



STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday April 23, 2019

1. Call to Order Time:6:03pm

Since there was nothing on the Agenda we used this time for Council's concerns that would usually be brought up during the "Staff Reports" at the regular meeting.

Mark asked for an update on the finding of a new police chief. He stated that he was looking at wages in other cities and Granger was offering \$43,224-\$53,712. He stated simply that we should be able to afford that at this point and get some officers willing to come here. He stated that this issue really needs resolved with the changing of the weather; it is always an issue but colder temperatures means much less "activity" but the warmer temperatures means there will be more trouble without a police force.

Christina Gourneau of 221 Maple St. added to the conversation by explaining that there were gun shots across the street from her house and nothing happened and nothing was done. Council did ask if she called it in and she stated that she had not because nothing would be done anyway. Council explained that it is vital that a call is made every time there is a concern so that these issues can be addressed.

Mark also had a couple other issues to discuss. Firstly he wanted to ask about 2 employees that were passed over for the appointing of the lead position in public works. He asked that this issue be placed in an executive session for the following meeting. He also had a concern about the new city treasurer and the fact that he had stated previous that he already put his two weeks in at his other job at an earlier meeting. He then put in his two weeks after the decision to hire was made at a later meeting. Mark felt that this was dishonest and wanted to know what happened. The City Treasurer started to reply and an exchange began before the mayor would not allow the conversation to continue stating that it was not for council to question her employees and that employees were not to address council in this manner.

Diana had a concern about trailers with people living in them going unchecked by the city. She stated that we talked about this at a previous meeting and nothing has been done that she could see. The mayor explained that some time has passed since this conversation happened and she was working on it but that without an adequate police force there was little that could

be done in the way of enforcement on this issue at the time. Diana asked the question of why they as council could not issue tickets themselves. It was explained to her that there needed to be somebody to enforce these rules above what they could do as council.

Arturo asked a question about who citizens are supposed to call after hours. He stated at time he has people calling him and he wanted to know who the contact person was if there was an emergency. It was explained that they are to call the mayor; there is no one scheduled on call but that she could figure out the situation or at least get ahold of someone if need be. She is the point of contact if there is something that needs to happen in the city. Arturo said that there were public works on call previous and he did not understand why there was an issue with this. He also stated that he felt that there should be someone else they can contact if there is a situation.

Sophia asked what had to be done about the garbage can being stolen from the GMA Building. She also asked when we would be open for lunch. She stated that it was a big inconvenience for citizens not to be able to come in at lunch to pay bills. It was explained that city staff would contact Yakima Waste about a replacement garbage can for the GMA Building and that we would remain closed at lunch, at least for the time being, until we were able to get the new position trained and able to take over more of these responsibilities.

2. Adjournment:

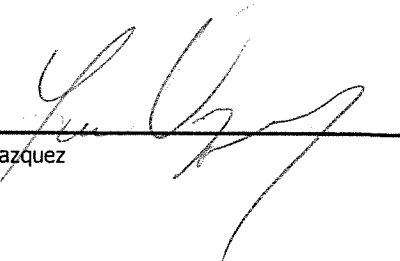
Time: 6:47pm

X



Joshua Roberson
Deputy City Clerk

X



Laura Vazquez
Mayor