



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
October 10, 2023**

**City Hall -- Council Chambers - 129 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA
4:45 p.m. Executive Session; 5 p.m. Study Session | Conducted in person and virtually via
Zoom.**

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Janice Deccio, presiding; Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund and Councilmembers Matt Brown, Patricia Byers, Holly Cousens, Danny Herrera, and Eliana Macias (attending remotely via Zoom)

Staff: City Manager Bob Harrison (attending remotely via Zoom), Assistant City Manager Rosylen Oglesby, City Attorney Sara Watkins, and City Clerk Rosalinda Ibarra

2. Executive session to consider the selection of a site or acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)

MOTION: Lund moved and Byers seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for 15 minutes to consider the selection of a site or acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Present for Executive Session: Mayor Deccio, Assistant Mayor Lund, and Councilmembers Brown, Byers, Cousens, Herrera, and Macias (attending remotely via phone)

Executive Session was held at 4:46 p.m. and adjourned at 5:01 p.m., at which time the meeting reconvened.

Councilmember Cousens requested a moment of silence to recognize and reflect on the recent events in Israel.

3. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

Eric Silvers, resident, reported that the community rally for the MLK aquatic center was a success and the foundation received additional pledges. He encouraged the community to keep the momentum going.

Joey Anderson, District 2 resident, spoke about transparency and accountability in city government officials. She stated councilmembers need to be less partisan in order to work together without creating additional conflict.

4. Mid-Biennial Budget - Session 1 of 2

Assistant City Manager Rosylen Oglesby briefed Council on the proposed mid-biennial budget modifications for fiscal year 2024. She noted that this budget presentation reflects the potential utility tax increases and is intended to provide Council an overview of the proposed revenue and expenditure forecast and its impact on the City's financial reserves in the second year. The City of Yakima's strategic priorities include public safety, fiscal sustainability, housing, strengthening partnership, and investment in infrastructure.

5. Proposed revenue sources (including but not limited to Utility Tax Increase, Admission Tax and Impact Fees)

Assistant City Manager Rosylen Oglesby briefed Council on proposed revenue sources which included utility tax increases, admission tax, impact fees, and levy lid lift.

Impact fees are one-time charges assessed for new development projects that directly address the increased demand for services created by that development and cannot be used to correct existing deficiencies. The process to establish impact fees will require additional research and analysis based on what fee(s) are collected.

An admission tax is a tax added to the ticket price that attendees pay to enter an entertainment facility or a charge to participate in an entertainment activity; however, there are exemptions from the admission tax. The admission tax rate is 0.05 (5%).

Proposed utility taxes increases include water, wastewater, solid waste, and stormwater. The amount expected to be generated with the utility tax increases is estimated at \$2.7 million.

The levy lid lift requires voter approval to "lift" the total levy amount collected from the current assessed valuation by more than 1%.

Ms. Oglesby noted that State law requires cities adopt a balanced budget and in order to achieve that, revenue sources need to be implemented or additional reductions need to be identified. After discussion, Council wanted more time to consider the options presented and talk to constituents regarding their concerns and understanding of the potential impacts.

6. Equity Issues

City Attorney Sara Watkins presented examples of equity mission statements from other jurisdictions. Council considered possible next steps with regards to equity issues. After discussion,

MOTION: Macias moved and Herrera seconded to direct the Community Integration Committee to develop an equity vision statement using examples and feedback presented and other research available to them. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Cousens moved Lund seconded to add to a future study session the topic of creating a land acknowledgment for the City of Yakima. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Lund moved and Cousens seconded to adjourn to the next Council regular meeting on October 17, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

DRAFT