

UNION CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday August 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 6:20 p.m., Councilor Jay Blackburn, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Terra Richter, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

Coy Wilde has a medical condition and can't wear a mask.

Mayor Flint stated for informational purposes please be aware of the fire danger and check your property for things that may cause a large fire and try to take care of it now. There are a lot of large fires going on right now.

The first item on tonight's agenda was the water and sewer rate study. CA Wiggins stated we are trying to get direction from Council on which direction to go. There will be a full presentation on September 21, 2020 on this and I just like to give you all updates as this progresses. We have been discussing our bigger users like the school and hotel do we want to charge for actual usage or make a flat rate for the larger meters? This is where we need Council input.

Council discussed different buildings and places and who uses more in order to help them understand the flat rate versus charging for usage. Council also discussed the vacation rate and if it applies to the school and stock show grounds. Council discussed discouraging people watering because of increased rates.

The next item on tonight's agenda was the Union County Sheriff's Office contract for law enforcement. CA Wiggins stated our city attorney is working hard with the county attorney to get a draft contract ready for review and you should have that shortly.

Mayor Flint stated that it came out in the media that a contract was signed and that isn't true, we are still in negotiations.

Then, Council discussed the property behind city hall. CA Wiggins stated I am waiting on the city attorney to draw up a contract, the school is looking forward to proceeding with taking over the property.

Mayor Flint stated we will now discuss the surplus property sale. CA Wiggins stated you have two maps in your packet to show you what we are dealing with. The sale of the property could cause serious issues for the homeowner on the neighboring lot. The city attorney is looking into this with me and we will have future discussions about this. Council discussed the issues they see on the map. Council continued to discuss the public roads and lot lines that have been missed. Council also discussed the need to keep an easement there and the problems that can arise from the actual lot lines.

Coy Wilde stated I talked to the other landowner and then he came in and talked to Doug. I just want to point out these maps are a little wrong, and the building that was there was existing for a

long time and was added onto. I discussed the city doing a partition to ease his costs and we also discussed right of way with the other landowner.

Council continued to discuss easements and partitions and the issues with the current lot layouts and lines.

Dick Middleton 10th Street stated that property was owned by one person, I can't remember who, Titus owned it. That driveway has been there forever. My opinion is either partition it and keep our easement for the water line, or vacate it and split it between the property owners. Titus was nice enough to give us the property and that driveway has always been there; the current owner should get to keep it.

Coy Wilde and Council discussed easements, right of way, on the tax lots in question. They also discussed insurance and liability.

Next, was the weed ordinance discussion. CA Wiggins stated I have not progressed with this but we have so much going on already, we will eventually address this with the city attorney.

Dick Middleton stated the other day I was driving around and I about ran a stop sign because of tree limbs blocking the sign. The trees need to be trimmed.

The last item on tonight's agenda was COVID-19 updates and LOC Conference. Mayor Flint stated I watched it and was more confused after it was over. This is a frustrating thing with the lack of ability to make decisions. CA Wiggins stated we will open City Hall on September 1, 2020. We have another reimbursement coming up and that will continue until December 2020. Mayor Flint stated there is an LOC virtual conference in October and I encourage the Council to attend. We should coordinate with CA Wiggins.

This meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins