



**YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
November 12, 2019
City Hall -- Council Chambers
5:30 p.m. MINUTES**

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor Kathy Coffey, presiding, Assistant Mayor Dulce Gutierrez, Council Members Holly Cousens, Kay Funk, Brad Hill (present at 5:44 p.m.) and Jason White

Staff: Interim City Manager Alex Meyerhoff, City Attorney Jeff Cutter and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent: Councilmember Carmen Mendez

Mayor Coffey reminded Council members of the Principles of Conduct. Councilmember Cousens reported at the last meeting there were some comments made by another member that she felt were inappropriate.

Mayor Coffey stated before discussing homeless issues she would like to inform Council that the City received a request from the Yakima Police Athletic League (YPAL) for a letter of support for a grant application. Senior Assistant City Attorney Sara Watkins noted the GRIT Committee is also applying for this grant. City Clerk Claar Tee stated the Council cannot take action on items not listed on the agenda. **MOTION: Funk moved and Cousens seconded to suspend the rules.** The motion carried by unanimous vote, Mendez and Hill absent. **MOTION: Cousens moved and Funk seconded to approve the letter of support for YPAL.** The motion carried by unanimous vote, Mendez and Hill absent.

2. Homeless Issues - Future Options

Senior Assistant City Attorney Sara Watkins presented a PowerPoint on homeless issues and future options. Assistant Public Works Director Dave Brown reported on the Clean City Program. Mayor Coffey asked that staff communicate the process and timeline for the Clean City Program process to Council. Ms. Watkins discussed the temporary encampments allowed on religious organization property and that the City could enact a permit process for such encampments. Councilmember White stated he would like this to include a review of motorhome parking, sleeping in vehicles and safe vehicle parking lots.

MOTION: Gutierrez moved and Cousens seconded to send this (enacting a permit process for temporary homeless encampments on property owned by religious organizations) to the Planning Commission. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Mendez absent.

3. Vacant Building Ordinance / International Property Maintenance Code

Community Development Director Joan Davenport reported on abandoned and dangerous vacant buildings. Acting Code Manager Glenn Denman briefed Council on the International Property Maintenance Code and recommended the City adopt this code. After Council discussion, **MOTION: Hill moved and Funk seconded to direct staff to bring back a draft ordinance with relevant parts of the International Property Maintenance Code.** The motion carried by unanimous vote, Mendez absent.

4. Council review of Ch. 11.45 - Chronic Nuisance Properties

Senior Assistant City Attorney Bronson Faul briefed Council on the chronic nuisance property ordinance and recommended updating the ordinance and adding an appeal process. After Council discussion, it was **Council consensus to have staff expand the definition of chronic nuisance properties and bring back to Council for review.**

5. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

Aileen Kane, City resident, thanked Council for their good work this evening. She suggested Council review the City of Philadelphia's urban homestead project from the 70's and cautioned against including domestic violence issues in a chronic nuisance property ordinance.

Tony Courcy, City resident, spoke on several topics. Joey Anderson, City resident, suggested there should be rules and regulations for landlords to receive a business license.

Mike Kay, City resident and Camp Hope Director, suggested the City drop the word crisis as homeless issues have been going on for several years and that there are many dedicated providers in the City that are assisting. He commended City staff for working hard to assist the homeless.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Gutierrez moved and Cousens seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on November 19, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR