



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
August 28, 2023**

**Yakima School District Central Services, Conference Rooms A & B - 104 N. 4th Ave, Yakima
4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Meet and Greet Social | 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. -- conducted in person**

1. Roll Call

Yakima City Council present: Mayor Janice Deccio, presiding; and Councilmembers Matt Brown, Patricia Byers, Holly Cousens, Danny Herrera, and Eliana Macias. Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund was absent and excused. City Staff present included City Manager Robert Harrison and City Clerk Rosalinda Ibarra.

Yakima School District Board present: Board President Norm Walker and Board members Ryan Beckett, Martha Rice, and Graciela Villanueva along with Superintendent Dr. Trevor Greene. Board member Raymond Navarro Jr. was absent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

President Norm Walker led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Yakima School District Land Acknowledgement was broadcast.

3. Public Comment (allow up to 15 minutes)

None.

4. Aquatic Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Park Update

Parks and Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson presented an update on the progress of the Aquatic Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Park project and shared schematic designs approved by the Ad Hoc committee. The development design and construction documents are scheduled to be completed in December 2023. The total budget is estimated at \$11,000,000 and the funding sources include City of Yakima (ARPA, CDBG, RCO Grant), Yakima County (ARPA), Washington State Legislative Grant, and other donations and grants.

5. Potential Street Closure Connecting MLK Jr. Park with Adams Elementary

Public Works Director Scott Schafer described a proposal to possibly close a section of Race Street between 8th Street and 9th Street to create more open green space for the community to enjoy by connecting Martin Luther King Jr. Park to Adams Elementary School. Mr. Schafer noted the next step would be to conduct a comprehensive traffic analysis to evaluate the traffic volume, capacity, and safety impacts of the potential street closure.

6. Handle with Care Program Presentation

Yakima Police Lt. Chad Janis and Director of Safety & Security Sara Cordova with the Yakima

School District shared a presentation on the Handle with Care Program, highlighting the successes and challenges of the notification system. Councilmembers and School board members praised the partnership between the City of Yakima and Yakima School District.

7. Free Bus Passes for Students 18 and Under

Public Works Director Scott Schafer presented information about the City's fare-free service offered to those ages 18 and under. Mr. Schafer noted that since the implementation of the program, ridership has increased substantially. Additionally, this service has provided savings to the Yakima School District.

8. Upcoming Levy - Update and Q&A (Jake Kuper / Superintendent Greene)

Assistant Superintendent of Finance Jake Kuper presented a detailed overview on the upcoming school levy and bond information and provided an opportunity for a question and answer session. Voters will decide whether to pass a levy tax to fund educational programs and operations (EP&O Levy) during a special election in February 2024.

9. Sidewalks

President Norm Walker thanked the City for the sidewalk work completed near Robertson Elementary and encouraged efforts in other areas near elementary schools to improve safety and traffic flow.

10. One-Way Streets

President Norm Walker and Superintendent Greene acknowledged that the changes to one-way streets near Adams Elementary, Hoover Elementary and Garfield Elementary have improved pickup and drop-off of students.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Cousens moved and Byers seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on September 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Lund absent. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER

DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR