

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

**Call to Order**

Mayor Listek called 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  
Attorney Ridenour

Absent- Public Works Director Esteb

**Late Changes to the Agenda**

None

**Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

1. Approve 4-6-2020 Council Meeting Minutes

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

**Citizen Communication**

None

**Unfinished Business**

2. COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave - Information

Clerk Salisbury explained this publication was given to all employees explaining COVID-19 sick leave benefits.

### **New Business**

3. HUD 3 Year Agreement Renewal

Housekeeping item. Agreement will automatically renew unless council sends letter to withdraw. Council does not wish to withdraw. Yacolt signature page was missing from packet. It is attached as Exhibit A.

4. Cowlitz County Resolution about COVID to Governor Inslee-discussion only

Council Member Dawson spoke to citizen Todd Witthauer who asked to add Cowlitz County's proposed resolution concerning COVID-19 addressed to Governor Inslee to this meeting's agenda. He is interested to see if the Town of Yacolt would also do a similar resolution about COVID-19 to Governor Inslee. Council Member Dawson thinks it's a good idea. Mayor Listek stated that she believed the state was setting all this in place to handle the influx of COVID cases and feels the state should be easing up on restrictions by now. Council member Boget stated that she agrees residential construction and hunting and fishing should be allowed again. She is concerned with protections for homeowners and renters to still be protected. Council Member Moseley agrees with opening hunting and fishing. She disagrees with opening churches due to the confined areas they are in. Clerk Salisbury read situation report that states reopening the state will occur over a 6 to 8-week period. Council Member Noble believes churches can use common sense to have church services and still protect their parishioners. Council Member Viray agrees that hunting and fishing should be opened back up. She agrees that churches are a concern for her. Mayor Listek stated that small groups should be allowed to gather for church. She also believes all parks should be opened. Being closed prevents citizens from being able to take care of their wellbeing by utilizing our vast outdoor spaces. Council Member Dawson stated it is up to every individual to protect themselves and people should wear a mask if your concerned and if you're at high risk stay home. Council Member Boget voiced concern with an ice cream truck that came through town which encouraged people to leave their homes and congregate. Council Member Moseley stated the ice cream truck was taking every precaution to abide by social distancing practices and all residents she saw were doing the same. Council Member Viray saw the same social distancing practices in her neighborhood with the ice cream truck. Council Member Noble stated the CORONA virus is very serious, but the governor has taken it too far. Mayor Listek asked if council wants to go ahead with drafting a resolution. She asked for Attorney Ridenour's input and he stated that it was a policy decision and that the town might want to partner with other towns or counties in guiding the governor in relaxing restrictions while protecting individuals and not hamstringing the economy. Council Member Boget recommended each council member send an email to the mayor with their views and suggestions on each of the resolution statements. Council Member Moseley stated she feels more research needs to be done but is concerned about spending a whole lot of money on attorney fees when the Cowlitz Resolution is so new. She would like to see what other cities and towns are going to do. Attorney Ridenour voiced his concern with emails going to the mayor about this subject violating the Open Public Meetings Act. He stated one way communication with copies of emails added to the next meeting should be ok. Clerk Salisbury

stated that a letter went to the Governor from Clark County builders and construction unions laying out a plan that shows construction work can be done safely. Attorney Ridenour stated that the emails would violate the Open Public Meetings Act and the discussion should take place in a meeting. Mayor Listek asked each Council Member for their thoughts on what they would like to see in a resolution. Council Member Boget – open residential construction and recreational lands for hunting and fishing. Council Member Dawson agreed on all but the releasing of inmates. Council Member Moseley has no issue with the release of inmates if they are close to their release date. Attorney Ridenour stated that there are 8 items on the Cowlitz resolution and not sure if the Yacolt Town Council wants all of them on theirs. Council Member Noble agrees that prisoners should not be released and agrees with most of the Cowlitz resolution. Council Member Viray agrees with opening residential construction and the recreational lands for hunting and fishing. She thinks churches should be allowed in smaller groups or services outside. She is not comfortable with the release of inmates. Mayor Listek will look at what other towns and cities are doing and work on a draft resolution for possible presentation at next meeting.

### **Public Works Department Report**

Mayor Listek gave Public Works report. Public works is in busy season. They are mowing, doing drainage work and will be street sweeping when it rains.

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

Cemetery address has been obtained and the Town's website has been updated with that information. Created a new Fence Permit to make it easier for citizens to fill out. Records room work for the grant is continuing. Assistant Clerk has been working in the records room daily. Working on Building Department improvements and business licenses are on track for Business License Services to take over in June.

### **Council's Comments**

Council Member Boget inquired about the town events coming up this summer and what we were going to do about them. Mayor Listek would like to visit this subject at a May meeting. She is hoping we will have more information about COVID-19 implications by then. She also requested that the council members think about other ways we may celebrate the 4th of July under current conditions. Council Member Dawson agrees with not deciding about cancelling summer events until May. She stated the town needs a morale boost and the town council and town staff are doing a great job during this time. Council Member Moseley thanked clerk and asst clerk for their efforts and mentioned there was a lot of long grass in town and hoped the public works department is getting to that to keep our town looking good. Mayor Listek said they are focusing on the drainage and get with her if there are specific areas that need attention. Council Member Noble enquired about last meetings discussion concerning staffing at town hall and public works. Mayor Listek has not made a decision at this time. She is looking at additional funding opportunities and asked council to look also to help through this time. Council Member Noble has volunteered to help Public Works with the mowing. Council Member Viray thanked public works for street sweeping and working on the drainage. She asked if anyone else has come forward to volunteer and asked if we could get the word

out. She brought up the graffiti riddled boat that was dumped off at the railroad parking lot. Clerk Salisbury stated that a couple of calls came in and the sheriff's office was notified.

### **Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Listek thanked the council during this time and thanked the town employees for all their efforts. She also thanked Attorney Ridenour for his help.

### **Attorney's Comments**

Attorney Ridenour was encouraged by the improvement of this meeting vs the last one. Reminded us that our emergency proclamation was coming to an end on the 23rd and that we would have to extend the proclamation to cover the next meeting and our land use applications. Mayor Listek stated we would need another proclamation to extend the current proclamation. Attorney Ridenour stated we could do another proclamation extending existing stipulations until further notice.

Council Member Boget made a motion to approve extending current active proclamation until further notice in compliance with existing state mandates. Seconded by Council Member Moseley.

Voting Yea: Council Member Boget, Council Member Dawson, Council Member Moseley, Council Member Noble, Council Member Viray

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

Motion made by Council Member Dawson, 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	20,009.05	
101 Streets	10,961.71	
103 Cemetery	143.25	
105 REET/Real Estate Excise Tax	599.80	
403 Storm Water	<u>1,909.98</u>	Check # 17144 - 17154
	33,623.79	Claims: 26,540.06
		Payroll: 7,083.73

### **Executive Session**

None


### **Adjourn**

Mayor Listek adjourned meeting at 7:59 pm

Call in citizen Todd Witthauer asked to speak as Mayor Listek was adjourning the meeting. His comments are being added as part of the official minutes.

Todd Witthauer thanked the council for addressing his email about the Cowlitz County proposed resolution. He feels this movement is more of a grass roots effort because small towns shouldn't be treated the same as big cities. He talked about the hardships people are having and the rights that are being trampled on. He believes citizens can come together and come up with creative ways to overcome this issue. He appreciates the council looking at this and hopes citizens will reach out to the council with their own creative ideas.

Mayor Listek asked if there were any other callers that would like make comments. There were none.

  
Katie Listek, Mayor  
Dawn Salisbury, Clerk