



**MINUTES  
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY COUNCIL RETREAT  
March 14, 2023**

**Washington Fruit Community Center, 602 N. 4th Street, Yakima, WA  
4 p.m. Retreat continuation**

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1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Janice Deccio, presiding, Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund and Councilmembers Matt Brown, Patricia Byers, Danny Herrera and Eliana Macias

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

Absent: Councilmember Holly Cousens

2. Public Comment (allow 15 minutes)

None.

3. City Council Retreat Follow Up and Budget Discussion

As facilitator, Communication & Public Affairs Manager Randy Beehler outlined the retreat agenda. City Manager Harrison reviewed a memo on the City budget, format and schedule, noting the focus will be on all City's services funded by the general fund.

4. Status of Downtown Planning Efforts

Community Development Director Davenport reviewed a PowerPoint on downtown planning efforts, including challenges in the Central Business District and a status update on the 2014 Downtown Master Plan action steps. Council discussed enforcing truck routes in order to remove trucks from Yakima Avenue. Ms. Davenport noted this would require a traffic and engineering study as well as new traffic signals. Public Works Director Schafer discussed clean city enforcement in the downtown area.

Assistant Mayor Lund requested a future discussion on the Downtown Master Plan action steps with the exception of the plaza, with Council agreement. City Manager Harrison reported downtown cruising is coming soon, which will result in complaints. Councilmember Brown noted the ordinance doesn't specify where cruising begins and ends. Assistant Mayor Lund suggested starting two blocks west of Naches, which may alleviate some complaints. Mayor Deccio shared her concern that semi-trucks were participating. Chief Murray stated he will provide a report from the YPD Traffic division related to cruising in the near future.

5. Downtown Improvement Projects

Public Works Director Schafer reviewed improvement projects that have occurred within the past

few years and noted downtown infrastructure conditions. He also mentioned the 2017 LED lighting project, with an estimated cost of \$2.3 million for the downtown area.

Assistant Mayor Lund and Councilmember Brown shared a concern about a lack of lighting in the City parking lot on Second Street. City Manager Harrison noted there are no funds currently available to pay for improved lighting in the City-owned parking lots. Councilmember Brown asked about obtaining funding from the legislature to help with more projects. City Manager Harrison noted there are not as many funding opportunities available as there were in the past and the City recently recieved funding assistance for the North First Street project as well as Miller Park.

6. 2022 Fire Response Statistics

Fire Chief Markham provided more detail on the number of emergency fire and medical calls in the downtown area. Councilmember Byers questioned how many house fires had smoke alarms. Chief Markham will see if the information is recorded.

7. Downtown Safety Issues

Councilmember Byers shared her frustration with the number of crimes committed downtown considering the City's investments and asked about utilizing electronic home monitoring for chronic offenders. Chief Murray noted the cost of home monitoring is paid by the client to avoid losing their job. Councilmember Brown asked how many offenders are chronic offenders. Chief Murray will see if there is a report that could be provided. Councilmember Macias asked about crimes happening on North First Street and what can be done. Chief Murray reported the Police Department is working with Code Enforcement and Legal to abate issues on North First Street similar to a recent abatement in the Garfield Avenue area.

City Manager Harrison suggested a future study session with homeless partners to discuss solutions, which Council agreed would be helpful.

8. Adjournment

**MOTION: Lund moved and Byers seconded to adjourn to the next Council regular meeting on March 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.** The motion carried by unanimous vote, Cousens absent. The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

DRAFT

**CERTIFICATION**

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

ATTEST:

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

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MAYOR