



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
February 13, 2024**

**City Hall -- Council Chambers - 129 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA
5:00 p.m. Study Session - conducted in person and virtually via Zoom**

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Patricia Byers, presiding; Assistant Mayor Matt Brown and Councilmembers Reedy Berg, Janice Deccio Rick Glenn, Danny Herrera and Leo Roy (attending remotely via Zoom)

Staff: Interim City Manager Dave Zabell, City Attorney Sara Watkins and City Clerk Rosalinda Ibarra

2. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

Daylene Ackerman urged Council not to implement the Climate Action Plan developed by the Sustainable Yakima Committee.

3. Discussion regarding Council Boards, Committees, and Commissions

City Attorney Sara Watkins outlined the roles and responsibilities of liaisons to boards, committees, and commissions and shared the councilmember liaison job description utilized by the City of Bainbridge Island for Council's information. The various boards, committees, and commissions were discussed at length, including background, requirement for participation, benefits, and potential downsides.

It was Council consensus to designate Assistant Mayor Brown to serve as an ex-officio member on the Tourism Promotion Area (TPA formerly Hotel/Motel Commission), and Councilmember Berg to serve as an alternate on the Council Nominating Committee and as the liaison to the Yakima Valley Conference of Government (YVCOG) General Membership board.

After further discussion,

MOTION: Brown moved and Deccio seconded to direct staff to prepare an ordinance to expand the Yakima Planning Commission to eleven members and two non-voting Council representatives. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Councilmember Deccio and Glenn expressed an interest to serve as the Council representatives to the Yakima Planning Commission when the changes are implemented.

MOTION: Brown moved and Berg seconded to direct staff to create an ordinance to move the Historic Preservation Commission, the Bike and Pedestrian Committee, and the Yakima Tree Board as subcommittees in the ordinance for the Yakima Planning Commission. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

MOTION: Brown moved and Berg seconded to direct staff to remove the Community Integration Committee and the Sustainable Yakima Committee out of the City code. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

4. Consideration of Naches Avenue Historic Overlay Zone Standards

Planning Manager Joseph Calhoun briefed Council on the Naches Avenue Historic Overlay Zone Standards. He provided background information regarding the inventory of the North and South Naches corridors adjacent to the Naches Avenue median which was achieved using grants from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). The inventory study noted there is not enough historic significance to warrant a new historic district but recommended Historic Overlay Zone (HOZ) standards to preserve existing historic structures.

There are six primary purposes of the HOZ zone which include: retain/increase housing density; retain architectural integrity; encourage investment in existing buildings and multi-family infill; strengthen the historic role of Naches Avenue; prioritize rehabilitation of contributing buildings; and, prioritize rehabilitation or replacement of noncontributing buildings built during the period of significance. Implementation of these standards will require text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance (YMC Title 15) and the Historic Preservation Ordinance (YMC Ch. 11.62).

After Council discussion regarding housing density and parking concerns,

MOTION: Deccio moved and Brown seconded to direct staff to begin the implementation process for the Naches Avenue Historic Overlay Zone. The motion passed 6-1; Glenn voting no.

5. Council discussion on memberships

Interim City Manager Dave Zabell and City Attorney Sara Watkins briefed Council on the current memberships that the City of Yakima partners with and described the benefits of the membership services the City receives. They include the Chamber of Commerce, Yakima County Development Association (YCDA), Yakima Valley Conference of Governments (YVCOG), Association of Washington Cities (AWC), National League of Cities (NLC), and the Yakima Homeless Network.

After Council discussion,

MOTION: Glenn moved and Brown seconded to eliminate participation in the National League of Cities. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Glenn moved and Deccio seconded to adjourn to the next Council regular meeting on February 20, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR