



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
May 25, 2021
City Hall – Council Chambers
5 p.m. Meeting conducted virtually via Zoom**

1. Roll Call

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

Staff: City Manager Robert Harrison and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent: Assistant Mayor Holly Cousens (excused) and Councilmember Jason White

2. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

None.

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3. Housing Action Plan

Planning Manager Joseph Calhoun introduced the item. Radika Nair, Senior Associate and Julia Tesch, Associate, with BERK Consulting, reviewed the Housing Action Plan.

Council members discussed the need for updated information on housing availability, cost and medium home values since those in the plan are reflected from 2018. Councilmember Funk shared her disappointment with the plan as there is no new information.

4. American Rescue Plan Act guiding principles

Bob Harrison, City Manager and Steve Groom, Director of Finance and Budget, reviewed the US Department of Treasury "Interim Final Rule" guidance on the initial rules on accessing funding to address economic harm resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. The program is to cover budgetary and financial stability needs through 2024. Mr. Groom noted Treasury is conducting a 60-day review and requesting feedback; therefore, there may be changes on how to utilize the funding. Additionally, the City received the first payment and has four years to appropriate the funds. Councilmember Funk stated she would like to see our city engage a mental health worker.

5. Special Events and Insurance Requirements

With Assistant Mayor Cousens absent, it was Council consensus to table this item until a future study session.

6. Discussion of proclamation and letters of support policies

City Manager Harrison and City Clerk Claar Tee reviewed a proposed update to the proclamation policy for Council's consideration. Councilmember Funk suggested using Google forms for the requests. Mr. Harrison reported on the Council Rules of Procedure policy on letters of support. After Council discussion,

MOTION: Hill moved and Lund seconded to direct staff to work with Councilmember Funk to produce a revision to our methods and policies regarding letters of support and endorsements of organizations and or causes. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Cousens and White absent.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Lund moved and Funk seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on June 1, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Cousens and White absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

_____ COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

_____ COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

DRAFT

_____ CITY CLERK

_____ MAYOR