



Town of Yacolt

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 13, 2022

7:00 PM

Town Hall / Virtual / Telephonic

Call to Order

7:00 PM

Flag Salute

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Amy Boget, Joshua Beck, Ronald Homola, Marina Viray

Council Member Absent: Michelle Dawson

Also present: Mayor Katelyn Listek, Town Attorney David Ridenour, Public Works Director Terry Gardner, Clerk Stephanie Fields

Late Changes to the Agenda

There will be no executive session. Another agenda item (as item #12) will be discussed regarding a proposed car show.

Approve Minutes of 5-9-22 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from May 9th meeting with minor corrections as discussed

Motion: Boget 2nd: Homola

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0

Motion Carried

Citizen Communication

Joel Becker got up and indicated to Council that an incident involving Mayor Listek occurred in front of his house, where they disagreed about attaching a hanging flower basket to the power pole there. He asserted that the Town had no right to hang the basket there or to trim back his trees which hung down above the sidewalk, blocking the view of the flower basket. Mayor Listek countered that the Town does have the right and obligation to trim back anything in the right-of-way. They then disagreed about what defines the right-of-way and who has what rights and responsibilities there. Councilmember Boget suggested he file a formal grievance, rather than using the venue of the Council Meeting to air his complaint.

Unfinished Business

Interlocal Agreement with Clark County for Waste Connections Trash and Recycling Collection

This topic was carried over from last month's council meeting, since so many questions remained

unanswered at that meeting. George Sidles of Clark County Public Health and Derek Ranta of Waste Connections spoke about the options for the upcoming Interlocal Agreement:

- 1) Continue as-is, but the rates would go up by just over \$2.00/household/month
- 2) Continue with weekly trash pick-up but bi-weekly recycling pick-up, (with ~50% larger recycling bins available at no charge from Waste Connections,) with no rate increase
- 3) Bi-weekly pick-ups plus mandate that *all* households have pick-ups by Waste Connections, resulting in about a 25¢ savings/household/month

None of the Council Members was willing to impose a mandate on their fellow residents, so option #3 was immediately ruled out. After some discussion and a brief Q & A session, it was moved that we go with option #2. (On another note, Ranta notified all in attendance that over the course of 2023, Waste Connections will be providing all of their Yacolt customers with a large, sturdy, wheeled trash bin, as they will be transitioning to new automated trucks over the next couple of years.)

Motion: Homola

2nd: Beck

Aye: Beck, Homola, Viray

Nay: Boget

Absent: Dawson

Motion Carried

Library Lease – Review of Monthly Lease Rate

At the last Council meeting, Council approved to extend Fort Vancouver Regional Library's lease of the former Town Hall building for another five years, with no change in the terms. After reviewing FVRL's budget and what they pay to rent other facilities, and seeing that our annual lease rate equates to only \$3.00/square foot, it was moved that we should at least ask FVRL to increase their lease payments to the Town. Rhonda Rowe, who is a member of Friends of Yacolt Library Express, spoke up and requested either no increase or very little increase.

Motion: Beck

2nd: Boget

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray

Nay: 0

Absent: Dawson

Motion Carried

6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan Public Hearing

Mayor Listek closed the regular meeting to open up a public hearing regarding the 6-year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2023-2028 at 7:47pm. David Nielsen of Jackson Civil Engineering presented the Plan to all attendees. He answered questions regarding funding and priorities. Councilmember Boget asked for clarification on a couple of the items. Amy Yerkes asked about speedbump installation. Councilmember Homola asked who makes the Plan. Cathy Rowton asked about light poles/streetlights. Ann VanAntwerp asked about the intersection at Jones and Hubbard. When all discussion was over, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:58pm. Councilmember Boget then moved that we pass Resolution #606, adopting the proposed 6-year transportation improvement plan.

Motion: Boget

2nd: Viray

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray

Nay: 0

Absent: Dawson

Motion Carried

Building Department: Delegation of Authority to Approve Some Building Permits

At the last meeting, staff presented some issues to Council regarding building permit approval, and Council agreed that some changes in the authority for decision-making and permit issuance may be beneficial both to staff and to permit applicants. Tonight, council dove a little deeper into the topic. Attorney Ridenour gave a brief history of the Town's evolving permitting process and building codes. Boget said she was on Council back in 2019 when the most recent code change was made, and the

intention of that change was to delegate Council's authority so that not every permit application would have to come before Council. Ridenour responded that when that change was made, no specific guidelines were built into the Code (ie: Delegate authority to whom? Under which circumstances? Based on value/cost/ or what?). Council felt that on simpler applications (ie: heat pump installations, re-roofing, fences, sheds, additions to existing homes, and so on), as long as our hired consultants approved the project, council should not have to review and approve the issuance of permits; decisions should be allowed to be made by the Mayor and/or office staff. Chris Waters, Yacolt Community Church's Construction Project Manager, mentioned that he has been frustrated with issues with our building department's structure. Ridenour explained that taking away requirement for Council approval for all permits would require changing our Municipal Code. Councilmember Boget suggested a brainstorming session for the following Monday, during which time discussion could be had as to where to draw the line between which permits could be issued following administrative decisions, and which ones should still require Council's approval. As no decision was able to be made at this time, it was agreed that the Monday workshop should be held.

New Business

North Clark Little League's Proposal to Install Field Lights Over Field 2

Ken Pierce spoke on behalf of NCLL regarding their wish to install lights above Field 2. He said they would do it at their own expense, with donations of poles from Seattle City Lights and labor from Clark PUD and others. They have pretty much lined up everything they need; they are now asking for Council's permission to carry out the project. Councilmember Boget moved that the Town allows this project to commence.

Motion: Boget **2nd:** Beck

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Dawson

Motion Carried

Field Use Agreement with Yacolt Ghost

Richard Boone, coach of the 14 & Under Softball team called the Yacolt Ghost spoke about the team and their need for a practice field (Field 3). He said they may also want to use the field for tournaments. They would only use the field during NCLL's off-season, between June 12th and September 4th. He listed some benefits that the team's use of this field would bring to both the team and the Town. Trevor Conder, president of NCLL already said NCLL would be fine with this use, provided that the Ghost did not use any of NCLL's equipment. Councilmember Boget moved that we draft an agreement with the Yacolt Ghost allowing their use of Field 3 during the 3 months when NCLL is not using the fields.

Motion: Boget **2nd:** Viray

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Dawson

Motion Carried

Commission on Aging 2021-2022 Update

Chuck Green of Ridgefield gave a slideshow presentation on the activities the Clark County Commission on Aging has been involved in over the past year or so and what they have in store as we continue into 2022. 2021's main focus was on recovery from everything COVID threw our way, from illness to housing, to in-home care. Looking ahead, they are focusing on readiness plans and true social connections (as opposed to social media). In addition, they are recommending that government agencies review their HR policies and encourage healthy eating and lifestyles, build relationships with the underserved, adopt policies to streamline challenges to building in order to

create more affordable housing, and promote emergency preparedness training in their communities.

Records Review Project

Attorney Ridenour spoke about the records review/ records room project which was begun back in 2019 and never completed. It is a huge project, and the Town simply has not had the staff to undertake completion of it. He recommended hiring two trustworthy, detail-oriented temporary employees to take on the project for the Town. He proposed a plan and a simple budget. Councilmember Homola moved that we implement the plan proposed by Ridenour, authorizing Mayor Listek to hire temporary employees, consistent with the plan presented, and that Council be given progress and cost updates.

Motion: Homola **2nd:** Boget

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Dawson

Motion Carried

Battle Ground School District: New Capital Facilities Plan; Revised School Impact Fees; Proposed Interlocal Agreement

Attorney Ridenour gave some history on school impact fees and said that we have had no actual Interlocal Agreement in place to collect and pay school impact fees to Battle Ground School District since we created our own building department separate from Clark County. Since that time, the Town has sporadically collected school impact fees and paid them to Battle Ground School District, but has not been consistent, nor has it had a legal basis for the fees it collected and paid. The School District has presented him with a proposed Interlocal Agreement to resolve this issue, and he will be reviewing it and updating it to present to Council at next month's Council meeting.

Permit Approvals

Nine various types of permit applications were presented to Council. All of the applications presented were complete and had been previously approved by either our Town Engineer, Building Inspector, or both. One application was presented but was incomplete. A question was raised regarding easement measurements, and Public Works Director Gardner explained that easement measurement begins from the center of the road and goes out from there. The Council agreed that once the files are complete and our consultants have approved the application, they are ready for approval to be issued. Councilmember Boget moved that all of the complete permit applications brought before Council at that meeting be approved.

Motion: Boget **2nd:** Beck

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Dawson

Motion Carried

Car Show Event

Mayor Listek was asked by Melissa of Impact Automotive to ask for Council's permission to have a car show on August 20th. Detours would need to be in place because roads would need to be closed. The Fire Department and Clark County Sheriff's Office have been notified, and permission will be gotten from private landowners for any private property use. Councilmember Beck moved that we allow the Car Show to take place.

Motion: Beck **2nd:** Boget

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Dawson

Motion Carried

Town Clerk's Report

- Hardin property sale closed on May 16th and we already received our check in the amount of \$54,586.06. Thank you, David Ridenour for your years of work toward this end.
- Planning Rendezvous Days; most supplies already here.
- As of June 12, 36 entries in Bigfoot 5K, 7 in Bigfoot 10k
- The push is on for Parade planning; if anyone knows of some flaggers who might be able to help w/traffic control, please contact the Clerk. (Someone suggested a local ROTC)

Public Works Department Report

- Catching up on mowing
- Embankment slide is up but not yet completed
- We have most of the new supplies for Cemetery row marker project
- Still have some hedging to do
- Will be focusing on preps for Rendezvous Days

Attorney's Comments

Said he will be at the Monday workshop if Council wants him there. They said yes.

Citizen Communication

Rhonda Rowe asked what could be done about the speeders on E Yacolt Rd. Amy Yerkes echoed the question. They both live on E. Yacolt Rd. and would like more aggressive speed bumps to be installed. Gardner said perhaps we can tap into the ARPA funds for speedbumps, since the issue is one of safety.

Council's Comments

- Homola – Attended NCEMS Meeting; they will be attending our National Night Out. They are still working to fund the new building at Fargher Lake and will revisit that in the fall. They need to fill an open board position for Yacolt rural. They are looking for a new EMT for Pine Creek. There is not enough staff for the Forest Service info center, so it will be closed this year. He also spoke with them about our Public Works shop, which we lease from them. They would like to see some of the items which have been stored outside put inside, but our space there is limited. Homola suggested selling off or otherwise getting rid of some things; Gardner said we should not get rid of things only to have to replace them at a much higher cost.
- Boget – Wanted to recognize Silver Citizen Award winner Carol Starbuck of the trauma prevention unit. Also congratulations to all this year's graduates.

Mayor's Comments

- Will be printing out newsletter in the next day or so, with Town events schedule for the remainder of the year.
- Asked for nominations for Parade Grand Marshal and the Civic Responsibility Award. Beck nominated Jeff Carothers for Grand Marshal and Casey Ellison for the Civic Responsibility Award. Mayor Listek said she'd take those into consideration.

Approve to Pay Bills on Behalf of the Town

Motion was made to pay the bills on behalf of the Town

Motion: Boget

2nd: Beck

Aye: Boget, Beck, Homola, Viray

Nay: 0

Absent: Dawson

Motion Carried

Adjourn

10:39 pm



Mayor Katelyn Listek



Clerk Stephanie Fields

Approved by Council vote on July 11, 2022