

UNION CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday, December 28, 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, Councilor Jay Blackburn excused, Mayor Leonard Flint, Councilor Susan Hawkins, Councilor John Farmer, Councilor Terra Richter, Student Liaison Riley Later, and City Administrator Doug Wiggins.

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

The first item added to tonight's agenda by Mayor Flint was City Council Goal Setting meeting. He asked Council to book a tentative Goal Setting Meeting for January 15th or January 16, 2021.

The second item Mayor Flint added was interviewing Brian McDowell's replacement. Mayor Flint said Brian is resigning, we will be taking applications for a new City Councilor. Hopefully, at the work session on January 25th we can complete interviews and have them in office in February.

The next item was updates on the City Surplus sale of Real property. CA Wiggins stated the school took over utilities, no other updates. I will reach out again and try to get some answers.

Next, was the water rate study update. CA Wiggins said we will be getting a final report with no allowance, and minimum charge and just paying for what you use. He's almost got it done and should be in by the end of this week. We can add that into our goal session and implementing new water rate structure. Council discussed the process of implementing the new water and sewer rate structure per Charter and law. Councilor Richter wants the public to have input. Mayor Flint we have to have something to present. We have been going over this for three years, now we have to create a proposal. Then we take public comments on the proposal.

Mayor Flint stated we will skip the weed ordinance and Charter. I would like to discuss these at the goal setting session.

The last item on tonight's agenda was the COVID-19 Update. Mayor Flint said we had a Mayor's conference call, the Commissioner updated us on the grants, there was 51 applications and 50 were approved.

Council and staff discussed the grant program, and that 11 businesses got grant money. Councilor Farmer what is our projected lock down for the city? Can we move forward? Mayor Flint answered it is complicated, businesses are accountable for OSHA, Food and Safety, and OLCC. There are also insurance concerns along with this as well. It is not an easy issue. The bright side is the number of cases is going down. There is a good likelihood we will drop down a tier from the extreme risk to high risk.

CA Wiggins stated the city has no way of enforcing anything, everyone is following state guidelines.

Councilor Farmer said I think we need to figure a way out of this, because if we don't it will all be destroyed. I understand rules and regulations and I think we are being taken advantage of. Councilor McMillan stated I agree with that.

Councilor Farmer said serious frustration is starting to mount in the community. Council and staff all discussed that this isn't the city doing this to them. Mayor Flint said I think that it is important that they know it is the state guidelines. I am frustrated for the citizens for this town. CA Wiggins said we post the guidelines from the state, we haven't turned businesses in.

Councilor Hawkins stated I think it would be helpful to hear from the businesses and how they are doing, let us know what your feelings are. I don't understand why Walmart can be open but not a small business in a small town. Mayor Flint said all of our businesses are hurting and our population is hurting. I am extremely upset with our representatives; we can't ruin the economy over a perceived threat, or over what might happen. We can voice our concerns but I don't think they will be addressed.

CA Wiggins stated I think the small cities are trying to make a push. Mayor Flint said there are things under discussion between Mayor's about this. I haven't seen all the details on it. There might be some stuff coming after the 1st of the year. Councilor Hawkins said I think there needs to be an uproar. We need something to show where the citizens stand. I think they will listen if we put enough out there. Mayor Flint said the more that can be compiled the more impact that it will make. Councilor McDowell stated I would be happy to look at the deer situation as a citizen.

This meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Approved: _____
Mayor, Leonard Flint

Attest: _____
City Administrator/Recorder, Doug Wiggins