



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
March 8, 2022
City Hall – Council Chambers
5:00 p.m. Meeting conducted in person and virtually via Zoom**

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Janice Deccio, presiding, Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund (attending remotely via Zoom) and Councilmembers Matt Brown, Danny Herrera, Patricia Byers (attending remotely via Zoom), Holly Cousens (attending remotely via Zoom and present at 5:20 p.m.) and Eliana Macias (attending remotely via Zoom)

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

2. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

David Morales, City resident, spoke in support of a third minority/majority district.

3. School Breakfast Week proclamation

Mayor Deccio proclaimed the week of March 7-11, 2022 as “School Breakfast Week” and Madeleine Vistica accepted the proclamation.

4. Review of City Council Redistricting

Sara Watkins, City Attorney, presented a PowerPoint on the Yakima City Council District boundaries, which are required to be reviewed after each Decennial Census data release. City staff have evaluated the existing City Council boundaries with the new population data, and recommends that the City Council consider some adjustments to the boundaries, because of the imbalance of population between the existing districts. Attorney Watkins presented three options, noting a correction on option 2 is now to be considered, instead of option 2 in the agenda packet.

Option 1: District boundaries are similar to current boundaries, but altered to create population equality.

Corrected Version of Option 2: 16th Avenue is used as a general boundary for Districts 3 and 4 rather than Nob Hill Blvd. This creates a possible future third Latino Citizens of Voting Age Population (LCVAP) majority district.

Option 3: 16th Avenue used as boundary for Districts 3 and 4 rather than Nob Hill Blvd.

MOTION: Macias moved and Herrera seconded to direct staff to start the process to adopt the corrected version of Option 2. The motion carried by a 4-3 vote with Brown, Byers and Cousens voting no.

5. Biennial Budgeting for Cities

Jennifer Ferrer-Santa Ines, Director of Finance and Budget, reviewed the process of adopting an annual budget and reported a biennial budget would provide an opportunity for better long-range and strategic financial planning and consolidation of efforts invested in the budget development and approval process, thereby improving services to the citizens of Yakima. Councilmember Byers spoke in support of a biennial budget.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Lund moved and Brown seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on March 15, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

DRAFT

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

CITY CLERK

MAYOR