goals, costs on Ranger Station, Councilor Farmer; City Park, budget consideration, support the student effort to develop a plan for city park to go along with a green way/ walking path along Catherine Creek, develop a four year plan, budget consideration, Councilor Hawkins and Councilor Blackburn; on Economic Development, take the lead in the community and develop long and short term goals, connect organizations throughout the city, Councilor McMillan and Councilor McDowell.

Below lists out the new goals Council discussed:

New goal ideas

Ranger Station

City Park the Ford Foundation has been trying to get student interest to reshape the park within four years. It kind of fizzled out last year, they did a survey on what they would like to see improvements on like park benches, park shelters, playground. The survey also asked what people would want to see added like a splash park or a walkway. Council may be able to help with match funds.

Tourism

Growth- make Union more attractive so people will move here

Walking path along Catherine Creek

Housing

Update Ordinances- Weeds and absent owners of business in downtown district

Rules and Regulations for Council meetings- for Councilors- absences

Develop a strategic plan

Complete community assessment- assets and strengths

Connect different organizations

Ranger Station has been discussed, it will probably be a 3 to 5-year expenditure, we need a written plan. We need to put it in the budget.

Dick Middleton 10th Street stated you have homeowners that don't keep up their lots either.

In summary the goals for the coming year were laid out as follows:

Short Term:

Charter: Complete revisions with goal to get into the November elections.
August 15 deadline to have title to the County clerk.

Fire/EMS: Another attempt at negotiations with rural board on combining City and Rural fire as one entity. Otherwise begin working on a plan B.

Ordinances: Weeds and absent business owners.

Rules: Council decorum and procedures rules.

Long Term:

Ranger Station: Develop the long-term costs, vision, and plans to the development of the Ranger Station.

City Park: Work with the high school students in developing their vision with the city park and follow through on the park projects and complimenting services. Begin the process and plan for the trails project from the City park through 10th Street.

Economic Development: *Complete a community assessment identifying the strengths and assets of the community.
 *Tourism draws to the area.
 *Growth in population.
 *Housing in Union.
 *Work towards the development of a strategic plan

Work Sessions- Housing derelict places, update ordinances, adopt Council Rules and Regulations.

Mayor Flint asked Council to make notes and be prepared for the next work session to work on the Charter and adjourned the meeting.

This meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins