

**UNION CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**Monday, May 11, 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, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Terra Richter, Student Liaison Emilee Freeman, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

The first item on tonight's agenda was a discussion about the property the school showed interest in. Mayor Flint stated I wanted to toss out a thought, I was thinking about allowing them to have the property if they move the building that is currently on the property to our new property. This is just a discussion on the idea.

Councilor Blackburn asked has anyone been in touch recently? Mayor Flint answered no. Councilor Farmer asked about giving them the property in exchange for moving the building. Mayor Flint and Councilor Farmer discuss moving the building to the new city property. Councilor Hawkins stated in the current climate we are in right now; everyone is losing money and has less. The idea of this is reasonable. A lot of people are being kinder during this time, I think this will send a positive message out there.

Councilor Farmer and Councilor Hawkins discussed the money that the school is losing. Mayor Flint stated it is projected that there will be a 17% reduction in budgets statewide. I believe in hands on education, it would be better for the community.

CA Wiggins stated ODOT signed the deed over to us already so we have acquired new land for the building to be moved to.

Councilor Blackburn stated the projection is 17% reduction, I think this could be bigger. It is at least \$600,000 cuts next year. Councilor McDowell stated everything is a projection right now, I think we will recover better than the projections, I am not in favor of giving away stuff. If we want to switch posture, can it be incorporated even with the budget cuts.

CA Wiggins stated the other part we are given ground by the state at no charge, we were looking at it as we don't want to come off greedy, when the school can benefit from it.

Councilor McDowell stated just make sure that the school can execute the program.

Mayor Flint and Councilor Farmer discuss the reasons why the idea to donate the land came up, and why it is a good idea. Council discussed the properties, and new factors that have come up since this was first discussed.

Councilor Blackburn stated what if the city retains property with a lease for a certain amount, to move forward with the program.

Mayor Flint stated I don't like the idea of making the city a land lord, it is too much trouble. We were just asking for guidance should we get to proceed with negotiations.

Councilor Farmer stated I feel we should have public comment on the giving away public property, I don't think this is a bad thing, but what will I say to the citizens.

CA Wiggins stated when I talked to Mr. Wells, the superintendent about it, he said they would try to move the building and if they couldn't they would just cash out the cash value of the building. Given the situation, they were going to ask to use the building until they can afford to add on to thier building.

Mayor Flint stated all of those details would apart of the negotiations.

CA Wiggins and Council discussed different things that would be a part of negotiations.

Dick Middleton 575 10<sup>th</sup> Street asked can we do some write off for donating that.

CA Wiggins answered no write offs because we are a non-profit and don't file taxes.

Councilor Richter stated I like the idea of supporting the school and program and I think it is a good option, if we are being given acreage, it is a good thing to also give something we have.

Councilor McMillan stated I am not sure what to say, I am still thinking.

Councilor Blackburn stated I think it is a great opportunity to work with the school, I am hoping the school can do it, I would like to hope the city will help the school make it happen.

Mayor Flint stated that helps us with further negotiations.

The last item on tonight's agenda was the Charter Review. Councilor Hawkins began discussing the attorney recommendations. CA Wiggins stated I will update that with Bold writing and strike through.

Councilor Hawkins read recommendations from the city attorney.

CA Wiggins stated I think they shouldn't be an employee at all, it could create a conflict of interest there.

Mayor Flint asked how would that impact volunteer work. CA Wiggins answered they are not employees.

Councilor McDowell stated I agree with those recommendations.

Councilor Hawkins continued reading attorney recommendations.

Council discussed changing language about how the city court runs. They suggested changing the hours, or striking that sentence.

Council will continue on Section 27 at the next work session.

This meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins