



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**

February 28, 2023

**Harman Center Ballroom, 101 N. 65th Avenue, Yakima, WA
4 p.m.**

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Janice Deccio, presiding, and Councilmembers Matt Brown, Patricia Byers, Holly Cousens and Danny Herrera

Staff: City Manager Robert Harrison, Communication and Public Affairs Manager Randy Beehler and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent and excused: Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund and Councilmember Eliana Macias

2. Public Comment (allow 15 minutes)

Jeanna Hernandez, City resident, would like to speak further with Council on the vacant building registry and standards.

3. Discuss City Space Needs

Rustin Hall, Kim Phelps and Jodi Kittel with ALSC Architects, discussed City space needs, and asked Council what their specific needs would be. Council members agreed a larger dais and chambers would be preferred, with dual language, audio/video and safety needs met and a larger conference room.

4. Discussion of Equity Issues

City Attorney Sara Watkins briefed Council on the City's 2017 equity analysis, including information on how it came about, how it was applied, and possible next steps. Ms. Watkins suggested having a mission statement with a unified vision for what the City believes equity looks like, succinct but emphasising the intention. Council members agreed a study session into equity issues is needed, including samples of mission statements from other municipalities. Council members discussed utilizing the Community Integration Committee as a resource, possibly partnering with the Yakima School District for equity training, engaging the community, and reviewing what other cities our size are doing regarding equity issues.

5. General Fund and Citywide Forecast

Jennifer Ferrer-Santa Ines, Director of Finance & Budget, briefed Council on the general fund and citywide forecast. Council members discussed reviewing service levels, comparing reserves with other cities, reviewing revenue options and impact/user fees.

6. Strategic Priorities

Randy Beehler, Communication and Public Affairs Manager, reviewed the Council's strategic priorities. Police Chief Murray provided and reviewed a downtown safety analysis. Fire Chief Markham presented and reviewed a handout on Fire Department callouts.

7. Vacant Building Registry and Standards

City Attorney Watkins reviewed previously distributed information on vacant building registries and standards. Councilmembers discussed bringing stakeholders to a meeting to discuss this issue.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Brown moved and Byers seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on March 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Lund and Macias absent. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT