

UNION CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday, February 10, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.
Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883

This meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

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

Marty McKeon asked Council about being able to ask questions or comment during work sessions. Council discussed this and the consensus was that a small amount of discussion and questions has been allowed during work sessions and this will continue.

The first item on tonight's agenda was the Union School District's interest in property located behind City Hall. CA Wiggins stated that Carter Wells the District's Super Intendent approached him about a possible purchase of the city owned land behind City Hall for a new math program.

Carter Wells stated that they have been given an opportunity to update their math program for the high school. This program helps students apply math in real world building projects. A math teacher and a contractor will teach the math and apply it to a project like building a shed or playground. The school has received a grant to be able to do this and state tax will pay for the staff. We currently have a metal shop behind city hall, and we would like to expand it to make a wood shop.

The sooner the better on this we are running a trial in the physics class this spring and would like to build the wood shop over the summer.

Council asked CA Wiggins what the buildings current use is for the city. CA Wiggins answered storage mostly. There are books, file cabinets, and grassroots stuff in there. We can move that stuff and have it emptied soon. We have been looking at buying another facility so that will help us if we sell this building.

Mr. Wells stated that the school is very excited to get this going and it will improve math scores. Thank you for your time.

Council decided to put it on the regular meeting agenda.

The second item on tonight's agenda was the Charter Review. CA Wiggins stated he put together a copy of the Charter with all comments and changes for a full review. I did consult our attorney and state law to make sure it complied.

Council discussed the city elections section again. Council decided to read through it again and come back with final notes.

Dick Middleton 10th Street stated that he doesn't want the election process that has been discussed but wants the old election process back and to eliminate seat numbers.

Marty McKeon asked if it costs money for elections.

Council discussed that elections costs may go up if there are two elections and the difference in the election process.

Gary Graham stated it's like a false choice. Then there is a person expense, and the number of votes should take care of it.

Council discussed consulting the old Charter and the League of Oregon Cities for more information. They also discussed what the method would be to educate the people before the election on the Charter changes.

The third item on tonight's agenda was the ATV draft ordinance 560 review. CA Wiggins and Council discussed the complications of requiring a driver's license for those who are disabled and use ATV's as their transportation. They can't obtain a license and therefore cannot be insured. Our insurance company stated that requiring a driver's license is a must, otherwise we assume liability.

We have a current ordinance, but it hasn't been enforced. The current procedure is to take a complaint from a citizen, our ordinance officer investigates it and issues warnings or tickets. If a ticket is issued, then it would go to court.

Council asked about the ATV class and golf carts.

CA Wiggins answered the ATV class is for off road purposes not in town use. Golf carts are covered under state statute for use within city limits. Council discussed a bond to help cover the city and to read through ordinance again then come back and discuss.

The last item on tonight's agenda was the Water/Sewer Figures, code provided for clarification. Council had a brief discussion on the history of the 2.5% increase and asked about the rate study. CA Wiggins answered he is working on getting it started.

This meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: _____

Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____

City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins