



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
November 9, 2021
City Hall -- Council Chambers
5:00 p.m. meeting conducted via Zoom**

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Patricia Byers, presiding, and Councilmembers Kay Funk (raised her hand showing her attendance as audio temporarily unavailable), Brad Hill and Eliana Macias

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

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

2. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

City residents David Morales and Keally Cieslik spoke in support of the proposed redistricting map.

3. 2020 Census City Council Redistricting Report and Maps

City Manager Harrison reported the proposed maps were created by I.T. Services Supervising Senior Analyst Tom Sellsted. City Attorney Sara Watkins reviewed Judge Rice's order relating to redistricting, outlined the process for redistricting and answered questions from Council. She noted this is the initial review, which will require additional analyzation and no action is expected at this time. Ms. Watkins reported this issue will be brought back for further Council review next year.

4. Public Safety Issues in Downtown

City Manager Harrison reviewed public safety issues in downtown. Mayor Byers asked what can be done about urinating and defecating in public. Chief Murray responded that an officer must witness the action in order to write a citation. He added there are times when officers are engaged in more serious crime and are not able to respond.

Councilmember Funk shared her written remarks and suggested external facing restrooms with surveillance could be included with the City remodel. City Manager Harrison reminded Council the City is looking at a possible partnership for a day camp with restroom facilities utilizing ARPA funds; however, there would be ongoing unfunded maintenance and operation costs.

Council members asked about hiring security to handle some of the downtown issues. Chief Murray reported the Police Department cannot create an agent of the police or transfer responsibility. He noted if businesses hire private security it is a great deterrent.

Councilmember Hill asked if additional ordinances, such as Everett and Gig Harbor have, would be helpful in combating some of the issues in downtown. City Attorney Watkins reported other cities have ordinances prohibiting sitting or lying down in certain areas during certain times; however, data collection and surveys are required in order to create such ordinances. Councilmember Hill asked what action could be taken at this meeting. After Council discussion, City Attorney Watkins reported she will bring an outline for a required survey at the December 7 Council meeting.

Councilmember Funk suggested the City: 1) initiate parking lots for Homestead Act vehicles with a secure perimeter, porta-potty and anyone causing problems would be excluded; 2) have police officers survey the homeless on whether they would go to a shelter if they could have a Conestoga Hut with a lockable door and defensible space and 3) create a shelter protection area. After discussion, Councilmember Hill suggested Councilmember Funk tighten up her ideas and bring to a Council meeting for a vote.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: Hill moved and Funk seconded to adjourn to a City Council regular meeting on November 16, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Cousens, Lund and White absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

DRAFT

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR