



**YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
August 14, 2017
City Hall -- Council Chambers
10:00 a.m. MINUTES**

1. Roll Call

Council: Mayor Kathy Coffey, presiding, Assistant Mayor Carmen Mendez, Council Members Maureen Adkison, Avina Gutierrez, Dulce Gutierrez and Bill Lover

Staff: City Manager Moore and City Clerk Claar Tee

Absent: Council Member Holly Cousens (excused)

2. Camp Hope options

City Manager Moore reported Camp Hope has been extremely successful, and the City is grateful for Transform Yakima Together (TYT) stepping up to assist with the homeless community.

Pastor Andy Ferguson, of Transform Yakima, reported they recognize homelessness is a community wide issue and are honored to help serve. He reviewed what the future of Camp Hope could look like if the camp was able to stay at the current location as semi-permanent. He stated TYT envisions a long-term plan that would be phased in and includes multiple "villages" of various populations, including families and individuals with common area facilities that would be shared within each village. This could include a village similar to Quixote Village in Thurston County with tiny houses.

Scott Schafer, Public Works Director, reviewed costs and problems associated with water and sewer connections to the Camp, as well as issues relating to the future expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant should this become a permanent camp at the current location.

Sara Watkins, Senior Assistant Attorney, briefed Council on zoning problems, highlighting the following concerns:

- Homeless camps are not addressed in the City code and may fall into one of four areas 1) campground, 2) multi-family dwelling, 3) mission and 4) undefined use.
- In the current zoning, multi-family and mission use are not allowed and campgrounds are for recreational purposes, which leaves undefined use.
- To apply under the undefined use requires a public hearing by the Hearing Examiner with additional requirements.

Lee Murdock, non-resident, spoke in opposition to Camp Hope and shared her concerns

regarding outcome measurements, auditing and whether all filing requirements are being met. The following community members spoke in support of Camp Hope: Patty Medina; Jodie Miller; Aileen Kane (with conditions of financial accountability); Dawn Campbell; Mary Fromm; John VerHuel; Dana Smalley; Shawn Campbell; Verlynn Best; and Trenton Wells. Larry Mattson, Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG) Executive Director, spoke in support of TYT's proposal and noted the importance of ending the winter emergency shelter cycle.

Pastor Ferguson noted in response to Ms. Murdock, in terms of an audit, prior to this year TYT did not have more than \$50,000 in receipts and therefore did not have the same filing requirements. Additionally, of the funds received from YVCOG, nearly half is for tiny homes and the other half is for Camp Hope with all receipts and expenditures on file at YVCOG for public review. Mike Kay, Camp Director, reported there is a curfew in order to work with guests to ensure they have a bed each night as they are oftentimes at capacity.

City Manager Moore explained this information is for Council consideration and no action is expected at this time. He reminded Council that the City has invested over \$12 million dollars through CDBG and Home Funding from the Federal Government to assist with low income housing over the last decade and although the City does not have funding to be responsible for the homeless, the City is committed to helping.

3. Adjournment

MOTION: Mendez moved and D. Gutierrez seconded to adjourn to the next Council Business Meeting on August 15, 2017, at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote, no consents absent. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

DRAFT

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR