

UNION CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday, December 14, 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 absent, Councilor Jay Blackburn, Councilor Brian McDowell excused, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Terra Richter, Student Liaison Riley Later excused, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

Coy Wilde has a medical condition and will not be wearing a mask.

The first item on tonight's agenda will be Willard Bertrand regarding the Charter. CA Wiggins stated Willard Bertrand wanted to talk to us about the Charter, he wanted to address those issues along with enforcing the Charter from the municipal judge. Mr. Bertrand stated I have been Mayor before and it is a tough job. We were trying to put water meters in and the Council didn't want to vote. Then there were problems getting RFP's. Without these Charter changes we would have put in water meters without a vote which would have caused more problems.

Mr. Bertrand referred to clause 51 in the City Charter. Council asks Bertrand questions about the supposed violation. Mr. Bertrand then talks through his checklist to make sure that things are followed legally. CA Wiggins reminds Mr. Bertrand that ordinance dictates water and sewer rate increases.

Councilor Richter said I think your problem is garbage.

Councilor Blackburn stated you understand how this works. I do appreciate transparency and we were transparent. The stuff you put forth was outlandish to the people. This was a slap in the face. I realize we did it wrong but we can work it out and you did go behind our back.

Councilor Hawkins said for two years it was an announcement in the water and sewer newsletter. You put a sign out that stated 4 things misled the public, their taxes would be raised. What number raises the taxes? Mr. Bertrand answered the indebtedness clause.

Councilor Hawkins stated that is not the taxes, your statement on that sign was wrong. The second statement, it would take away voter's rights. It led to a conclusion that was untrue, if you want integrity, you can't lead people to the false items you stated. We discussed the indebtedness up to 5% and we cut that in half. If you had come to the meetings, we could have talked about that percentage rate. You are still trying to mislead the public.

Mr. Bertrand asked Council to look at amending the Charter to allow persecution for violating the Charter.

Mayor Flint stated I will not answer that tonight but it will be taken into consideration. Now Council needs to move on with the agenda.

The next item on tonight's agenda was the Sheriff's report. CA Wiggins stated he has come early to give his report because he is on duty. Daniel Johnson said I have been able to be patrol for Union since November 4th. I have a lot to learn. I have lived here for 13 years. We had break ins

at the golf course. I did help with the investigation of it. The most traffic stops I have done are for U-turns on the state highway.

Councilor Hawkins stated I just wanted to thank you for patrolling our city as a whole.

Councilor Richter said your presence is noticed. Thank you. Council asked a question about the hours worked and response from the sheriff's office.

Officer Johnson stated the sheriff's office is on call 24 hours a day.

Councilor Blackburn said thank you we are glad to have you on board. A huge benefit to the city.

Officer Johnson stated I enjoy the questions from kids why things work this way.

Council thanked him for his time.

The next item for discussion was upcoming new business, three resolutions- Councilor Blackburn asked these are things we don't have already. CA Wiggins answered no, we start establishing the things that are needed.

The last item discussed tonight was the Water Rate Study update. CA Wiggins stated we put more numbers together for you based on your concerns. You can see we are trying to save, there is not a lot of difference between the different tiers. Councilor Blackburn and Wiggins talk about the \$6 water project fee is already included in these figures. They also discussed the projects that will have to be finished for the charge to go away.

Council and staff discuss where the project fees go and why they are needed. CA Wiggins also explained projects didn't get completed because of COVID and other projects that ended up taking priority. Transparency is a top priority with everything to do with water and sewer.

Council and staff also discussed the ordinance of automatic increase. They also discussed the new break down and they appreciated the detailed breakdown for understanding the proposed changes in the study.

They also discussed rate increases that would happen and figuring out how much that would be. This will take research.

Coy Wilde stated there are 4 meters in town you will lose revenue off of. \$7,500 lost revenue. Maybe perhaps doing irrigation only meter so people can water their lawns affordably.

This meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins