

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 1st 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: Peto2nd: HomolaAye: Peto, Homola, VirayNay: 0Absent: CarrollMotion CarriedAbsent: Carroll

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: Homola2nd: VirayAye: Peto, Homola, VirayNay: 0Absent: CarrollMotion CarriedCarroll

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 13th 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: Viray2nd: PetoAye: Carothers, Peto, Homola, VirayNay: 0Absent: CarrollMotion 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 nd : 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 nd : Peto		
Aye: Carothers, Peto, Homola, Viray		Nay: 0	Absent: Carroll
Motion Carried			

Town Clerk's Report

- Submitted Annual Report on May 29th; 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.

Attorney's Comments

- Gave update on real estate purchase; sellers haven't signed everything we need them to yet, and are undecided about carrying a contract longer than 2 years.
- Been looking into legal firms to assist with RFPs. Mayor Shealy asked Councilmembers to email Clerk with dates/times they would be available to meet with consultant regarding Camera RFP specs.
- Trying to complete 3 tough Public Records Requests by the end of this month.
- No response from the plaintiff in our litigation re: settlement.
- Legal tidbit #4 The Town's very first Ordinance defined misdemeanors.

Additional Citizen Communication

John Handy(?) spoke regarding the Railroad: Said the only laws PVJR is subject to are federal Transportation Board laws. The Town cannot dictate what they can do; the RR can have its own police force with as much power as US Marshals; they can and have already threatened to use eminent domain.

Council's Comments

Peto- What do we need help with for Rendezvous Days? (Decorating truck for parade –Jully 4th 7:30 – 8am; opening ceremonies – Carothers June 28th 5:30pm; Chalk contest – June 29th 11am; Carothers to judge parade for Mayor's choice, since he is a former Mayor.

Viray – Attended Mosquito Control Board meeting; they have a new Agreement with the County, and will be working to inform public more re: mosquitoes. They plan to hire more P/T seasonal help.

Homola – Attended NCEMS meeting, stopped by new station at Fargher Lake.

Mayor's Comments

Reminded Council members to let the office know if they won't make Council meetings, as we need to be sure we have a quorum.

The cemetery, flowers, and Town in general look great.

Congratulations to Terry Gardner for being appointed to the Railroad Board.

Approve to Pay Bills on Behalf of the Town

Motion: Homola 2nd: Peto Aye: Carothers, Peto, Homola, Viray *Motion Carried*

Nay: 0

Absent: Carroll

Adjourn 10:21pm

Mayor Ian Shealy

Approved by Council vote on

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Clerk Stephanie Fields

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