



**MINUTES
YAKIMA CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION
May 23, 2023**

**Harman Senior Center - 101 N. 65th Ave., Yakima
4 p.m.**

1. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Janice Deccio, presiding; Assistant Mayor Soneya Lund (present at 4:14 p.m.) and Councilmembers Matt Brown, Patricia Byers, Holly Cousens and Danny Herrera

Staff: City Manager Robert Harrison, City Attorney Sara Watkins and City Clerk Sonya Claar Tee

Absent: Councilmember Eliana Macias

2. Public comment (allow 15 minutes)

Carol Guthrie, resident, spoke against plans to eliminate Fire Station 92 and voiced concerns regarding increased response times, loss of property and potential for loss of life for residents and firefighters.

Kenton Gartrell, resident, spoke against increasing taxes and believes the revenue options proposed by the Fire Department would have short-term benefits.

Shar St. Hilaire, resident, shared concerns about fire coverage for the area including the new developments that will be impacted.

Kory Simmons, resident, spoke against closing Station 92 due to increased response times caused by coverage in other areas and that he supports more business and raising taxes.

Jeanna Hernandez, resident, stated she does not believe that the information regarding budget cuts is being presented accurately and that the Council needs to set policy and stand by the policies they set.

3. Resolution authorizing an agreement with the Yakima Area Arboretum for the operation and maintenance of Yakima's arboretum

City Attorney Watkins briefed Council on the status of the contract with the Yakima Area Arboretum, noting the Arboretum requested additional time for negotiations.

4. Report regarding cruise nights

Police Captain Seely reviewed possible changes to the ordinance and discussed Police

Department overtime costs associated with cruising events.

After Council discussion,

MOTION: Byers moved and Lund seconded to direct City Staff to bring an ordinance to change the cruise time to 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. and also to follow through with our existing policy of no semi-trucks on Yakima Ave. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Macias absent.

MOTION: Cousens moved and Lund seconded to bring to a future Council meeting a review of events, including cruise nights. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Macias absent.

5. Yakima Fire Department Budget Presentation

Chief Markham presented a PowerPoint on the Fire Department budget reduction proposal. Deputy Chief Goldsmith reviewed medical calls responded to by crews at Station 92. After reviewing proposed reductions, Chief Markham answered questions from Council about the impacts the reductions will have on services provided by the Fire Department.

MOTION: Lund moved and Brown seconded to direct staff to add to the next business meeting agenda a discussion on proceeding with a Regional Fire Authority study. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Macias absent.

MOTION: Brown moved and Byers seconded to direct staff to bring to a future Study Session sending a vote to increase the City EMS Levy. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Macias absent.

6. Adjournment

MOTION: Lund moved and Cousens seconded to adjourn to the next City Council regular meeting on June 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The motion carried by unanimous vote, Macias absent. The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

READ AND CERTIFIED ACCURATE BY

Holly Cousens

COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

J. R. L. 6/12/23
COUNCIL MEMBER DATE

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CITY CLERK



[Signature]
MAYOR