



# Town of Yacolt

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 10 2024  
7:00 PM  
Town Hall

### Call to Order

7:00 PM

### Flag Salute

### Roll Call

Council Members Present: Kandi Peto, Ronald Homola, Marina Viray

Council Members Absent: Craig Carroll

Also present: Mayor Ian Shealy, Attorney David Ridenour, Public Works Director Terry Gardner, and Clerk Stephanie Fields

A motion was moved by Council Member Homola to excuse the absence of Council Member Carroll and was seconded by Council Member Peto and passed unanimously.

### Late Changes to the Agenda

2nd Executive session will not take place, and 1<sup>st</sup> Executive session will not take place unless Council deems it necessary, to discuss qualifications of candidates for Council Position #1.

### Approve Minutes of May 13, 2024 Council Meeting

**Motion:** Peto                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Homola

**Aye:** Peto, Homola, Viray

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** Carroll

**Motion Carried**

### Citizen Communication

Boyang Ridenour thanked the Mayor and Staff for the graduation gift, saying it made her graduation all the more special.

Kimberly Goheen Elbon said she's been politically active since the start of the pandemic, and suggested that the Town declare a proclamation to celebrate Independence Month, as opposed to just Independence Day. She then spoke about riots, protests, and not many people speaking at Council meetings in Vancouver and Clark County.

Josh Beck reported that a young man flipped his vehicle in the Rec Park parking lot the previous night. He said the gates need to be installed there to prevent future shenanigans like that. Public Works Director Gardner responded that there is a plan in place, that we have most of the materials, and that he hopes to complete that project before the end of July.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Council Position #1 Interviews and Appointment**

Council members each asked a series of questions of four candidates: Jeff Carothers, Joshua Beck, Cindee Clark, and Jennifer Ingram. After each Candidate answered the questions, Council elected to hold an executive session in order to discuss the Candidates' qualifications. The Executive session began at 7:44pm, and the regular meeting was reconvened at 8:00pm.

Nomination by secret ballot then took place, and Jeff Carothers was nominated. Motion was made to appoint Carothers to Council Position #1.

**Motion:** Homola                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Viray  
**Aye:** Peto, Homola, Viray              **Nay:** 0              **Absent:** Carroll  
**Motion Carried**

Carothers was then sworn in and took his seat at the desk for Council Position #1.

### **6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan Resolution #626**

A Public Hearing for the 6-year TIP was held at the May 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, and at tonight's meeting, the final draft of the Resolution to adopt the TIP was presented to Council. Motion was made to adopt the Resolution as written.

**Motion:** Viray                      2<sup>nd</sup>: Peto  
**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Homola, Viray              **Nay:** 0              **Absent:** Carroll  
**Motion Carried**

### **Resolution #627 Opposing Commercial Use of the Railroad in Yacolt**

Councilmember Homola reported that he's been attending the Railroad Meetings on his own, and said that any changes to the Railroad would be a long way off, and that there are a lot of moving pieces that have not yet been put together. He suggested tabling the Resolution indefinitely, and remaining neutral. Peto, Carothers, and Viray all agreed, as we don't have enough info yet to allow for an informed decision. No motion or vote was made.

### **Comprehensive Growth Plan Update**

Devin Jackson and Paul Dennis of Jackson Civil Engineering made a presentation regarding the work they are doing toward updating the Town's Comprehensive Growth Plan. They said there will be more public involvement going forward; they've already gotten a few local people involved: a Council member, a community member at large, and a developer so far. They explained that the plan looks forward about 20 years, during which time the Town's population is projected to increase by about 276 people, housing is expected to increase by 150, and jobs are projected to increase by up to 360. For this all to happen, the Town would need to expand its Urban Growth Area and adjust zoning somewhat. The next Council update will be in October of this year. A Public Hearing for the draft of the Comp Plan Update will be held next March, and a Hearing for adoption of the final Ordinance should be scheduled for June, 2025 (although the State has allowed for extension of the final adoption date).

## **New Business**

### **Amend Municipal Code Regarding Keeping Chickens in Town**

Councilmember Viray presented her thoughts on why she feels that the maximum number of chickens which a household in Town should be allowed to keep should be raised. Councilmember Peto complained of chickens in her neighborhood attracting rats. Carothers concurred, stating that nuisance

codes need to be enforced. More discussion was had regarding obtaining support (or complaint) letters from neighbors when appropriate, and how many complaints an owner would be allowed to have against them before Council takes action. Motion was made that the Ordinance should be amended to say that just one neighbor complaint would initiate Council review, and that anyone who received prior permission to keep chickens be allowed to keep up to twelve of them.

**Motion:** Peto

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Carothers

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Homola, Viray

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** Carroll

**Motion Carried**

### **Town Facebook Page**

Concerns were raised regarding record retention, usage and comments posted. Attorney Ridenour posed 4 basic questions regarding the Town having a social media presence (as opposed to just our website). 1. Records retention? 2. Is it strategic – does it reach a new audience? 3. Does it reflect the Town’s core values? 4. Is it sustainable for staff to create content and manage the records? In addition, a content and terms of use policy must be created and published. There are issues with software, security, and archiving of records. Motion was made to table this discussion indefinitely. Clerk Fields suggested that we could post more information on the Town’s existing website and readerboard, more regularly.

**Motion:** Homola

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Peto

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Homola, Viray

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** Carroll

**Motion Carried**

### **Town Clerk's Report**

- Submitted Annual Report on May 29<sup>th</sup>; copies are on the table by the door for anyone who wants to review it.
- Just finished being reviewed by the State’s Department of Retirement Systems; they want to schedule an exit interview and invited any interested Councilmembers and/or Mayor to attend. (Peto said she’d like to, and is available June 17th.)
- Issued about 50 building permits so far this year, as compared with a normal yearly average of 38 for the whole year. Now being bombarded with inspection tasks.
- Planning to complete a couple of large Public Records Requests shortly, and hope to be working on RFPs for security camera and elevator maintenance companies very soon.
- Would like to amend Code to increase maximum annual compensation for Council members; now that their stipend amount has doubled, some will exceed the current \$3000 maximum before the end of the year, which could prevent them from attending important meetings late in the year.

### **Public Works Department Report**

- Still lots of frequent vandalism/damage at Town’s parks. We need cameras as soon as possible.
- Doing lots of mowing; have gotten plenty of compliments on how the parks are looking
- Doing a lot of inspections at the new subdivision
- Railroad Advisory Board Meeting update – they hired a consultant to hold public meetings/forums; will be a long time before any moves are made (2-3 years maybe).
- The Circus was very nice – Thank You, Impact Automotive for putting that on.

