

# Town of Yacolt

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2025

7:00 PM

Town Hall

### Call to Order

7:00 PM

### Flag Salute

### Roll Call

Council Members Present: Jeff Carothers, Kandi Peto, Craig Carroll, Brandon Russell, Marina Viray

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

### Late Changes to the Agenda

Item #8 may begin later than planned; depends on Chief Shirley's ability to attend in time. Also, there will be no executive session.

### Approve Minutes of 5/12/2025 Meeting:

Motion was made to approve the minutes with one correction on the final vote, to show that Carothers was absent, not Carroll.

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

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Carroll, Russell, Viray                      **Nay:** 0

**Motion Carried**

### Approve Minutes of 5/19/2025 Special Meeting:

Motion was made to approve the minutes as written.

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

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Carroll, Russell, Viray                      **Nay:** 0

**Motion Carried**

### Citizen Communication

None

### Unfinished Business

#### **Resolution #633 re: Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan Approval**

Sara Schroeder from Clark County gave a brief update on the process the County has gone through toward completion of the Plan. Motion was made to adopt Res. #633, with the adoption date changed from July to June.

## 2<sup>nd</sup>: Viray

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Carroll, Russell, Viray

**Nay: 0**

***Motion Carried***

## Update from Attorney Ridenour on Interlocal Agreement with Fire Marshal

May was a difficult month for him, health-wise and due to other priorities slipping in. So although he has made progress, the draft is still incomplete. He has been working to make this Agreement sustainable so that in the future, the “wheel will not keep having to be re-invented”. He hopes to present a draft Agreement to Council at the next meeting or two.

## NCLL Fireworks Sales Permit

Chief Shirley arrived at the meeting, and advised that the Fire Dep't. approves of NCLL's fireworks sales as outlined in their plan. Motion was made for the Town to approve NCLL's Fireworks Sales Permit.

**Motion: Carroll**

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

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Carroll, Russell, Viray

**Nay: 0**

***Motion Carried***

*After the motion, Mayor Shealy brought up the idea of an Ordinance authorizing emergency ban on fireworks if conditions (weather/dryness) warrant it. Chief Shirley chimed in, citing such a ban should be based on fuel content, temperatures, moisture index, and all the indices State and Local Fire agencies use, declaring a ban based on the threat level, and following the lead of Fire agencies. CM Russell asked about enforcement and fines. CM Carothers stated that all types of fireworks pose a risk. Shirley suggested to start out less restrictive, with the ability to escalate to more restrictive (complete ban) if warranted. Mayor Shealy stated that this would put the Town in a better legal position if something were to happen. Attorney Ridenour commented that adding an extra legal hurdle such as this for a plaintiff reduces risks to the Town (re: legal and other expenses, plus fire-fighting/emergency resources). Shealy suggested Staff begin to draft language to bring before Council in the future. He then made an announcement: He just got word that there will not be a big fireworks show this year.*

## Public Hearing re: Res. #634, Adoption of 6-Yr. Transportation Improvement Plan

**Mayor Shealy closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 7:49 pm.**

CM Peto pointed out that on Yr. #6, it shows E. Valley Rd.; Rd. should be changed to read, "St."

There was some discussion regarding pavement preservation in the NE quadrant of Town; Jackson Civil is planning to aid the Town in applying for a grant to do this. Public Works Director Gardner said after that gets done, he'd like to focus on the west side of Town next (Parcel Ave., hopefully through a grant?). LaCenter Mayor Tom Strobehn said that LaCenter is now requiring all new subdivision HOAs to be responsible for their own street maintenance; the City has access for utility work. Ann Van Antwerp asked about Hubbard Ave between Yacolt Rd and Jones St., and was told that that street is in the plan, during year 3. Seeing no further questions/discussion, Mayor Shealy closed the Public Hearing and re-opened the regular meeting at 8:05 pm., opening the meeting for deliberation and vote. Motion was made to approve the Plan by adoption of Resolution #634.

**Motion: Peto**

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

**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Carroll, Russell, Viray

**Nay: 0**

***Motion Carried***

### **Update on Questions From the ADA Workshop**

Attorney Ridenour handed out information on short-term rentals, indicating that RCW 64.37.010(9)(a) provides a nice definition. Peto asked about scheduling another Workshop, to narrow things down. Ridenour suggested a draft first, even if it just has a lot of blanks for comments/decisions, and then schedule a special meeting for Council to review that draft.

### **New Business:**

#### **Radio Frequencies Transfer to North Country EMS**

Chief Shirley explained the history of why the frequencies are currently licensed in the Town's name, and how transfer of the frequencies to NCEMS would be most beneficial. Motion was made to authorize the transfer of the Town's radio frequencies to NCEMS, once all paperwork has been processed by NCEMS.

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

#### **Liquor License Renewal for PHGI, dba Backroads Pub & Grub and PNW Pizza**

Motion was made to not contest the renewal of PHGI's liquor license.

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

#### **W. Hoag St. Improvements Bid Acceptance**

After a brief discussion regarding the bids and engineering standards, motion was made to accept the bid from Western United Civil Group, which was the lowest responsible bid for the job.

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

#### **Selection of Parade Grand Marshal and Citizen of the Year**

After a number of suggestions were made, and some discussion, motions were made.

Grand Marshal: Stellar Luxe

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

Citizen of the Year: Chuck Andrus

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

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

- The Annual Report got filed 5-28-25; a copy is on each Council Member's desk, and some are on the front table.
- The new Admin. Asst. started work on June 2<sup>nd</sup>; lots of training to be done.
- Suggestions for Code Enforcement options from Heritage Law Firm are on the desk; please review them to discuss at the July meeting.

- Rendezvous Days plans are shaping up; we could still use more volunteers. Council should try to show up by about 7 am on the 4<sup>th</sup> to decorate the truck for the parade.
- Do we want to do the clean-up party again on the 5<sup>th</sup>? (Consensus was no.)

### **Public Works Department Report**

- Security cameras have been installed at Central Park and up at the Readerboard. Hope to have them installed at the Town Park by Friday, and the Rec Park soon to follow. The camera angles still need to be fine-tuned.
- Vandalism hasn't been too bad over the past month.
- The splash pad is on now, and working well.

### **Attorney's Comments**

- Re: Heritage Law firm taking over, he will convey info to them regarding Council's intentions. He thinks using Battle Ground's code as a template is a good idea, and hopes the Town will end up with a stand-alone Code Enforcement section which will deal with building code violations, nuisances, fireworks, etc. He appreciates how quick and responsive Heritage is.
- His health is failing, making it nearly impossible for him to keep up with the regular workload as emergencies arise. Since he is unable to get work done timely, he asked that the Town send all new work to Heritage so that he can get caught up.

### **Citizens' Communication**

LaCenter Mayor Strobehn mentioned that the bond between he and Mayor Shealy collaborating on projects helps to get things done. He advised Council Members to continue being inquisitive, exploring new ideas to take steps that make things happen. Be involved and be heard. He thanked Council for allowing the 2 Mayors to work together.

### **Council's Comments**

- Carothers – mentioned the newsletter he received from legislators re: grants awarded. Said involvement with State, County is essential to getting things done. He thanked Mayor Shealy for being engaged.
- Peto – asked PW Director Gardner about the gravel in the Rec Park parking lot, and mentioned a problem with the Rec Park restroom door.
- Russell – said he won't be at the next Council meeting, as he'll be out of town.
- Carroll – said he also may not be at the next meeting or two, as he may need to schedule surgery.

### **Mayor's Comments**

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, he will tour the Town with Ed Orcutt and a representative from Marie Glusenkamp-Perez's office.

### **Approve to Pay Bills on Behalf of the Town**

**Motion:** Carroll

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


**Aye:** Carothers, Peto, Carroll, Russell, Viray

**Nay:** 0

**Motion Carried**

**Adjourn**

9:06 pm

  
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Mayor Ian Shealy

  
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Clerk Stephanie Fields

Approved by Council vote on August 11, 2025