



Town of Yacolt

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022

7:00 PM

Town Hall / Virtual / Telephonic

Call to Order

7:00 PM

Flag Salute

Roll Call

Council Members Present: Amy Boget, Michelle Dawson, Ronald Homola, Marina Viray

Council Member Absent: Joshua Beck

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

Council Member Boget noted that Council Member Beck had emailed asking to be excused, and she made a motion to excuse him.

Motion: Boget 2nd: Dawson

Aye: Boget, Dawson, Homola, Viray

Nay: 0

Absent: Beck

Motion Carried

Late Changes to the Agenda

None

Approve Minutes of 2-14-22 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from February 14th meeting

Motion: Homola 2nd: Boget

Aye: Boget, Dawson, Homola, Viray

Nay: 0

Absent: Beck

Motion Carried

Citizen Communication

None

Unfinished Business

North Clark Little League Field Use Agreement

When it was brought up that we renew NCLL's Field Use Agreement for another 10 years, some discussion ensued. Public Works Director Gardner suggested a shorter contract term. He referred to an issue we have with too many keys being checked out and currently unaccounted for. Clerk Fields mentioned that NCLL agreed to put a real-estate-type lockbox on the main gate and asked if the other gates really even need padlocks. Gardner said lockboxes would be a good solution, but we do need to get the rest of the keys back, and ensure that we have keys to all locks at the ballfield except the NCLL's storage and concession stand buildings. NCLL and KWRL would each only need a couple of keys, and they should return the remaining keys to the Town. Also, the Fire Dep't. needs to keep their keys, as well as PUD and Brad's Septic. When all discussion was said and done, they started to vote on it, then Councilmembers Homola and Boget suggested that we push this vote out to the next meeting in order to allow NCLL to bring their extra keys in, and all agreed.

Hardin Estate Update

Attorney Ridenour stated that the Town may want to enter a bid on this property in order to protect its financial interest in the estate. He said we could use the amount owed to us from the estate as credit toward the purchase, and perhaps add in some additional money to that amount. It would be an investment in the security of our judgement award.

YMC CH. 12.05 Revisions

The Clerk brought up that she has had numerous calls and emails regarding park regulations, particularly regarding dogs off-leash and motor-bikes. She asked Council if they wanted to address any of the issues and refine new rules before she drafted the revision to the Code/Ordinances, or at least update some signs to be posted. Council felt like the rules were addressed well enough, but agreed that we will need to post updated signs displaying park rules, and referencing the Code.

Spruce Ave. Short Plat Update

Clerk Fields announced that the Spruce Avenue Short Plat was within days of having their Certificates of Occupancy issued; the Short Plat recorded today, we're just waiting on the County to assign Parcel numbers. We have a Stormwater Maintenance Agreement in place for the run-off pond on the property, which will provide easements and will protect the Town's interests in the future.

New Business

Backroads Liquor License Application

Mike Casetta and Matthew Siese from Backroads talked about their plans for Backroads, including remodeling and creating a family-friendly pizzeria side which can be opened up after 9pm to create a larger bar area. They talked about their menu and hours, and said they are aiming to be open about April 15th. They have applied for a liquor license and asked Council to approve for the Mayor to send a letter of support on their behalf to the Liquor Control Board. Motion was made to approve the letter in support of Backroads' liquor license.

Motion: Boget 2nd: Dawson

Aye: Boget, Dawson, Viray **Abstain:** Homola **Absent:** Beck

Motion Carried

Clark Public Utilities Water Supply Presentation

Russ Knutson and John Roth from Clark PUD talked in detail about plans PUD has to bring water to Yacolt from the well on Kelly Hill. They explained in-depth the eventual need for the nitrate level in the water in our valley to be diluted with an influx of new water, while assuring us that the nitrate level is far from unsafe right now. They also said that 2 of the 4 wells in Town are not functional because they are pumping sand. Doug Quinn from PUD added that although they are *introducing* this plan right now, they must make their plans 10-15 years ahead, so this project is something they will likely not be starting until several years from now. Russ said they are looking to get one or more grants to help fund the project, and they will be seeking a letter from the Town in support of the project by about next October. He also mentioned that none of this will result in an increase in water use rates.

Silver Star Service Agreement

The Mayor asked for Council's permission to sign a service agreement for Silver Star Telecom to hook us up with fiber optic service in the park area near the Library. Silver Star offered to do this with a \$0 hook-up fee, since they will be installing fiber optic very close to that site anyway; so all we'd have is the monthly service fee of \$80. This is something we've been needing to have done anyway, in order to set up our security cameras in that area. Motion was made to allow this.

Motion: Viray

2nd: Homola

Aye: Boget, Dawson, Homola, Viray

Nay: 0

Absent: Beck

Motion Carried

Railroad Ave and Hoag St Subdivision

Council was informed about the proposed subdivision at Railroad Avenue and Hoag Street. It will be a 47-home Subdivision, built by AHO Construction. Very little discussion took place, as the formal Public Hearing will be at the next meeting, on April 11th. However, Council was asked to think about a different name for the street on the plans which is labeled as "Bumpski Circle". Discussion only.

Jorgensen 2022 Timber Harvest

Council was informed about a timber harvest which Jorgensen Timber applied for. This will be on the forested area south of the Town Park, going south to near Yacolt Creek, and east to Parcel Ave. Very little discussion was had, as the Public Hearing for this project will also take place at the April 11th Council meeting. Discussion only.

Public Records Request Impacts

The Town Attorney, David Ridenour, reviewed how public records requests to the Town have increased in number and complexity over recent years. The Town's staff and consultants have had to devote far more time than expected to make sure that the Town's responses are complete, while ensuring that exempt or confidential records are properly disclosed but withheld.

The Town's strategy has been to make extraordinary efforts to work through the bigger and more challenging projects, even delaying other important work when possible. The Town hoped that this unexpected workload would ease over time, and that the time and effort spent responding to records requests would return to normal. But over the last year or so, staff is realizing that this unusually high workload is showing no sign of slowing down.

Put simply, public records requests are placing extraordinary demands on a system that is very small, and naturally struggles to quickly address unexpected large projects. Since the workload is not slowing down, staff recognizes that the Town's planning should adapt so that future needs will be met. The Town Clerk concurred, as she is the main person who has to assemble all of the records and respond to all the requests. The Mayor, Town Clerk and Town Attorney are working to develop options for the Council so that it may prepare for a future of public records requests that continue to grow in number and complexity.

Town Clerk's Report

- She hopes to be able to have YMC 12.05 updates in time for the April Council meeting.
- She took classes the 1st week of March in preparation for our Annual Report, which is due May 27th, and is currently doing a short training series on ARPA Funds reporting. Our first ARPA Report is due April 29.
- We have a source for this year's hanging flower baskets, and they will be only \$25 each. We will need about 40 of them. If anyone would like to donate, they should contact the Clerk.
- All the Easter Eggs have been stuffed and made ready for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 16th, but we still need Easter baskets, both for the kids' prizes and for the Basket Auction. Anyone wishing to donate Easter Baskets, please contact the Clerk.

Public Works Department Report

- Director Terry Gardner had a meeting with Waste Connections. They will be making a presentation at our next Council Meeting regarding going to every-other-week recycling pickup.
- They have sorted out how they are going to make water more available at the Ball Fields.
- He had the inmate crew last week, and they did a lot of vegetation clean-up around Town.
- Councilmember Dawson remarked that she saw a happy post on social media, grateful that the blackberries had been cut back near their home.

Attorney's Comments

None

Citizen Communication

One resident said she doesn't see very much wildlife (squirrels, rabbits, etc.) in the vicinity of her home here in Yacolt. She finds that concerning. Others commented that they do have lots of squirrels, raccoons, and the like near their homes in Town.

Council's Comments

- Viray – Attended a Mosquito Control Board meeting on Feb. 15th. They have bought a new building, hired a new administrative assistant, and are testing a new drone program in Ridgefield. As of that meeting date, they had only trapped one mosquito this year.
- Boget – has been asked by a resident if the Town is planning to repair any of the parakeet houses around Town that are in disrepair.

