



MINUTES

Council Work Session Meeting

6:00 PM - Monday, September 27, 2021

Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL:

The City Council of the City of Union was called to order on September 27, 2021, at 6:35 p.m., in the Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Mayor Leonard Flint, John Farmer, Susan Hawkins, Tim Cox, and Councilor Heidi Denton

EXCUSED: Leslie McMillan and Terra Richter

2. PRESENTATIONS:

- a) Meet at Well Yard on Beakman @ 6pm (Water Project walk through)

Mayor Flint stated we began this work session with a tour of our water plant, we will now continue the work session.

3. UPCOMING BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS:

None

4. COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS:

Councilor Farmer said they are making progress on the Ranger Station building, it is looking very nice. CA Wiggins stated the dry wall and mudders are in and working. They will hopefully finish up by next week. Then we will work on flooring and we waiting doors to come in.

5. ORDINANCE/CHARTER REVIEW:

- a) Noxious Weed Ordinance Revisions

CA Wiggins said on page 3 is what we are proposing, we should have this back from the attorney by early next week. We will have a first reading on October 11, 2021. That will check another thing off the to do list. Council discussed why the changes are important to clarify what is noxious vegetation.

- b) Lodging Tax Discussion

Mayor Flint said we are one of the few cities in the state of Oregon that doesn't have a lodging tax. The tax can be used for tourism.

CA Wiggins stated we are allowed to charge rates and there are two ways to collect it, we can go collect it ourselves, or we can have the state do it for us. We would have to pass an ordinance for this tax, and then a resolution to set the rate.

Council and staff discussed the rates and how it could help the city. Council discussed how the tax revenue could be used to benefit the entire city.

CA Wiggins said this would help fuel our economic development and get things moving. Council and staff discussed ways to get more information on how many rentals are available within the city.

Council and staff will gather more information on this topic for review.

c) Meeting Guideline Ordinance Discussion

Mayor Flint stated there were a bunch of ordinances that were put into effect years back. Chapter 4 Section 17 of our Charter that states the Mayor's role and conflicts with other ordinances that are also in effect. Council discussed how the ordinances contradict each other and what to do about it.

Council and staff discussed thoroughly reviewing the conflicting ordinances.

6. OTHER:

a) Business Licenses discussion

Mayor Flint said we don't really know how many businesses we have in the city.

CA Wiggins stated we would like to make sure they are doing business legally. Mayor Flint said one way to get the chamber to grow is to know what businesses are going on in town.

Councilor Cox said we could provide a way for advertising and that would help us know what businesses are in the city. CA Wiggins said we can have a business registry on our website, and have a minimal registration fee.

Council discussed the benefits for the city, and the downside to have a licensing process. They also discussed that there are businesses running in a residential zone without a conditional use permit as our laws dictate.

Council discussed what should qualify for the registry or licensing process in business. They also discussed an increase of traffic in a residential area would qualify it as a business.

Council and staff discussed having the Chamber of Commerce creating a business registry.

CA Wiggins said I think we should discuss RV's being used as air B&B in our future meetings. Council discussion on RV's as air B&B was short and not in favor of exploring the topic any further.

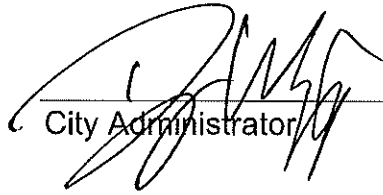
CA Wiggins and Council discussed other construction going on in the city.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Mayor



City Administrator