



**YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION**

October 8, 2020

City Hall -- Council Chambers

9 a.m. Budget Session -- Conducted via speakerphone, live streamed at www.yakimawa.gov and telecast live on Y-PAC, Spectrum Cable Channel 194 or you may call in and listen by dialing 1-877-853-5247 or 1-888-788-0099. When prompted for the webinar ID enter 923 1650 2518#. When prompted for the participant ID enter #. When prompted for the meeting password enter 383693#. There will be no opportunity for oral communications; however, if you wish to provide written comment to the City Council, please email ccouncil2@yakimawa.gov. Written comments received by 3 pm on 10/7/2020 for this meeting will be provided to the City Council prior to the meeting. MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor Patricia Byers, presiding, Assistant Mayor Holly Cousens, Councilmembers Kay Funk, Brad Hill, Soneya Lund and Eliana Macias (Council members attending via zoom audio/video)

Staff: City Manager Robert Harrison, Finance & Budget Director Steve Groom and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent: Councilmember Jason White

2. Council Review of Proposed 2021 Budget - 2 of 4

City Manager Harrison provided a brief recap of the previous budget meeting. Steve Groom, Director of Finance & Budget, reviewed projects, debt and current economic status.

Police Chief Murray reviewed the Police Department's budget reporting they currently have six vacant police officer positions, which will likely be filled in 2021. Councilmember Lund shared a concern she has with online crime reporting. Chief Murray and IT Services Manager Carney will look into the issues and report back to Council. City Manager Harrison noted the City has a very creative IT Department and is impressed with the amount of in-house programs the City has. He noted there are challenges in paying for ongoing maintenance expenses for many of the programs and stated the IT Department will bring a presentation on this issue at the October 13 meeting.

Fire Chief Markham reviewed the Fire Department's budget including concerns about aging apparatus and fire stations. Councilmember Hill suggested reviewing revenue sources to replace aging apparatus in the first quarter. Councilmember Funk suggested Council consider a bond.

Community Development Director Davenport provided an overview on budgets for Planning, Codes and the Office of Neighborhood Development. Council members shared positive comments they've received from the community about the Department. Councilmember Hill stated the Council has too many priorities, and his top three are a balanced budget, public safety, to include relying more on Code Enforcement and less on law enforcement, and third, the mill site.

Public Works Director Schafer reported on budgets for Public Works, Clean City Program, Refuse, Streets/Traffic, Transit, Engineering and Parks and Recreation. He shared how the divisions have been affected by the pandemic, with all essential services still being provided. He noted the community centers are closed due to the pandemic and therefore, the feasibility studies approved last year have been paused. Councilmember Hill recognized there is public safety through Community Development and Public Works and does not want them to endure perennial budget cuts. Councilmember Funk shared she is in favor of a rate increase for solid waste. Assistant Mayor Cousens stated she would appreciate a reminder sent to Council on where the City stands with recycling. Public Works Director Schafer noted currently there is no market for recyclables.

Rob Peterson, Director of the Yakima Air Terminal, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Airport's budget.

Councilmember Lund requested a staff report and detailed review and history of the Lodging Tax Advisory Committees criteria for reviewing and ranking of funds.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Cousens moved and Hill seconded to adjourn to a City Council study session on October 13, 2020, at 9 a.m. at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

DRAFT

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR