



# Town of Yacolt

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

Monday January 13, 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

Executive Session to be moved to the beginning of the meeting, before item 1. Add item 7; rotate Mayor Pro-Tempore and Finance Committee Member

Mayor Shealy closed the public meeting to initiate an Executive Session at 7:01pm for 20 minutes until 7:21pm. At 7:21pm the mayor extended the Executive session 15 minutes until 7:36pm. Mayor Shealy reopened the public meeting at 7:36pm.

### Approve Minutes from Council Meeting 12-9-24

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

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

**Nay:** 0

**Motion Carried**

### Citizen Communication

John Nanney spoke on behalf of American Legion Post 168 (Amboy). On August 16, 2025 Windhaven Ride for Veterans will be held all day at Yacolt Community Church. Will benefit Windhaven Veterans Equestrians Program. Need volunteers.

Carmen DeLeon from Vancouver spoke. Has been attending local council meetings and is concerned about growth rates. Asked audience to be aware of what is happening and how public money is being spent.

Dan Niemi introduce himself as he is considering purchasing the old Tallman's building to run a business there. Asked council and citizens about concerns. Councilmember Peto asked what kind of business to which he was unsure of yet.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Update on C-Tran Board Representative**

Sean Boyle of Ridgefield has been added as the primary Board member for the Interlocal Agreement between City of LaCenter, City of Ridgefield and Town of Yacolt as participants in the formal C-Tran Board of Directors. Town of Yacolt has offered Brandon Russell as an alternate, and City of LaCenter will update this week.

### **Update on Improving the Building Department**

The Mayor presented recent activities, meetings & more information to come. Attorney Ridenour gave a summary of meeting with LaCenter Mayor regarding working together on process.

### **Update on Meetings with the Town's Lobbyist**

Mayor gave summary of Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting with Hanna Jones. He has another meeting with her on Friday Jan, 17<sup>th</sup>, then meetings with our legislative delegation Monday Jan.20. Focus on funding for Public Works facility, funding with no strings, other grants for Town goals like repairing or replacing the exterior of Town Hall.

### **Update on Procuring Additional Legal Services**

Mayor Shealy & Attorney Ridenour waiting for engagement letter from Bill Ehling, willing to step in to help with code enforcement and more. Short discussion w/ council regarding other options and Request for Proposals extended.

### **Update on Security Cameras**

Security cameras and system have been selected; staff is working with vendor to acquire account for procurement payment.

## **New Business:**

### **Rotate Mayor Pro Tempore and Finance Committee Member**

Mayor Pro Tem is currently Jeff Carothers, eligible to Council members Viray, Peto and Russell. Council member Viray motioned to select Council member Peto to serve for six months.

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

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

**Nay:** 0

**Motion Carried**

Finance committee member is currently Marina Viray, eligible council members are Carothers and Russell. Council member Peto motioned to nominate Brandon Russell to serve for six months.

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

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

**Nay:** 0

**Motion Carried**

## **Town Clerk's Report**

- Working on closing out 2024 by next week; working with software provider for assistance. Total variance on ending balances for 2024 and opening 2025 are less than 3%
- W-2s and 1099s to be completed next week, after the year is closed out

### Public Works Department Report

- Most new banners are installed, more to put up, need to get boom truck repaired
- Filled a 40-yard dumpster with debris from storms; still have about that to clean up still
- CC Railroad meeting: mining overlay is still in courts, working on railway improvements, funded by county. Temple spoke about Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad perhaps using lines for passenger trains, other ideas discussed.
- Began working on fencing at Rec Park, waiting on more parts to continue next week.

### Attorney's Comments

- NCLL Fireworks stand – need ILA with Fire Marshal.
- Encouraged anyone to discuss legal fees at no charge. Generally, does not bill for council meetings and often works at no charge.
- Legal Tidbit: Public Records Act; laws always evolve. Recent developments are changes to closing letter to include more information, statute of limitations begins and ends.

### Citizen's Communication

Dane Uskoski purchased property east of Town; has applied for annexation; curious about plans for a sewer system. None at this time.

Ann VanAntwerp asked if the landslide got repaired by the railroad. Public Works Director Gardner confirmed that it was done in November.

### Council's Comments

Jeff Carothers mentioned it was great to have new faces in attendance; encouraged community members to communicate with the council.

Marina Viray reported the at the UCPB meeting this morning grading will be next month. \$1.8M to be awarded.

Craig Carroll shared that the EMS meeting is next Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Mayor's Comments

Mayor Shealy hopes to have made headway on cameras and lobbying efforts for February meeting.

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

**Motion:** Peto

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

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

**Motion Carried**

### Adjourn

8:26 pm

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Mayor Ian Shealy

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Clerk Stephanie Fields

Approved by Council vote on 2/10/2025