

UNION CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Monday June 8, 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 excused, Councilor Brian McDowell excused, Councilor Jay Blackburn, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Terra Richter, Student Liaison Emilee Freeman excused, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

The first item on tonight's agenda was discussion on the Water/Wastewater rate study project. CA Wiggins stated the city has a grant to complete a rate study in the water and sewer departments. I put out a request for proposals and we received two bids. One is from FCS Group which is from the West side of Oregon, the other is based in North Carolina and is called Pioneer Consulting Group. They scored really well when we went over their proposals with Anderson and Perry. Pioneer is a one man show, he has done only 200 of these. He does specialize in smaller communities; Pioneer scored the highest. We really like his presentation. I did a reference check, two of them have additional business with him. His sources checked out and highly regarded him. Anderson and Perry and I recommend Pioneer Consulting.

FCS only wanted to do zoom meetings, Pioneer will actually physically come here. We liked the personal service, and his cost is less than the other. I can answer any questions. I got an email from Councilor McDowell he supported FCS Group and liked them better. Mayor Flint stated I like Pioneer better.

Council discussed that FCS will only give two other alternatives for rate structure, whereas Pioneer will give many, many, more options for rate structure. Councilor Richter stated I think I like that he will be here physically.

Council also discussed that Pioneer has ideas for low income, and those who can't pay their bills. Councilor Blackburn asked about the cost. CA Wiggins answered we have a grant for this, but it will cost the city about \$4,500. Councilor Blackburn stated I think it's good he will come and see the system, that will be very helpful, it is hard to design something you haven't seen.

The next item on tonight's agenda was the Charter review with comments and suggestions from the city attorney. CA Wiggins stated I sent the Charter back to the city attorney after our last meeting. I just got it back today with her comments and suggestions. The only thing she wanted to say was under Ch7 sec 33, we should break that out into its own separate section. The last page, she put what she thinks it should say. She is ready when we are to put the final together and have two public hearings, and then we are ready to go for the ballot. It will be presented with bold letters for the additions and changes, strike out will be what is removed.

Next, Council discussed Coy Wilde's interest in purchasing city property. CA Wiggins stated there is information in the back of your packet, Mr. Wilde has been very interested in some property behind the fire department, he has been asking if that property was for sale. After looking at it there isn't really much need for the city to own that property. Coy Wilde is offering

to purchase it and join it to his property. He doesn't have access to his lot from the highway, this would allow him to access his property.

Technically, we would have to go through public bid. That would be the only caveat to it. I don't know who else would want it. It does have a lot of trees and problems, that is why he offered what he did. It would get liability away from us.

Council, Mr. Wilde, and staff discussed the purpose of the property, putting out advertisements for public bid, and the hazardous trees that need to be cut down.

Dick Middleton 575 10th Street asked is the property owner interested? Will he be notified? CA Wiggins answered yes, he will be notified. Middleton stated he may want to increase his lot size.

Council, staff, Mr. Wilde, and Mr. Middleton discussed the property possibilities and the proper public bidding process. Mayor Flint thanked everyone and said there is a lot for Council to think about.

The last item on tonight's agenda was the Rural Fire/City Fire; Merger vs Taxing District. Mayor Flint read a letter from Rural Fire for the record. They are doing research to see what options will work better.

This meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins