



YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL

March 2, 2021

City Hall -- Council Chambers

5:30 p.m. Regular meeting 6 p.m. public hearings -- conducted virtually via Zoom --
MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor Patricia Byers, presiding, Assistant Mayor Holly Cousens and Councilmembers Kay Funk, Brad Hill, Soneya Lund and Eliana Macias

Staff: City Manager Robert Harrison, City Attorney Sara Watkins and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent: Councilmember Jason White

2. Open Discussion for the Good of the Order

- A. Resolution approving extension of Mayoral Proclamation declaring emergency and order, if the Mayor issues a Proclamation extending the civil emergency proclamation and order to April 6, 2021 due to COVID-19

The City Clerk read the resolution by title only.

MOTION: Cousens moved and Hill seconded to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-029, A RESOLUTION extending the Mayor's Proclamation of Civil Emergency and Order regarding a state of emergency in the City of Yakima due to the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19").

- B. Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

City Manager Harrison provided an update on COVID-19's continued effect on the City.

- C. Scooter Transportation Program

Assistant Mayor Cousens thanked the company who brought this issue forward; however, she feels now is not the time to undertake this proposal. After Council discussion,

MOTION: Cousens moved and Hill seconded to rescind the motion developing a Request For Proposals for a Scooter Transportation program in the Yakima downtown. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

3. Council Reports

A. Minutes of the Special Events Council Ad Hoc Committee

Assistant Mayor Cousens briefed Council on the Committee meetings. Councilmember Funk requested a list of non-profit and exempt events.

MOTION: Cousens moved and Funk seconded to approve the minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

4. **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Byers referred to the items placed on the Consent Agenda, questioning whether there were any additions or deletions from Council members present. Item 4F was removed from the consent agenda. The City Clerk read the Consent Agenda items, including resolutions and ordinances, by title. (Items on the Consent Agenda are handled under one motion without further discussion—see motion directly below.)

MOTION: Cousens moved and Hill seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

A. Approval of minutes from the February 16, 2021 City Council regular meeting and February 23, 2021 study session

B. January 2021 Investment Transactions Report

C. Consideration of letter of support for Yakima Valley Trolleys

D. Resolution authorizing an agreement with N Harris Computer for a Cayenta financial software upgrade

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-030, A RESOLUTION an agreement with N. Harris Computer Corporation (“Harris”) to upgrade our existing ERP System, Cayenta, to version 9.0 from 7.9.

E. Resolution authorizing a contract with Total Site Services, LLC for the N. 1st St. Revitalization Phase 2 Project

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-031, A RESOLUTION authorizing a contract with Total Site Services, LLC for the N. 1st St. Revitalization Phase 2 Project.

F. This item was removed from the consent agenda

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

A. Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an Office of Violence Against Women Grant application for funds to improve the City of Yakima response to domestic violence

Councilmember Lund questioned how this grant would affect the grant funding for the YWCA. Cynthia Martinez, Senior Assistant City Attorney, reported that the YWCA has a County Coordinated Community Response Team that the City participates in. This effort would be focused on the City, and the grant funding would come from the same source; however, she believes the projects are different enough to both be funded.

MOTION: Lund moved and Cousens seconded to postpone this item to the next meeting, a study session on March 9. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White

absent.

5. Public Comment

Ken Johnsen, President Yakima Valley Trolleys, thanked Council for the letter of support.

Rick Glenn, City resident and member of the Yakima Valley Landlord Association, shared his concern that landlords/property owners would be held accountable instead of tenants under the International Property Maintenance Code.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. Public hearing and resolution declaring certain easement rights held by the City of Yakima to be surplus to City needs and abandoning all interest to the property owners over which the easement is located

Dave Brown, Water and Irrigation Manager, briefed Council on the item.

Mayor Byers opened the public hearing and, with no one calling in to speak, closed the hearing.

The City Clerk read the resolution by title only.

MOTION: Cousens moved and Lund seconded to adopt the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

RESOLUTION NO. R-2021-032, A RESOLUTION declaring certain easement rights held by the City of Yakima to be surplus to City needs and abandoning all interest to the property owners over which the easement is located.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

7. 2021 State Legislative Session Update

Randy Beehler, Communications & Public Affairs Director, provided a legislative session update. Mayor Byers urged Council members to take a look at the unintended consequences of several bills.

8. Update on Status of Community Gardens Council request

Ken Wilkinson, Parks & Recreation Manager, provided an update on the Community Gardens request. Council members thanked Mr. Wilkinson for his efforts.

9. Discussion of a possible study session regarding data collection on overdue accounts and uncollectible debt

Steve Groom, Finance and Budget Director, reviewed information on overdue accounts and uncollectible debt. After Council discussion,

MOTION: Cousens moved and Hill seconded to have a study session on data collection, overdue accounts, animal control and uncollectable debt. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

10. Discussion of a possible amendment to IPMC ordinance to accommodate landlords

Sara Watkins, City Attorney, briefed Council on the ordinance. Councilmember Funk shared her continued concern with landlords being held accountable instead of tenants. Ms. Watkins reported on landlord mitigation laws and voucher assistance programs for low income tenants. She also discussed possible policies on staying/halting enforcement action due to tenant issues. After Council discussion, City Manager Harrison stated staff will bring back additional information on the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) within 30 days.

11. Other Business

MOTION: Macias moved and Hill seconded that we discuss allowing the Community Integration Committee to have an additional business meeting per month at our next council business meeting on 3/16/2021. Councilmember Hill suggested this issue be discussed at next week's study session. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Cousens moved and Lund seconded to adjourn to the next Council study session on March 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

DRAFT

COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR