



**MINUTES  
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL**

**March 5, 2024**

**City Hall – Council Chambers - 129 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA**

**5:00 p.m. Executive Session | 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting conducted in person and virtually  
via Zoom**

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. Executive Session regarding pending litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)

**MOTION: Brown moved and Deccio seconded to adjourn to Executive Session for 20 minutes to discuss pending litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i).** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Present for Executive Session: Mayor Byers, Assistant Mayor Brown, and Councilmembers Berg, Deccio, Glenn, Herrera, and Roy.

Executive Session was held at 5:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The regular meeting was called back to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Byers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Interpreter Services**

Mayor Byers introduced Jorge Villaseñor who announced interpreter services are available in Spanish.

4. **Public Comment**

Peter Rasmussen, City employee & President of IAFF, thanked Council for purchase of new reporting system for the Yakima Fire Department and stated concerns regarding the elimination of the public education position.

The following participants spoke in support of adjusting the Council boards and commissions structure, streamlining processes, enhancing efficiencies and removal of the Sustainable Yakima Committee and Community Integration Committee: Joel Ackeret, Dave Carson, Matt Clem, Frieda Stephens, Jenny Reed, Scot Stephens, Dana Johnson, and Roy Dove.

The following participants urged Council to reconsider the proposal to restructure the boards and commissions and expressed opposition of repealing the Community Integration Committee and Sustainable Yakima Committee: Coleen L. Anderson, Jennifer Gindt, Sandra Aguilar, Tiffany Pitra, and Frank Purdy.

City employees Brian Jones, IT Services; and Brenda Blakk, Water Division spoke regarding hiring practices and uncompetitive wages.

David Macias, City employee and AFSCME President, encouraged Councilmembers and City Manager to visit the various divisions and department throughout the City.

Charley Mulvey, Yakima resident, advocated for more trees in the community and distributed an article published in the Yakima Herald Republic regarding urban forests.

Natalie McLendon, spoke regarding the Council Rules of Procedures.

The public comment portion ended at 6:10 p.m.

## **5. Open Discussion for the Good of the Order**

### **A. Proclamations**

#### **i. Draft Yakima-Morelia Sister City proclamation**

**MOTION: Deccio moved and Herrera seconded to approve the proclamation.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **B. Presentations / Recognitions / Introductions**

#### **i. Recognition of retiring Community Development Director Joan Davenport**

Interim City Manager Dave Zabell recognized Community Development Director Joan Davenport for her upcoming retirement. Ms. Davenport has served the Yakima community for approximately 37 years.

#### **ii. Washington Fruit Community Center (WFCC) Masterplan Presentation**

Parks & Recreation Manager Ken Wilkinson presented the Washington Fruit Community Center (WFCC) Master Plan options identified by KDA Architecture. Completion of the plan allows the City to be eligible for state or other grant funding opportunities for potential improvements and future expansion of the facility. The three design options include:

- Minimalistic - immediate repairs/improvements of existing facility
- Intermediate - minor upgrade/remodeling of facility
- Grand - major remodeling/expansion of facility

The cost estimates are dependent on the options provided and range between \$2 million and \$15 million. The Council did not take any action.

## **6. Council Reports**

### **A. Review of City Manager job description**

Director of Human Resources Connie Mendoza briefed Council on the updates to the City Manager job description.

After Council discussion and amendments, the following was presented:

**AMENDED MOTION: Berg moved and Brown seconded to change the minimum requirements description words from "ten years" to "five plus years" and add "or" to "size and complexity".** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**MOTION: Glenn moved and Deccio seconded to accept the amended motion.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

**MOTION: Glenn moved and Brown seconded to end editing of the application and direct the HR Department to begin search process.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

## 7. **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Byers referred to the items placed on the Consent Agenda, questioning whether there were any additions or deletions from Council members present. Item D was removed from the consent agenda. The City Clerk read the Consent Agenda items, including resolutions and ordinances, by title. (Items on the Consent Agenda are handled under one motion without further discussion—see motion directly below.)

**MOTION: Deccio moved and Brown seconded to approve the consent agenda as read.** The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

- A. Approval of minutes from the February 20, 2024 City Council regular meeting and February 27, 2024 study session
- B. Set date of April 2, 2024 for a public hearing to consider a rezone proposal in the vicinity of 1104 & 1112 S. 48th Ave
- C. Set date of April 2, 2024 for a closed record public hearing to consider the Planning Commission's Recommendation on text amendments to YMC Title 14 - Subdivision Ordinance
- D. Item D was removed from the Consent Agenda
- E. Project Completion and Contract Acceptance with Gilbert Patterson Concrete Inc for the S. 27th Ave. & Mead Ave. Sidewalks Project 2618
- F. Project Completion and Contract Acceptance with Cortez Fencing LLC for the Naches Avenue Parkway Fencing Project 2764
- G. Resolution setting April 12, 2024, as the date for an open record public hearing before the Hearing Examiner to vacate a portion of N. 4th St. between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and E. Lincoln Ave

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-035, A RESOLUTION** fixing time for a public hearing before the Hearing Examiner on April 12, 2024, on a petition (Petition No. 23-04) to vacate right-of-way at N. 4th St. between E. Lincoln Ave. and E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

- H. Resolution authorizing a National Highway System grant award for Nob Hill Blvd

## Grind & Overlay Project 2799

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-036, A RESOLUTION** authorizing acceptance and execution of a grant program agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Nob Hill Blvd Project 2799.

- I. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Yakima National Little League Association for Little League activities at Elks Park Athletic Complex

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-037, A RESOLUTION** authorizing an agreement with Yakima National Little League Association for Little League activities at Elks Park Athletic Complex.

- J. Resolution authorizing an Interagency Agreement with Washington State Patrol for fire mobilization

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-038, A RESOLUTION** authorizing an Interagency agreement between the Washington State Patrol and the Yakima Fire Department for fire mobilization.

- K. Resolution accepting the renewal request and authorizing an amendment to extend the lease/purchase option agreement with the Y HOTEL, LLC for City property located at 1808 North 1st Street

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-039, A RESOLUTION** accepting the renewal request and authorizing an amendment to extend the Lease/Purchase Option Agreement with the Y HOTEL, LLC for City property located at 1808 North 1st Street.

- L. Resolution authorizing an Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the United States Department of Justice

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-040, A RESOLUTION** authorizing an Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification with the United States Department of Justice.

- M. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with GMP Consultants for the recruitment of a new Community Development Director

**RESOLUTION NO. R-2024-041, A RESOLUTION** authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with GMP Consultants for the recruitment of a new Community Development Director.

### Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- A. Project Completion and Contract Acceptance for the Capitol Theatre Curtain Replacement with Pacific Northwest Theatre Associates Project 2569

Mayor Byers acknowledged the replacement of the curtains at the Capitol Theatre.

**MOTION: Brown moved and Deccio seconded to approve the Item D as read.** The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### DEPARTMENT ITEMS

- 8. Ordinance repealing Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 1.34: Community Integration Committee

City Attorney Sara Watkins briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to repeal Chapter 1.34 Community Integration Committee from the Yakima Municipal Code. Assistant City Manager Rosylen Oglesby read the ordinance in its entirety.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title only. After discussion,

**MOTION: Berg moved and Brown seconded to pass the ordinance for item 8.** The motion carried by a 5-2 roll call vote; with Deccio and Herrera voting no.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-004, AN ORDINANCE** repealing Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 1.34: Community Integration Committee.

9. Ordinance repealing Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 1.40: Sustainable Yakima Committee

City Attorney Sara Watkins briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to repeal Chapter 1.40 Sustainable Yakima Committee from the Yakima Municipal Code. Assistant City Manager Rosylen Oglesby read the ordinance in its entirety.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title only.

**MOTION: Berg moved and Brown seconded to pass the ordinance under item 9.** The motion carried by a 5-2 roll call vote; with Deccio and Herrera voting no.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-005, AN ORDINANCE** repealing Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 1.40: Sustainable Yakima Committee.

10. Ordinance amending the City of Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 1.42: Planning Commission; Chapter 1.37: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Chapter 11.62: Historic Preservation; and Chapter 8.77: Public Tree Ordinance, to create a structure where the Historic Preservation Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Tree Board report to, and are considered sub-committees of the Planning Commission

City Attorney Sara Watkins briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to make amendments to the YMC Chapter 1.42 Yakima Planning Commission, YMC Chapter 1.37 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, YMC Chapter 11.62 Historic Preservation Commission, and YMC Chapter 8.77 Public Tree Ordinance; and make them sub-committees of the Yakima Planning Commission. Additionally, an alternative option is to make the Public Tree Board a sub-committee of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title only. After Council discussion,

**MOTION: Roy moved and Berg seconded to pass the ordinance.** The motion carried by a 5-2 roll call vote; with Deccio and Herrera voting no.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-006, AN ORDINANCE** amending the City of Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 1.42: Planning Commission; Chapter 1.37: Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Chapter 11.62: Historic Preservation; and Chapter 8.77: Public Tree Ordinance, to create a structure where the Historic Preservation Commission, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Tree Board report to, and are considered sub-committees of, the Planning Commission.

11. Ordinance amending sections of Yakima Municipal Code Title 10 Fire for adoption of the 2021 Washington State Codes

Code Administration Manager Glenn Denman briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to amend the Yakima Municipal Code Title 10 Fire to adopt the applicable codes of the 2021 editions of the Washington State codes with some amendments.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title only. After discussion,

**MOTION: Deccio moved and Brown seconded to pass the ordinance.** The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-007, AN ORDINANCE** amending certain sections of City of Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 10.05 and Chapter 10.10 Fire Code for adoption of the 2021 Washington State Fire Code.

12. Ordinance amending sections of Yakima Municipal Code Title 11 Buildings for adoption of the 2021 Washington State Codes

Code Administration Manager Glenn Denman briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to amend the Yakima Municipal Code Title 11 Buildings to adopt the applicable codes of the 2021 editions of the Washington State codes with some amendments.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title only. After discussion,

**MOTION: Brown moved and Deccio seconded to pass the ordinance.** The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-008, AN ORDINANCE** amending certain sections of City of Yakima Municipal Code Chapter 11.04 Building Code, Chapter 11.12 Existing Building Code; Chapter 11.18 Fuel Gas Code, Chapter 11.22 Residential Code, Chapter 11.32 Mechanical Code and Chapter 11.44 Plumbing Code for adoption of the 2021 Washington State Codes.

13. **Other Business**

Councilmember Herrera commended local athletes for their wins at the recent WIAA State Basketball competition.

14. **Adjournment**

**MOTION: Brown moved and Herrera seconded to adjourn to the next Council study session on March 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.** The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION**

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

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

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

ATTEST:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR