

**Town of Yacolt
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 20, 2020
7:00 PM
Town Hall**

Call to Order

Mayor Listek called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Flag Salute

Roll Call

PRESENT

Mayor Katie Listek

Council Member Amy Boget

Council Member Michelle Dawson

Council Member Malita Moseley

Council Member Herb Noble

Council Member Marina Viray

Clerk Dawn Salisbury

Public Works Director Esteb

Attorney David Ridenour

Late Changes to the Agenda

None

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

1. Approve 7-6-2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Council Member Noble, Dawson and Viray requested changes to the minutes. Since there was some confusion on where the changes needed to be made and the said changes needed to be verified, the meeting minutes were tabled till the 8/3/2020 meeting. The clerk requested the council email the clerk with the changes they wanted and state where in the recording it was so it could be verified.

Town Clerk's Report

Clerk Salisbury stated she is working on day to day items. CDBG Hoag Sidewalk project is in progress and proceeding according to schedule. She is working on the bank reconciliation, treasurers report and trying to keep up with the day to day business.

Public Works Department Report

Public Works Director Esteb stated primary focus is groundwork, mowing, weedeating, and watering flowers. Dealing with a lot of vandalism on the roadsides and in the parks. Would like citizens help with ideas to help curb the vandalism. Public Works has hired 2 part time maintenance helpers for the next couple of months.

Council Member Noble asked why Bill Rowe wasn't hired as one of the part time maintenance workers. Mayor Listek stated he did not turn in an application and that the job requirements are being able to lift 50 pounds and quite a bit of manual labor. Mayor Listek appreciates all the volunteer work Mr. Rowe does for the town.

Citizen Communication

Multiple callers concerning Council Member Boget and the proclamation she presented at the previous meeting. Meeting audio is available by request.

Unfinished Business

2. CDBG Hoag Street Update

Received a change order from Hedval Sitework Specialties for \$8575.16. Comp joints must be moved, and track must be upgraded. If the track is not upgraded there is fear that the street will have to be torn up within the next few years to replace the track because of failure.

New Business

3. Potential Listening Sessions on Systemic Racism

Council Member Boget stated that the Clark County Council is going to have a listening session on systemic racism and would like Yacolt Town Council to attend. She stated she recognized the introduction of the proposed proclamation was really not given enough time for analysis or discussion. She stated she wanted to make it perfectly clear to everybody listening that voting against that proclamation in and of itself does not mean that anyone is a racist, it does not mean that Yacolt is racist. Systemic racism is a complex issue and to fully understand its implications especially for a small community like ours, we should certainly consider listening to those that have studied it. As small as we are, we absolutely do have systems and institutions that hold influence over our residents. Our residents also do not only stay within the bubble of Yacolt, they work, they shop, they play, in surrounding cities and unincorporated Clark County. The dedication to protect our residents shouldn't stop at our town limits. We owe it to the 1.4% of the population that is not white to say that we will stand with them with as much dedication as we have previously on 2nd amendment rights, fireworks, and the Governors Safe Start initiative. Your concerns have definitely not fallen on deaf ears. I have been very clear why I put this forward. All I am asking us to do is educate ourselves, learn, and be part of a listening session that is already going to be taking place.

Mayor Listek stated that the listening sessions were open to the public. Council Member Boget stated that to her understanding there was going to be a public one and a private one. She reached out to the coordinator for clarification and has not received a response yet.

Council Member Noble stated he is 65 years old, has lived in this town for 43 years and have never had a problem. There is a difference between judgemental and racism. If we are going to judge people by the color of their skin we have a problem, we're all created by god. I'm not racist, this town has never been racist until recently of course as you know. Why are we going to a place to get educated about racism. I don't understand why you want the town to get educated on this. This town is not racist, never has, never will be. Council Member Noble then asked Council Member Boget if she did or did not contact The Columbian. Council Member Boget stated that The Columbian was sent the packet before the council meeting. She then posted the voting results to Facebook. She was informed that The Columbian had the packet and that she spoke to the reporter the following morning. Council Member Noble asked how his name was given to The Columbian. Council Member Boget stated the reporter was provided the meeting audio and that is where he got his information from. Council Member Noble made additional comments concerning the proclamation and that there are federal laws against racism.

Council Member Moseley stated she has personally heard friends, neighbors, people she has known for years, make lewd and disgusting comments. You can find this anywhere. This has nothing to do with Yacolt, it has to do with the country in general. Specific people should not be called out on specific things they have said. It doesn't do any good and only creates more division than there already is.

Council Member Boget stated that this is about if the council wants to participate in a listening session to learn something. She believes this would be a good thing to do but if the council does not want to participate that is up to them.

Council Member Dawson accused Council Member Boget of making this issue personal and feels Council Member Boget is wrong and caused an uproar in the town. She asked for Council Member Boget's resignation. Council Member Boget stated she will not be resigning.

Council Member Viray feels all of this is disheartening. She feels the proclamation was uncalled for and unprofessional in how it was presented. There was no time allotted to address the issue and perhaps it should have been tabled for further discussion but believes all the votes would have remained the same. She stated we are here for the constituents and have to push aside our personal beliefs.

Council Member Viray and Council Member Dawson feel that if the council members want to listen to Clark County's sessions it should be done voluntarily on their own time.

Council Member Dawson stated she would like to hear from the town attorney on this matter.

Mayor Listek suggested that a motion be made that the council members voluntarily listen to the session regarding racism on their own time.

Council Member Noble stated he would not be attending the listening sessions.

Mayor Listek stated again that the listening sessions should be on a voluntary basis and those that attend can report back on what they learned.

Council Member Boget made a motion that we pursue attending the Clark County Council's listening session as a council.

No second. Motion failed.

Attorney's Comments

Attorney Ridenour asked the council to reschedule the 7-27-2020 Building department work shop to either August 10th or 24th. Council moved workshop to August 24th at 7:00 pm. Attorney Ridenour updated council on the Governors orders that have been extended and that there have been updates to the lawsuits filed against the Governors orders. This information has been added to the dropbox file.

Citizen Communication

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Council's Comments

Council Member Noble thanked the mayor for going through the nonsense that she has been going through. Council Member Dawson addressed the callers concern with the gentleman at the park with the automatic assault pistol and thanked the mayor for everything she has done and how she has handled all of the current issues. Council Member Viray thanked all the callers for their opinions they have voiced and encouraged them to continue reaching out to the council with their concerns. She also thanked the mayor for her handling of these situations. Council Member Moseley stated that she believes systemic and institutionalized racism does exist. She will always support any proclamation that stands up to or denounces bigotry. She appreciated and thanked all the callers that spoke up about their concerns and encouraged them to continue reaching out to the council. Council Member Boget addressed the callers concerns about the proclamation. She appreciates all of the callers for and against the proclamation..

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Listek announced the winners of the Chalk Art Contest. 0-4 age group. 2nd place was Ayden Noble and 1st place was Bubba Gorbet. 5 - 8 age group, 2nd place was Treeva Olin and 1st place Kaytlin Taylor. 9-13 age group, 2nd place was Judea Revell and 1st place was Lilah Smithline. 14 and up age group, 2nd place was Adalie Smithline and 1st place was LaDonna Smithline. There was 78 entries total.

Mayor Listek made a statement supporting all cultures and races. She told about her role in bringing foreign exchange students to our community. She would like to increase the cultures we have out

here. She values world experience and the experience of other cultures. Mayor Listek thanked everyone for their participation. It is important to have discussions. That is how we learn and grow. As Americans we are always about freedom and freedom of speech.

Approve to Pay Bills on Behalf of the Town


Motion made by Council Member Moseley, Seconded by Council Member Boget.
Voting Yea: Council Member Boget, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Moseley, Council Member Noble, Council Member Viray

001 General Fund	33,258.53	
101 Streets	4,318.66	
103 Cemetery	152.90	
105 REET/Real Estate Excise Tax	405.63	
403 Storm Water	<u>2,038.45</u>	Check # 17223 - 17231
	40,441.17	Claims: \$32,899.95
		Payroll: \$7,544.22

Adjourn

Mayor Listek adjourned the meeting at 10:21 pm.


Katie Listek, Mayor


Dawn Salisbury, Clerk