

ISSUES BRIEF

February 2024 - Vol. XIV, Issue 2, Number 138

Phase 3 of North 1st Street revitalization begins in February



The third of three phases for the North 1st Street Revitalization Project begins Monday, Feb. 5th. Phase 3 includes **N. 1st St from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd to I St**. Impacts include:

- Traffic will be one lane in each direction 24/7 for the duration of the project. It is expected to be complete in Fall 2025.
- Traffic may be reduced to one lane but only for short durations.
- Traffic signals in the project area will be flashing red, all-way stop.

“The North 1st Street Revitalization Project is intended to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians. Another goal is to increase the economic development potential of the North 1st Street corridor, one of the city’s main entrances,” said Communications & Public Affairs Director Randy Beehler. “We appreciate the community’s patience and understanding during Phase 3 of this vital project.”

Access will be maintained to homes and businesses in the project area.

Phase 3 is expected to cost about \$11.7 million. It is being paid for with approximately \$9.8 million in federal funds and \$1.5 million in state funds. The remainder is paid for with a combination of Transportation Benefit District funds (a \$20 annual car tab fee adopted by the Yakima City Council during its 2018 budget process) as well as local utilities.

For more about North 1st Street revitalization call Utility Project Manager Dana Kallevig at 509-249-6813.

Information about Phase 3 of N. 1st Street is available at yakimawa.gov

Regular updates on the progress of Phase 3 will be provided through the City’s various communications platforms including the City website, City social media sites, news releases and Y-PAC programming.

Yakima welcomes interim city manager

During a special meeting on Jan. 22nd, the Yakima City Council approved a contract with GMP Consultants to provide an interim city manager during the process of selecting a new city manager.

Under the contract Council approved, GMP assigned Dave Zabell as Yakima’s interim city manager. Zabell took the oath of office as interim city manager at the Jan. 22nd meeting.

Zabell, who lives in Yakima, joined GMP after retiring as Pasco city manager in October 2022. Before becoming Pasco city manager in 2014, Zabell was Fife city manager (2011-2014), Yakima assistant city manager (2005-2011), Bothell public works director (2000-2005) and Marysville city administrator (1993-2000).

At its first regular meeting of the year, Jan. 2nd, the Council voted 5-2 to remove Bob Harrison from his role as city manager effective Feb. 2nd. Harrison had served as Yakima City Manager since September 2020.



City Clerk Rosalinda Ibarra administers the oath of office for Interim City Manager Dave Zabell.

In this issue:

- Yakima Airport parking
- Changes for online City utility payments
- Yakima City Council action summary

Page 2
Page 3
Page 3

Clearing the way



In January crews from the City of Yakima were busy clearing the way in the aftermath of a winter storm that brought an estimated five inches of snow. This photo courtesy of Yakima Airport shows workers providing snow removal to keep the airport open and safe for the area's travel needs.

Briefly

Jobless rate hits record low

The city of Yakima's average annual unemployment rate for 2023 was 5.1%.

That represents the lowest-ever annual jobless rate for the city of Yakima

The previous record was 5.6% in 2018 and 2022.

Holiday will not impact Refuse, Lions Pool

Yakima City Hall and facilities will close Monday, Feb. 19th, for Presidents Day.

Yakima Transit will not provide bus service on Feb. 19th.

However, City of Yakima garbage pick-up service will continue as scheduled Feb. 19th. There will be no collection delays.

Lions Pool will be open.

YFD promoting burn awareness

Feb. 4-10 is National Burn Awareness Week. That week Yakima Fire Department will share related safety messages on Facebook and on X.



Picking up or dropping off at the airport?

Do not park or leave your vehicle unattended in front of the terminal.

Parking in the cell phone lot?

Stay with your vehicle.

Do not leave it unattended.



flyykm.com
FLYYKM

Leaving a vehicle unattended in front of the terminal is a TSA violation.

City Council action summary - Jan. 2024

Yakima City Council action during its meetings in January included:

- Approving a resolution opening the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Amendment process
- Receiving the Yakima Fire Department Annual Report for 2022
- Confirming appointment of Troy Clements as Municipal Court Judge
- Electing Mayor Patricia Byers
- Electing Assistant Mayor (Mayor Pro-tem) Matt Brown
- Receiving the Yakima Public Safety Year-End Review
- Terminating City Manager Bob Harrison's employment

Complete minutes and agendas from council meetings are available at [Agendas and Minutes | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/agendas-and-minutes).

All council meetings air live on Y-PAC and online at [Live Stream | City Council \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/live-stream).

Changes ahead for online City of Yakima payments

City of Yakima Utility Services will transition from its current online payment provider, Invoice Cloud, to Paymentus.

The transition is expected to take place during the month of February.

Online utility and miscellaneous accounts receivables may experience temporary interruptions or delays during the transition.

Those paying city utilities or miscellaneous accounts receivables online will need to create a new online account registration with Paymentus.

Examples of miscellaneous accounts receivables include airport, cemetery, Downtown Yakima Business Improvement District (DYBID), transit vouchers and fire inspections.

The bill payment kiosk outside City Hall will be temporarily unavailable due to the transition.

Additional information is available at [Utility Services \(yakimawa.gov\)](https://www.yakimawa.gov/utility-services).



Other City of Yakima utility payment options include:

- In person at Yakima City Hall, 129 N. 2nd St., Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Mail payments to City of Yakima Utility Billing, P.O. Box 22720, Yakima, WA 98907-2720
- Drop box inside City Hall. (No cash payments).
- Drop box at the Harman Center, 101 N. 65th Ave. (No cash payments).

Contact Utility Services Manager Anabel Chavez at 509-575-6080 for more information about the online payment transition.

follow the City of Yakima on social media:



watch City meetings any time, on demand:



City of Yakima
129 N. 2nd Street
Yakima, WA 98901
509-576-6614
<https://www.yakimawa.gov/>

The City of Yakima *Issues Brief e-Newsletter* is published monthly by the City's Community Relations Office.

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact Community Outreach Specialist John Fannin at 509-249-6858 or John.Fannin@yakimawa.gov.

City Directory

Airport:	575-6149
Animal Control:	575-6038
City Clerk:	575-6000
City Manager:	575-6000
Codes/Licenses:	575-6126
* Fire:	575-6060
Human Resources:	575-6090
Municipal Court:	575-3050
Parks:	575-6020
Planning:	575-6183
* Police:	575-6200
Purchasing	575.6093
Refuse:	575-6005
Streets:	575-6005
Transit:	575-6175
Utilities:	575-6080
Wastewater:	575-6077
Water/Irrig:	575-6154
YCTV/YPAC:	575-6092

* **NON-EMERGENCY. Call 911 in an emergency.**