



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 5.A.
For Meeting of: May 6, 2025

ITEM TITLE: Introduction of Director of Finance & Budget Craig Warner

SUBMITTED BY: Vicki Baker, City Manager

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

Warner's name is familiar in local government in the Yakima Valley. He retired in January from his position as Yakima County financial services/ budget director after having worked for the County for 37 years.

"Craig is a well-known and highly respected leader in local government finance here in our area and throughout Washington State," said Baker. "He has a wealth of experience and expertise and broad familiarity with local government financial processes and law. The City is fortunate to be able to benefit from Craig's decades-long career in public service and his ongoing commitment to the Yakima Valley," said Baker.

"After retiring from Yakima County earlier this year, I knew I wanted to continue to work and initially explored private-sector opportunities," said Warner. "The chance to put my skills to work at the City presented itself and I'm looking forward to being part of the City's senior management team. Yakima is my home and I'm excited to help it be successful," said Warner.

Warner was hired by Yakima County in 1987 as a financial analyst/accountant. In 1993, he was promoted to the position of chief financial officer overseeing payroll, accounts payable, the Financial Reporting Department, and other fiscal functions of the County. In 2001, Warner was again promoted, this time to the financial services/budget director position, and had responsibility for a wide range of programs and services including developing the County's annual budget, strategic planning, policies and procedures, and determining functions and service levels.

Warner graduated from West Valley High School in 1982. He earned an associate of arts degree in accounting from Yakima Valley College (then Yakima Valley Community College) in 1984. Warner holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Central Washington University, where he graduated from in 1986.

Warner is a member of the Washington County Administrators Association and served as the organization's president from 2006 to 2007. He also served as president of the Washington Finance Officers Association from 2018 to 2020 and remains a member of the organization today. Warner has also been a member of the Governmental Finance Officers Association, a national organization focused on local government finance, since 1993.

As Yakima's finance and budget director, Warner will oversee a staff of about 35 employees in the

Financial Services, Purchasing, and Utility Services divisions. The total budget for the City's Finance and Budget Department in 2025 is about \$5 million.

ITEM BUDGETED: Yes

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25: A Resilient Yakima

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: