



**YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
July 30, 2019
City Hall -- Council Chambers
5:30 p.m. -- MINUTES**

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor Kathy Coffey, presiding, Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutierrez, Councilmembers Holly Cousens, Kay Funk, Brad Hill, Carmen Mendez and Jason White

Staff: City Manager Cliff Moore, Senior Assistant City Attorney Sara Watkins, Community Development Director Joan Davenport, Planning Manager Joseph Calhoun and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

2. Affordable Housing Issues

Joan Davenport, Community Development Director, presented a PowerPoint regarding affordable housing. City Manager Moore reported the Council had applied for a grant on the Housing Action Plan but had not received it; however, there may be additional grant opportunities available. Senior Assistant City Attorney Sara Watkins briefly explained urban renewal districts. Planning Manager Joseph Calhoun reviewed the Planning Commission's work on this project. Joe Schmitt, Director of Business Recruitment at Yakima County Development Association, discussed Opportunity Zones and the possibility of utilizing SIED funding to incentivize Opportunity Zones. He stated guidelines for the zones are still being determined at the federal level.

3. Downtown Master Plan Study Session

Colleda Monick, Community Development Specialist, presented a brief summary of the Downtown Master Plan. Councilmember White reported the Council Economic Development Committee recommends focusing on the downtown area and parkway. Councilmember Hill indicated he would like to see the City focus on a smaller area and suggested 1st Street to 4th Street. Councilmember Mendez asked about the status of the east/west corridor interchange. Community Development Director Davenport estimates the east/west corridor work will begin in 2021 and possibly be completed in 2025. After Council discussion,

MOTION: Hill moved and Cousens seconded to direct staff to reconvene the implementation oversight committee, as described on page 43 of the Downtown Master Plan, to determine the viability of the plan and bring back a recommendation to Council. MOTION: Funk moved and Mendez seconded to amend the motion that the assessment and viability of the plan, or which features are viable, be examined through the lens of what is financially viable in the short term. After Council discussion, the motion to amend failed by a 4-3 vote with Hill, White,

Coffey and Cousens voting no. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Assistant Mayor Gutierrez suggested diversifying this committee to include community members that have not previously been involved, have no property or business interests downtown and may not be downtown enthusiasts.

4. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

Joe Morrier, downtown property owner, discussed his concerns with changing the traffic pattern on Yakima Avenue and reported his company will be making an announcement about another hotel and restaurant to be built downtown.

Andrew Holt, Executive Director of the Downtown Association of Yakima, believes there are a lot of good aspects to the Downtown Plan and supports narrowing Yakima Avenue for foot friendly traffic.

Verlynn Best, President and CEO of the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce, shared her strong support of the Downtown Plan and added the Chamber would be happy to help generate more participation on the implementation oversight committee.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Gutierrez moved and Cousens seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on Monday, August 5, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY _____

DRAFT

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR