



MINUTES

Council Work Session Meeting

6:00 PM - Monday, December 11, 2023

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

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

The City Council of the City of Union was called to order on December 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the Leonard Almquist Council Chambers, 342 S. Main St, Union, OR 97883, with the following members present:

PRESENT: John Farmer, Susan Hawkins, Tim Cox, Councilor Anita Boyer-Davis, Councilor Dick Middleton, and Councilor Jay Blackburn

EXCUSED: Councilor John Black

2. PRESENTATIONS:

a) Sheriff's Report

Deputy Johnson said winter is here and with the change of seasons you see different things. There are less people out and about but there is an uptick in crashes. For the last month I felt like I have been dealing with a lot of juvenile issues. One of my disturbances did result in an arrest. I still help with fire and ambulance calls. You will be getting a new deputy soon. I think the new deputy will be great for you guys.

3. UPCOMING BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS:

a) Discussion on Agreement with Interim Administrator

Mayor Hawkins said our interim administrator and administrator will be working together some. Our interim has a request in your packet for you to look at. Council and the interim city administrator discussed extending the contract or how to handle this transition. Interim City Administrator Vanderwall discussed a living allowance because she had to get an apartment. Council and Interim City Administrator Vanderwall discussed the length of time and how much living allowance to cover.

Council discussed when her contract will be fulfilled, and needing her help until certain things are complete. They continued to discuss possibly needing the interim after the new administrator starts working to help with planning. We will discuss this at the regular meeting.

b) New Administrator

Mayor Hawkins said I have talked with Celeste and on December 7, 2023, she signed a contract to start working on January 8, 2024.

c) Fire/EMS Discussion and Fee Discussion

Mayor Hawkins said we have had lots of discussions on this. Casey George said turn outs do actually expire. All of our equipment has expiration dates, and it is all for our safety. Donny George said there is an Oregon statute that refers to firefighters and their equipment. We can use old turnouts for practice training that has nothing to do with fire. Currently, three people are using expired turnouts but they can't go near the fire.

Casey and Donny discussed the reserve funds and that they can't be used because it is for emergency repairs and other things. Donny discussed how much fire trucks and ambulances cost and why the reserve funds need to be left alone so they can save for future purchases.

Council, staff, Casey, and Donny discussed the funds and the reasons why an increase is needed to keep our fire and EMS going. They also discussed the possibility of an annexation with rural and that there is a lot of equipment that needs to be replaced because it is so old. Council discussed the steps to take next and when this rate should be reviewed yearly. Then, they discussed getting a list of needs for equipment and putting together a committee for review.

Council also discussed a rotation schedule for the equipment and a precise amount to present to the public with reasons why it is that much. Casey and Donny have been pursuing grants and have gotten three out of the five they applied for.

Coy Wilde said I have been thinking on this for a while. You could add a gas tax to fund this. You need to figure the rate of water for the fires as well and the citizens should pay the water used to put out their fires. I thought that was the fairest way to go about this.

Mike O'Connor Arch Street said I don't recall the same discussion from the last meeting.

Matt Later S Third said I want to express gratitude to our fire and EMS people and all of their hard work.

Kevin Marsh N. Bellwood said what happens to people with wells or septic tanks. Mayor Hawkins discussed this with Mr. Marsh. Council discussed this topic with Mr. Marsh. They also discussed the annexation into rural and how that works. They also discussed the other details surrounding this topic.

Council discussed the property tax rate versus a fee from the city.

4. COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS:

5. ORDINANCE/CHARTER REVIEW:

a) Explanation of Livability Code


Mayor Hawkins said the reason this came up at all is because of complaints from citizens having issues with their neighbors. There were many people here, there is not much we can do about it. In order to address those concerns, we found a code another city had just to look at. This is just to help us address the issues that have been brought to our attention. The way our ordinances are written we can not do much. We are just looking at it to answer those concerns. This was never passed, and it is just for ideas. It was just for information.

Mike O'Connor discussed the livability code with Council. Council clarified that they were just looking at it. It is a draft; it was never passed. A heated discussion occurred where many people are talking over one another.

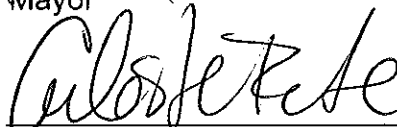
6. OTHER:

7. ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Mayor



City Administrator