



**MINUTES  
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL  
STUDY SESSION  
May 11, 2021  
City Hall – Council Chambers  
5 p.m. Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom**

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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 and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent: Councilmember Jason White

Mayor Byers announced they will flip the order on the agenda due to time constraints.

2. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

None.

3. Consideration of letter of support

City Manager Harrison reported on the following requests for letters of support for Senator Murray's earmark projects:

1. Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) for a housing plan
2. Yakima Valley College (YVC) for support for their LPN program
3. Yakima County Superior Court for remodeling their courtrooms in order to accommodate socially distant requirements and upgrade the basics (such as electrical wiring in order to support better software systems and the computers to run them)
4. Justice Housing for a tiny house village

The following representatives briefed Council on their requests: Chris Wickenhagen with YVCOG; Wendy Baker, Director of Nursing Programs at YVC; Jessica Humphreys with Yakima County Superior Court and David Helseth with Justice Housing. After Council discussion,

**MOTION: Cousens moved and Macias seconded to approve the letters of support.**  
The motion carried by a 5-1 vote, White absent and Funk abstaining.

**MOTION: Cousens moved and Hill seconded to authorize the Mayor & Assistant Mayor to review and approve any further letters of support for Senator Murray's**

**earmark projects.** After discussion, the motion failed by a 5-1 vote, Byers, Funk, Hill, Lund and Macias voting no, White absent.

4. Yakima Basin Integrated Plan briefing and Nelson Dam Removal Project: Water Supply, Riverine Process and Fish Passage Improvements

David Brown, Water and Irrigation Manager, introduced the following members of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan executive team as follows:

Tom Tebb: Director of Office of Columbia River Department of Ecology

Brady Kent: Yakama Nation

Wendy Christensen: Bureau of Reclamation

Urban Eberhart: Manager Kittitas Reclamation Irrigation District

Mike Livingston: Region Director WA Fish and Wildlife

Steve Malloch: Western Water Futures

The team discussed and reviewed a PowerPoint on the Yakima Integrated Plan as well as answering questions from Council members.

David Brown, Water and Irrigation Manager, updated Council on the Nelson Dam Removal Project installation, fish passage area and the pipeline project.

5. Adjournment

**MOTION: Cousens moved and Lund seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on May 18, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.** The motion carried by unanimous vote, White absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

#### CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR