



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

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

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

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

Welcome and Roll Call

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

Attendance: Mayor Christensen and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson, Richardson and VanDyke were present. Position No. 7 on the Richland City Council is vacant.

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, Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester, Police Commander Judge and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Strategic Plan Stakeholder Engagement-Outreach & Environmental Scan Presentation

Assistant City Manager Florence began by referencing the results of the National Community Survey that were provided to City Council in August 2022. Since that time, additional information has since been solicited from the community, members of the City's boards, commissions and committees, and city employees through a variety of information gathering sessions and survey opportunities. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Assistant City Manager Florence presented the results of the strategic planning environmental scan, which is the next step in the strategic planning process. Following the presentation, councilmembers had a question-and-answer period with staff.

Assistant City Manager Florence then introduced Ms. Cory Poris Plasch, a consultant with Rapp Consulting Group, who provided a detailed overview of the stakeholder engagement-outreach effort and the environmental scan results. Ms. Poris Plasch explained that, as part of the City's strategic planning process, six (6) focus groups were formed between November 7 - 10, 2022 to provide concentrated feedback. Overall, the three (3) priorities recommended for Richland's focus over the next five (5) years were: public safety; downtown/mixed use development; and affordable housing. Additional details are available in Ms. Poris Plasch's presentation available in the Richland City Clerk's Office. Ms. Poris Plasch and staff answered questions posed by Council throughout the presentation.

City Manager Amundson provided historical background regarding the City's past strategic planning efforts and how that history has shaped the current approach. City Manager Amundson also shared that a future workshop session will include training on governance, and Craig Rapp of Rapp Consulting Group will facilitate a day-long strategic planning retreat.

City Manager Amundson then introduced Mr. Craig Rapp (via Zoom), who encouraged Council to review the information presented to prepare for the Strategic Planning Retreat, but to resist feeling overwhelmed by the depth and breadth of it as there is no need to get bogged down in the detail at this stage of the strategic planning effort. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) questionnaire will be provided to each councilmember ahead of the strategic planning retreat.

In conclusion, Assistant City Manager Florence added that a report outlining the information presented by Ms. Poris Plasch will be provided to Council in the coming days.

2. New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring new hires for the month of December was played for the audience. The City acknowledged the following retirements:

- Lori Ferris retired after thirty-two (32) years of service. Over the course of Ms. Ferris' tenure, she served twenty-eight (28) years as Lead Emergency Communications Dispatcher and Certified Training Officer with Southeast Communications Center (SECOMM), and the last four (4) years as a Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) Emergency Planner.
- Officer Joe Brazeau retired after twenty-eight (28) years of service with the Richland Police Department. During his tenure, Officer Brazeau served as a member of the SWAT team, was a detective in the METRO unit, and spent many years assigned to the Tri-Cities Violent Gang Task Force.
- Battalion Chief Ron Duncan retired after twenty-five (25) years of service with the Richland Fire Department. BC Duncan started as a firefighter and moved through the ranks of lieutenant and captain, and has served as a battalion chief since 2014.

BC Duncan was a member of the HAZMAT team, and served as a fire inspector and as the assistant fire marshal. BC Duncan also maintained his paramedic certification throughout employment.

Deputy City Manager Schiessl introduced Parks & Public Facilities Director Laura Hester and provided a brief overview of her responsibilities and current projects as Parks & Public Facilities Director. Council welcomed Ms. Hester to the City of Richland, and Ms. Hester shared her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on staff.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the public comment procedures. No public comment was offered.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the consent calendar as follows:

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3. Approval of the December 20, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 2023-01, Adding a new Chapter 9.09 entitled Controlled Substances to Title 9: Crime of the Richland Municipal Code

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

5. Ordinance No. 2022-41, Amending Chapter 3.04 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Purchasing to add a New Section entitled Compost Procurement
6. Ordinance No. 2022-42, Approving the 2026 Council Compensation Plan
7. Ordinance No. 2022-43, Amending Chapter 3.24 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Funds

Resolutions – Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2023-01, Approving Final Plat of Marcello Estates - Phase 2
9. Resolution No. 2023-02, Authorizing Award of Bid for the 515 George Washington Way Demolition and Abatement Project

10. Resolution No. 2023-03, Authorizing Award of Bid to Pipe of Washington, Inc. for the Horn Rapids Irrigation Booster Pump Station Project

11. Resolution No. 2023-04, Authorizing Award of Bid to Pipe of Washington, Inc. for the Area 400 Booster Pump Station Upgrades Project

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

None.

Items of Business

12. Resolution No. 2023-05, Adopting the City of Richland's 2023 Legislative Priorities

City Manager Amundson discussed the City's proposed 2023 legislative priorities, after which he answered several questions posed by Council related to the local law enforcement academy, homelessness, and the Bateman Island causeway project. At City Manager Amundson's request, Deputy City Manager Schiessl provided additional information regarding the Bateman Island causeway project.

City Manager Amundson added that he will accelerate the legislative priorities development schedule for 2024 to provide a more meaningful opportunity for Council to review and discuss proposed 2024 legislative priorities during a workshop session this fall.

COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-05, ADOPTING THE CITY OF RICHLAND'S 2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson reminded Council and staff about the special City Council meeting scheduled on January 6, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. to interview four (4) finalists for appointment as interim councilmember to Position No. 7 on the Richland City Council. City Manager Amundson stated that the successful candidate will be sworn into office at the January 17, 2023 regular City Council meeting. Additionally, at the January 17, 2023 meeting, Council will have an opportunity to select new leadership for the remainder of 2023 and discuss how to reassign Council liaison/representative assignments if desired.

City Council

Councilmember Kent had no comments.

Councilmember Jones wished everyone a happy new year and thanked everyone for making the City of Richland a great city.

Councilmember VanDyke asked about the City's options to combat unprecedented weather, and suggested that he would like to see various options for inclement weather response. Next, Councilmember VanDyke thanked staff for their attendance during tonight's lengthy meeting.

Councilmember Richardson expressed optimism over the City's potential in the upcoming year and wished everyone a happy new year.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen wished everyone a happy new year, then voiced excitement regarding the strategic planning process and the possible contributions Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester will add to the City's developing strategic plan.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

APPROVED:



Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January 17, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: January 27, 2023