



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

**Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard**

City Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen welcomed those in the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Councilmembers Lukson, Richardson and VanDyke (remotely via Zoom) were present.

Mayor Alvarez and Councilmembers Jones and Kent were absent.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR ALVAREZ AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES AND KENT. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Clary, Fire Chief Huntington, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Presentations

1. 2021 Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award Presentation

Public Works Director Rogalsky introduced Coleman Miller, P.E., with the Washington State Department of Ecology, who presented the Wastewater Treatment staff with an Outstanding Performance Award for achieving full compliance with water quality permits

during the 2021 calendar year.

Wastewater staff recognized for their contributions included Toby Billings, Steve Brewer, Hector Moreno, John Armour, Lee Brown, Casey Bruton, Kerri Higgins, Adam Reickert, Bryan Solomon, Robert Stewart, and James Wilkinson. Coleman Miller congratulated the staff for their outstanding work.

Public Works Director Rogalsky added that the City has been the recipient of the Outstanding Performance Award for two (2) consecutive years, the first being awarded during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council congratulated staff for receiving the prestigious award and thanked them for their diligent work.

2 New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring November's new hires was played for the audience. There were no retirements in November to recognize.

Public Hearing

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

3. Public Hearing on Rules Related to City Employment: Amendment to Exhibit A of the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated Employees - 2015 and Continuing, (Resolution No. 2022-138) and Amendment to Appendix A of the 2021-2023 IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement (Resolution No. 2022-148)

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Jet Richardson – 2021 Fairway Court, Richland, WA: Mr. Richardson, Vice-Chair of the Richland Arts Commission, announced that the Arts Commission is accepting nominations for the Supporting The Arts in Richland (STAR) award which recognizes outstanding local contributions in support of the arts. The STAR award will be presented to one individual and one organization/business during an upcoming Richland City Council meeting. The deadline to submit nominations is Thursday, January 12, 2023.
- Pierce Borup – 2402 Olympia Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Borup voiced concerns over the increase in crime allegedly resulting from the influx of population over the last several years. Mr. Borup requested Council consider implementing a five-year

moratorium on building permits for the construction of apartment complexes in Richland to help curb criminal activity. Next, Mr. Borup requested that City Council consider amending zoning regulations to allow businesses in residential areas for the purpose of creating employment opportunities for residents in the vicinity.

- Paul Huckleberry – 324 Wellhouse Loop, Richland, WA: Mr. Huckleberry announced he wanted to bring awareness to the fact of a transient population in the commercial district near his residence. Mr. Huckleberry reported that the transient population park vehicles and trailers for an extended period of time, and that there is a correlation between the transient population and criminal activity. Mr. Huckleberry then thanked the Richland Police Department for all they do for the community. Lastly, Mr. Huckleberry voiced support for Councilmember Richardson and expressed his belief that she acted appropriately and was not improperly involved in the Thayer Drive property surplus action.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN AND COUNCILMEMBERS LUKSON, RICHARDSON AND VANDYKE. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Minutes

4. Approval of the November 15, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

5. Ordinance No. 2022-40, Approving Amendments to the 2022 Budget

Resolutions - Adoption

6. Resolution No. 2022-144, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Hyas Group, LLC for Investment Consulting Services for 401(a) Plan No. 107162, 457 Plan No. 300042 and Retirement Health Savings Plan No. 800205
7. Resolution No. 2022-145, Approving 2023 Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Funding Awards
8. Resolution No. 2022-146, Awarding 2023 Business License Reserve Fund Grants

9. Resolution No. 2022-147, Authorizing Additional Project-Specific Scope for the Consultant Agreement with Commonstreet Consulting, LLC

Items - Approval

None.

Items of Business

10. 2023 Richland Police Department Recruitment and Retention Program

Chief of Police Clary described the proposed RPD Recruitment and Retention Program to Richland City Council, then provided a high-level overview of each component and how it is designed to promote recruitment and retention. Detailed information is available in the PowerPoint presentation in the agenda packet. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chief Clary engaged in a question-and-answer session with Council.

Council provided Chief Clary with positive feedback and expressed an interest in evaluating the program's effectiveness in six (6) months.

11. Resolution No. 2022-148, Amending Appendix A of the 2021-2023 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 77

Human Resources Director Paulsen presented on the proposed amendment to Appendix A of the 2021-2023 CBA with the IBEW, Local Union No. 77. The amendment addresses wages only and allows the City to remain competitive with other local electric utilities. The proposed economic package will provide an additional increase of 0.08% for the remainder of 2022 and a 4.50% increase in 2023.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-148, AMENDING APPENDIX A OF THE 2021-2023 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 77. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN AND COUNCILMEMBERS LUKSON, RICHARDSON AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

12. Resolution No. 2022-138, Amending Exhibit A of the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated Employees - 2015 and Continuing

Human Resources Director Paulsen stated that Exhibit A of the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated employees is reviewed on an annual basis to keep employee pay aligned with the market. The updated Exhibit A to the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated Employees includes a market adjustment of 5.0% which aligns with the City's analysis of internal and external comparators and other economic factors.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-138, AMENDING EXHIBIT A OF THE COMPENSATION PLAN FOR UNAFFILIATED EMPLOYEES – 2015 AND CONTINUING. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN AND COUNCILMEMBERS LUKSON, RICHARDSON AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson announced that the ribbon-cutting for the grand opening of the Washington National Guard Center will be held at 2655 1st Street in the Horn Rapids area on December 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Members of the public have an opportunity to tour the facility.

City Manager Amundson thanked everyone who participated in the opening weekend of the Winter Wonderland Festival of Lights event held at John Dam Plaza. Four thousand (4,000) people are estimated to have attended the event during December 2-5, 2022. The Winter Wonderland Festival of Lights event will continue daily from 5:00-9:00 p.m. through January 2, 2023. City Manager Amundson thanked BMW of Tri-Cities and other community volunteers for their sponsorship.

Lastly, City Amundson announced that the deadline to drop off a Letter to Santa at John Dam Plaza is December 20, 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen thanked the staff involved for another successful fireworks display at the Winter Wonderland Festival of Lights event, and added that the firepits were missed.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson commended staff for another successful Winter Wonderland event. Councilmember Lukson then encouraged interested citizens to apply for the vacant councilmember position. City Manager Amundson added that applications will be accepted through December 14, 2022.

Councilmember Richardson shared that the Winter Wonderland event was enjoyed by her family. Councilmember Richardson shared her positive experience representing the City of Richland as councilmember, and stated that she enjoys participating in discussions regarding the expansion of employment opportunities, a growth in manufacturing industries, and improving the spectrum of workforce housing.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked staff for their efforts regarding the Winter Wonderland event.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen wished everyone an early Merry Christmas.

Mayor

Mayor Alvarez was absent.

Executive Session

13. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g): Review Performance of a Public Employee (30 minutes)

At 6:59 p.m., Richland City Council convened in executive session for thirty (30) minutes to review the performance of a public employee.

Individuals present for the executive session included Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Councilmembers Lukson, Richardson and VanDyke.

COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:17 P.M.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

APPROVED:


Michael Alvarez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: December 20, 2022

DATE PUBLISHED: December 26, 2022