



Town of Yacolt

Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024
7:00 PM
Town Hall

Call to Order

7:00 PM

Flag Salute

Roll Call

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

Also present: Mayor Ian Shealy, Attorney David Ridenour, Engineer Devin Jackson and his Planner Paul Dennis, Public Works Director Terry Gardner, and Clerk Stephanie Fields

Motion was made to excuse Councilmember Carroll as he is ill.

Motion: Wisniewski 2nd: Homola

Aye: Wisniewski, Peto, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Carroll

Motion Carried

Late Changes to the Agenda

Add "Complete Streets" Ordinance discussion as Item #9

Approve Minutes of 2-12-24 Council Meeting

Motion: Homola 2nd: Peto

Aye: Wisniewski, Peto, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Carroll

Motion Carried

Citizen Communication

- Ann VanAntwerp asked why the Witt's trees got cut down.
- Kimberlee Goheen Elbon spoke regarding county politics, growth management and development, and asked locals to stand up against the upgrade of the railroad for commercial use.

Unfinished Business

Concerns about Motorcycle and WATV Laws

Deputy Charlie Harris explained how some folks around Town have been confused about how our WATV Ordinance reads, and he feels like there should be some extra verbiage in there to specify that that when it comes to motorcycles, the State laws would prevail. Attorney Ridenour thinks including a distinction between the definitions of WATV vs. motorcycle in our Ordinance/Code would also help. He

added that this would be a good topic for the Mayor to bring up in his Newsletter to the Town. HE reminded Council that the decision is theirs to make a change if they so desire. Some discussion was then had among the attendees, Deputy Harris, and Council.

Comprehensive Plan Update Plan Agreement

The Department of Commerce asked the Town to sign an Agreement regarding distribution of funds for the grant we have been awarded, to be used toward expenses for updating our Comprehensive Plan. Motion was made for the Town to sign the Agreement.

Motion: Viray 2nd: Peto
Aye: Wisniewski, Peto, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Carroll
Motion Carried

Comprehensive Plan Update Update

Town Engineer and Planner Devin Jackson and Paul Dennis presented a slideshow regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update. He explained that the update is required in order for the Town to be eligible for State Infrastructure Funding and certain other grants, and the idea is to align local regulations with state requirements, with a 20-year horizon directed toward population projections, roads, and growth. They spoke about HB 1181 and HB 1220, with climate resiliency and housing density goals carrying massive changes in the state's urban planning requirements.

Witt Counteroffer Update

Attorney Ridenour spoke about what Mr. Witt's counteroffer could cost the Town, paying for some back taxes, a legal lot determination and boundary adjustment, and that the boundary adjustment may or may not be approved by the County. This will be part of the subject matter of the executive session to be held at next Monday's special meeting, March 18th.

Council's Input on Security Camera Systems

Council, Mayor Shealy, and Public Works Director Gardner all listed features they thought would be important. Deputy Harris weighed in as well. Clerk Fields suggested that the Town could dedicate ARPA funds for the camera systems as well. Council decided they want to have this subject brought up again at the meeting next week for more discussion.

New Business

Robertson Chicken Permission Request

The Robertson family requested to be able to keep up to 8 chickens in a coop and pen in their backyard. They had previously sent in a diagram showing the location of the coop and distances from neighbors' homes. Seeing all was in order per our Code, motion was made to allow the Robertsons to raise and keep up to 8 chickens in their backyard.

Motion: Homola 2nd: Viray
Aye: Wisniewski, Peto, Homola, Viray **Nay:** 0 **Absent:** Carroll
Motion Carried

Upcoming Budget Amendment

Clerk Fields described the need for a budget amendment to cover revenues and expenses for school impact fees, requesting authorization for an increase in both revenues and expenditures in that fund to \$300,000 for this year. A finished Amendment Ordinance will be presented for adoption at the April 8th Council Meeting.

Introduction to the Complete Streets Ordinance

Devin Jackson explained that a Complete Streets Ordinance deals with traffic (including bicycle and pedestrian) within the Town. This Ordinance needs to be in place prior to June for our TIB grant to be funded. Attorney Ridenour suggested bringing the Ordinance to the April 8th meeting in complete form for approval.

Town Clerk's Report

- Has mainly been busy with Building Permit Applications; hard to get “normal” work done being so swamped.
- Preparing for Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th; asked for volunteers and Easter Basket donations for the raffle.

Public Works Department Report

- Working outside of the ballfields; moved the bullpen.
- Went to meeting for local Public Works Directors, found out that they are all having the same trouble we’ve been having with the white decals on our speedbumps coming off.
- Picked up two new trucks from the City of Ridgefield.
- Asked people to report if/when they see potholes to let us know and he will go out and fill them.

Attorney's Comments

- Workload is still oppressive, with litigation, Public Records Requests, and permitting, so new addressing policy and BGSD Capital Facilities Plan adoption keep getting pushed later and later.
- Explained how important it is to excuse Council Members from meetings when warranted.

Citizens' Communication

- Jeff Carothers thanked elected officials and staff.
- Anne Van Antwerp said the meeting was very informative.
- Kimberlee Goheen Elbon said this is a great assembly of people.
- A permit Applicant expressed thanks to the staff working on processing the building permits for the Railroad Avenue Subdivision.

Council's Comments

Homola – Attended EMS meeting where the Chief was reviewed, and the Chief had a good review.
Peto – Has been going around soliciting Easter Basket donations and found that a number of businesses were unable to donate this year.

Mayor's Comments

- Planning to order year-round, seasonal, and “hometown Heroes” banners. Reach out to the Town to purchase one or more.
- Ordering 50 flower baskets from a local 4-H club. Anyone who wishes to donate toward baskets is much appreciated; donate through Town Hall.

