

## **UNION CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 14, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.**

**LEONARD ALMQUIST COUNCIL CHAMBERS, UNION CITY HALL**

1. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL:** at 7:04 pm by Mayor Kyle Corbin and Councilors Pat Lang, Betty Bronson, Dick Walker, Eileen Bowles, Sue Briggs and Joe Gonzales.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Mallestrom, Union County Commissioner candidate. He sat in on the meeting.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Minutes June 2, 2008, special meeting.
- b. Minutes June 4, 2008, special meeting.
- c. Minutes June 9, 2008, regular meeting.
- d. Minutes June 17, 2008, special meeting.
- e. Minutes June 30, 2008, special meeting.

*Bronson moved to approve all meeting minutes except for June 9<sup>th</sup> minutes (2<sup>nd</sup> Walker). Vote passed unanimously. There was a consensus by Council to correct June 9<sup>th</sup> minutes and bring back for approval at the next regular City Council meeting in August.*

### **4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. Union Sanitation / City Garbage Service. Craig Goerge

Craig George spoke. He shared fuel costs are going up. La Grande City Garbage raised their rates in June. He needs to raise his rates \$1.00 a month/25 cents a week per customer. He isn't sure what La Grande will do, therefore he may need to come back to Council and ask to raise rates again. Briggs asked about the yearly rate. George stated yearly fees would not be affected. He shared county will not let him haul his trash to Baker City. Wise stated the City has a franchise agreement with Union Sanitation, and fee changes need to be done by resolution. He recommended when it's time to review the franchise agreement later this year the City should look at putting language into it that will address the rising fuel costs. Mr. George shared he is already two months behind on doing this rate change. Wise will look over the franchise agreement and see if the City needs to give 30-day notice to the citizens regarding the rate change. Council would like to have a special meeting to address this issue as soon as possible. Wise will look at the agreement tomorrow and determine how to move forward.

- b. CUP update. Terry Edvalson

Mr. Edvalson was not able to be present tonight therefore Walt Brookshire, President of CUP, Cove Union and Powder Medical Assoc., gave an update on CUP. CUP is currently perusing alternatives. He

handed out information sheets to Council. They are looking at March/May vote on the health district. They are going to do a survey in September time frame to see what locals want. Health District budget is about \$44,000 and they have \$36,000 already saved. Union County Commission gave them a \$1,000 to help with the election. CUP will keep the building (owned by the citizens). Their biggest challenge will be the transition between OHSU and the community. CUP wants to return to quality of service like they use to have. Delay in arrival of the new OHSU dean of nursing has put them in a holding pattern.

Bowles reported CUP will be holding a yard sale to help raise funds. Brookshire stated they're planning to go to North Powder and Cove for fundraising. They are considering what to do if the health district doesn't go through. They are looking at a back up plan if that is the case. They are asking Council for two things:

1. Pass a resolution in support of the Union Family Health Center.
2. Help with the survey costs. He reported they still need \$3,365.

Brookshire reported he will need the funds by September. Mayor shared he (The City of Union) will do whatever they can to help.

*Briggs moved to have a resolution of support as soon as possible and a resolution to help support the district financially (2<sup>nd</sup> Bronson). Passed unanimously.*

Margaret Hartzell, Union. Shared her experience at the current health clinic, which was not to her satisfaction. She expressed concern regarding the service at Union Health Care Center.

c. Proposal to Project MIT

Wise shared the City responded to a request for proposals for industrial property. Briggs helped put together the proposal.

d. Burn Ordinance Committee update.

Gonzales reported he met with Tod Hull, Union Fire Chief and they should have a draft sometime next week. Wise stated he spoke with Hull and he is waiting for the La Grande Fire Chief to get back to him.

e. Scrap metal bin update.

Bin will be kept at Union Sanitation on Gale Street. Patterson updated council regarding the garbage grant community clean up day project.

f. Update from committee on Gov't broadcasting

*Bronson moved to set a cut off date for proposals of July 21<sup>st</sup> and a special meeting for considering of contract of July 28th. (2<sup>nd</sup> Walker). Vote passed unanimously.*

## 5. ACTION ITEMS - OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discuss helping residents with self-reliance from June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bowles reported there is a special program on the 5<sup>th</sup> at the LDS church, which will have handout materials. She suggested to have the church's in town work together. Mayor asked Bowles to keep up the efforts.

- b. Discuss allowing other agency's to use the City's Newsletter for their use.

Briggs shared if we are sending out a newsletter we should allow others to put in information for a price. Wise was concerned how to balance and manage these efforts. We have a limited amount of pages and space. There is overhead and cost involved and how do we make sure we are recovering our cost. Bowles would like to see new businesses in the newsletter and closing businesses. Mayor feels we should stay away from any controversial problems that may arise.

Margaret Hartzell, shared she use to deliver the newsletters to businesses and citizens would pick them up.

## 6. ACTION ITEMS - NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discuss water rights issue for Hot Lake. Appoint Committee to work on details.

Wise shared Hot Lake came to the city regarding water rights. They are looking for in stream water rights, .1 cf per second. They wanted to know if the city was interested. We met with an engineer and water rights officer. He feels we can come up with something that will suit them. The possibility of the city using the water is minimal. They want the right, Wise suggested we keep the right. He would like to consent to something that will allow them to use the water and in the case they don't use it, it reverts back to the city. There was a consensus to have the Council put together a committee with a water resource person to find a way to structure it to benefit both the City and Hot Lake. They have a pond that must be maintained. They need water rights to Catharine Creek to do so. They will pull the water from their well in an emergency. They need an in stream right to Catharine Creek to do that.

Briggs feels it is a highly professional issue and wants the Administrator and water resource people to handle it. O'Connor stated water is administrated by Council. Taking water rights away should go to the Citizens. Mayor shared this is a way to harbor a relationship with Hot Lake.

Margaret Hartzell, water rights can be taken away at anytime. We shouldn't give any rights way.

Dick Middleton, we shouldn't give any water rights way. It is going to be a commodity in the future. Wise followed up, he is in favor of keeping all

rights. Wise shared the challenge is to find a way to help both parties. Wise stated the City could make it so we get the water rights back if we need it.

Mayor appointed Lang and Walker to the water right committee.

b. Discuss City Website. Appoint Committee.

Wise shared we have had several citizens come forward to help with the City's website. Ms. Clark shared with staff earlier last week she welcomes the idea of having someone take it over. Wise would like to see them appoint a committee. The two volunteers Laurie Dart and Helen Reading will be notified.

c. DLCD Grant – proposals for consultants. Appoint Consultant.

A few issues to address, first a consultant. In conjunction with La Grande a request for consultants to do the goal 9 and 10 work. It was a consensus with La Grande to pick Benkendorf Associates Corp. Wise, presents to Council for approval to present Benkendorf Associates Corp. with a contract.

Walker Moved to prepare and present contract to Benkendorf Associates Corp. (2<sup>nd</sup> Gonzales). Vote passed unanimously.

d. OLCC License Renewal. Review and approve.

Wise shared we have an ordinance that requires council to recommend or deny approval of OLCC license renewal. Wise read letter from OLCC. Council was in consensus to do nothing.

e. Bolen resignation from Planning Commission. Post opening.

*Bronson moved to receive resignation from Kevin Bolen (2<sup>nd</sup> Bowles).  
Vote passed unanimously.*

Council set an Application deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> of July for the open Planning Commission seat.

f. First reading of Ordinance 515, *AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND IMPOSING A USER FEE FOR CITY OF UNION FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENTS; DEDICATING FEES TO THE EMERGENCY SERVICES FUND; AND SPECIFYING THE MANNER OF SETTING OF THE FEE AND METHOD OF ENFORCEMENT.*

Mayor was concerned about Section 3 (REU). Lang asked will everyone be charged the same? Wise stated the fee will be calculated the same as the water billing. There are a few 1-inch lines and one 2-inch line. Briggs doesn't like the reference to REU's for billing. She feels there are a lot of businesses that use very little water. She would like to see it per meter, per residential unit, not line size. Wise shared

the fee is calculated by demand and need in terms of fire. We are only using the definition of a REU from the water ordinance. This ordinance doesn't care about how much water anyone uses.

Mayor restated the basic idea is, on a larger line, one can assume they will have more of a need for water for EMS services. Wise shared the road user fee in La Grande; they go thru a formula to get their fee. The City of Union doesn't have any way to monitor such a formula for this fee. The REU is the most practical way to measure for this fee.

Middleton shared it sounds like you are trying to get more funds for the water department. He wants this section taken out and have each household pay a flat fee per house.

Willard Bertrand, 1492 N. Collage. The problem he sees in section 2 is the idea of charging a user fee, which hasn't been explored. He feels the City has functioned for over 100 years without such a fee. He suggests taking the user fee concept to the people for a vote. He doesn't feel this will accommodate the need. Bronson shared with Bertrand the reasoning behind the user fee.

*Bronson moved to modify section 2 of the proposed ordinance before reading (2<sup>nd</sup> Lang) Vote Lang yes, Bronson yes, Walker no, Bowles yes, Briggs yes, Gonzales no.  
Vote passed 4-2.*

Briggs, Lang and Corbin will work on section 2 and have it ready for the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor questioned section 3, second sentence. Wise clarified.

Lang would like in section 4, last sentence to be take out "expenses associated". Wise suggested reading the whole sentence. Briggs and Bowles agreed to only use funds for training and equipment.

The whole Ordinance was referred to the committee (Lang, Briggs and Mayor Corbin) to start over.

- g. Review and discuss letter from Union County regarding EOU sign.

Council would like to see three signs posted in Union. Post at the entrance of each of the three entrances. Council was in consensus to allow Wise to decide on exact location of those signs.

- h. Authorization for Wise and Phillips to attend AP seminar July 23 (*free*). Council was in consensus to send Wise and Phillips to the seminar.
- i. Discuss COLA increase for Administration Staff.

Wise stated this hasn't been addressed in a few years and would like to ask Council for cost of living increase for both himself and Patterson.

Walker moved to make COLA standard for Admin staff when other employees get their COLA (2<sup>nd</sup> Gonzales). Lang no, Bronson yes, Walker yes, Bowles yes, Briggs yes and Gonzales yes. Vote passes 5-1.

**Wise asked Council to present an Administrator/Recorder report before going into Executive Session. Council agreed.**

1. Gary Van Huffel with Oregon Economic Community Development Department Program (Main Street Program) will visit Union Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of July, 7:45-9:15 a.m. He would like to meet with City Councilors and go thru the community and see the older buildings. He wants to talk with citizens.
2. Wise reminded the Council there are restrictions on political campaigning during election time.
3. The quarterly report for the Ethics reporting is due. Lang shared August 14<sup>th</sup> in Pendleton there will be meetings regarding the Ethics issues.
4. Wise shared the LOC has sent out a request form asking for what they will be lobbying the most. There will be a meeting in Pendleton; informational material was handed out to Council before the meeting.
5. Fire Department update for the radio grant, Wise reported we got it. Its around \$2,500.
6. EMS put in a grant to USDA for portable GPS units and landing lights. We also got that grant.
7. Ordinance compilation update, we should have them next meeting.
8. Ordinance violation letters are going out. We are trying to address as many issues as possible.
9. LOC has supplied us with a catalog of information about other cities; it is available for council to view at City Hall.
10. Briggs asked about he letter from Bill Lindsley. Wise shared he will deal with it in the personal department.
11. Bronson reported vandalism is down.

Middleton shared there are several homes along 10<sup>th</sup> street who have flooded basements. He doesn't think the city can help, but wants the council to know.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION 192.660 (2)(d)** to conduct deliberation with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations, and **192.660 (2)(h)** to consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed.

Council went into Executive Session at 9:20 pm

Council Returned at 9:52 pm, with Pat Lang, Betty Bronson, Dick Walker, Mayor Corbin, Eileen Bowles, Sue Briggs and Joe Gonzales.

There were no decisions were made.

**8. COUNCIL CONCERNS**

Walker would like to put in the next city newsletter a reminder to people it is illegal to hang signs on telephone poles.

Walker reminded Council if someone is going to do dust control we need to water real well and it will last longer. Put in next newsletter.

Bowles shared there is someone riding their horse on the sidewalk and it is urinating on it. She also asked if the city could help sweep the Union Health Clinic? It was commented maybe volunteers could do it.

Walker shared the deer are getting real bad, he asked the city to contact ODFW.

**9. ADJOURNMENT** at 10:03 pm.

Approved:

/S/

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Mayor

Attest:

/S/

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City Recorder