



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

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

Mayor Alvarez called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Alvarez welcomed those in the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

Attendance: Mayor Alvarez and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson, Richardson and VanDyke were present. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen was absent.

COUNCILMEMBER KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Members of Girl Scout Troop No. 1915 led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Troop Leader Kendra Caton announced the recently commemorated 10th anniversary of the *International Day of the Girl* (IDG) on October 11, 2022. Ms. Caton thanked City Council for its support of the community and local Girl Scout troops, and for allowing members of Troop No. 1915 to participate in the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. Tri-City Cushions

Chris Snapp, Founder and Board President of Tri-City Cushions, provided background to the non-profit agency's creation, mission, vision and goals. Tri-City Cushions offers

programs and services to Tri-Cities youth at no cost. The organization is based in Richland, with attempts outreach in both public and private locations, including community parks and the Jeannette Taylor Skate Park. More information about Cushions is available at tricitycushions.org. Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Snapp.

2. Tri-Cities Regional Hotel-Motel Commission 2023 Annual Budget & Marketing Plan

Kim Shugart, Senior Vice-President of Visit Tri-Cities, presented the 2023 Tri-Cities Regional Hotel-Motel Commission (TCRHMC) Budget and Marketing Plan with the Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) budget and assessment. Additional information can be found in the presentation included in the council packet. Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Ms. Shugart.

3. Richland Police Department Drone Program Video

A video featuring the Richland Police Department Drone Program was played for the audience. Police Commander Neher shared that the Richland Police Department acquired two (2) drones to supplement certain services to the community. Nine (9) officers have successfully completed the required Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 107 Certification, which permits the operation of drones. Following the presentation, Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Commander Neher.

Public Hearing

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

4. Proposed 2023 Revenue Sources Including Property Tax, Ordinance Nos. 2022-37 and 2022-38

Mayor Alvarez opened the public hearing at 6:36 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

5. Approval of the October 4, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

6. Ordinance No. 2022-36, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 12.08.010 related to the Definition of Right-of-Way

Resolutions – Adoption

7. Resolution No. 2022-127, Authorizing a First Amendment to the Horn Rapids Farm Lease Between the City of Richland and Frank Tiegs, LLC
8. Resolution No. 2022-128, Approving the Final Plat of Wellhouse Heights
9. Resolution No. 2022-129, Approving the Final Plat of Quail Ridge II - Phase 1
10. Resolution No. 2022-130, Declaring as Surplus Approximately 694 Square Feet of the Municipal Parking Lot at the Southwest Corner of Lee Boulevard and Jadwin Avenue
11. Resolution No. 2022-131, Authorizing a Grant Application for Hotel/Motel Tax Grant Funding
12. Resolution No. 2022-132, Authorizing Award of Bid to Double J Excavating, Inc. for the 2022 Sewer Rehabilitation Project (B-Basin)

Items - Approval Expenditures - Approval

13. Expenditures from September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022 for \$34,852,562.85 including Travel Check Nos. 20188-20205, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 304096-305184, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9207-9246, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 12924-12996 Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 197793- 199525 and Pension Check Nos. 6266-6290.

Items of Business

14. Resolution No. 2022-133, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Benton County for Use of Jail Facilities

Councilmember Lukson recused himself from this item given his status as legal counsel for the Benton County Jail. After announcing his potential conflict on the record,

Councilmember Lukson exited the Council Chambers while the matter was taken to a vote by the remaining members of the Richland City Council.

City Manager Amundson stated the proposed contract is an agreement between the City of Richland and Benton County that allows Richland to house misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor defendants in the Benton County Jail. The terms are materially unchanged from the last contract iteration. The proposed interlocal agreement is effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2026. In addition, the Benton County Work Crew Program will be reinstated in 2023 to provide services in a variety of public locations. Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with City Manager Amundson.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-133, AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BENTON COUNTY FOR USE OF JAIL FACILITIES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

15. Ordinance No. 2022-37, Approving the 2023 Ad Valorem Tax and Property Tax Levies

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Finance Director Allen provided a concurrent overview of Ordinance Nos. 2022-37 and 2022-38. Ordinance No. 2022-37 establishes the estimated amount of the regular levy, the refunded levy, and the voted library construction bond levy. Ordinance No. 2022-37 includes an increase in the regular levy by one percent (1%), or \$192,602, and is in addition to increases arising from new construction values, annexations, refunds, and increases in state-assessed property.

Finance Director Allen engaged in a question-and-answer session with Council. City Manager Amundson and Energy Services Director Whitney provided additional responses to Council queries.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2022-37, APPROVING THE 2023 AD VALOREM TAX AND PROPERTY TAX LEVIES, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

16. Ordinance No. 2022-38, Approving a Change to the 2023 Ad Valorem Tax over the Prior Year

Approval of Ordinance No. 2022-38 will increase the base regular levy for 2023 by one percent, or \$192,600 before new construction, annexations, refunds and increases in state-assessed property.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2022-38, APPROVING A CHANGE TO THE 2023 AD VALOREM TAX OVER THE PRIOR YEAR, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson provided the following announcements to Council:

- A summary of the 2023 Budget will shortly be provided to Council.
- The RiverFest 2022 event was held on October 8, 2022 at Columbia Park.
- While still preliminary, the City of Richland and Public Power are anticipated to make a formal record of decision in December following Bonneville Power Administration's creation of a Reserve Distribution Clause. The electric wholesale credit expected in 2023 will ultimately help offset inflationary electrical material costs and postpone a rate increase for customers.
- The kick-off meeting for Fire Station No. 76 was held earlier in the day, and Badger Mountain South residents will be invited to participate in the planning process. The facility will be included with development of West Village Park.
- Interviews were recently held for the Parks & Public Facilities Director position, and City Manager Amundson thanked Councilmember Richardson for attending the related community reception.
- The strategic planning community focus groups will be held the week of November 7, 2022.
- Open enrollment for benefits will be held November 1-30, 2022. Questions regarding the process should be directed to Human Resources.

City Manager Amundson and staff engaged in a question-and-answer session regarding the 2023 Budget summary revisions, Bonneville Power Administration's surplus revenue, and beautification goals for the Economy Inn property.

City Council

Councilmember Richardson shared her encounter with a couple who recently relocated to the Tri-Cities who spoke highly of the quality of parks, trails, and the community in general.

Councilmember VanDyke had no comments.

Councilmember Jones inquired if it would be feasible for the City to support non-profit organizations through grant programs administered by the City. Next, Councilmember Jones thanked City Manager Amundson for actively seeking opportunities to subsidize programs and organizations to benefit businesses, organizations, and the community.

Councilmember Lukson shared that he participated in the City of Richland Employee Kickball Tournament on September 29, 2022 held at Columbia Playfields. Councilmember Lukson suggested inviting neighboring cities to participate in future city-wide events such as this.

Councilmember Kent stated she attended the annual joint Parks committee meeting,

which included representatives from the cities of Pasco, Kennewick, West Richland, Benton City and Benton County. One topic of discussion during the annual event was homelessness, and Councilmember Kent praised City Attorney Kintzley for drafting Ordinance No. 2022-19 to assist in addressing homeless issues in the City of Richland. Neighboring cities have expressed an interest in adopting a similar ordinance for their respective jurisdictions.

Councilmember Kent also thanked staff for providing detailed information and responses to Council inquiries relating to the proposed 2023 Budget.

Mayor

Mayor Alvarez expressed an interest in holding additional discussions regarding the Richland Police Department space analysis, and thanked Fire Chief Huntington for his department's role in placing an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Howard Amon Park.

Adjournment

Mayor Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

APPROVED:


Michael Alvarez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: October 18, 2022

DATE PUBLISHED: January 24, 2023