



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 17, 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 Kent, Lukson, Richardson and VanDyke (remote attendance via Zoom) were present. Interim Councilmember Whitten joined Council at the dais after approval of Resolution No. 2023-06 and reciting his Oath of Office. Councilmember Jones was absent.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER JONES. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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, Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester 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 LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Resolution for Adoption

1. Resolution No. 2023-06, Confirming the Appointment of Ryan Whitten as Interim Councilmember to Position No. 7 on the Richland City Council

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06, CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF RYAN WHITTEN AS INTERIM COUNCILMEMBER TO POSITION

NO. 7 ON THE RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Presentations

2. Swearing-In of Interim Councilmember Ryan Whitten to Position No. 7 on the Richland City Council

City Clerk Rogers administered the Oath of Office to Ryan Whitten to serve as interim councilmember in Position No. 7 on Richland City Council.

3. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem for 2023

Mayor Christensen reviewed the City's procedures for the selection of a mayor pro tem and opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember VanDyke nominated himself. Councilmember Lukson nominated Councilmember Richardson. No other nominations were made. The following votes were cast:

For VanDyke: Christensen, Whitten, VanDyke

For Richardson: Kent, Lukson, Richardson

Due to a tie in votes cast, City Clerk Rogers called for another vote. The following votes were cast:

For VanDyke: Christensen, VanDyke

For Richardson: Kent, Lukson, Richardson, Whitten

Councilmember Richardson won the office of mayor pro tem by a majority vote of 4-2.

Mayor Christensen provided a brief overview of current council assignments to various internal and external boards, commissions and committees. Due to recent changes on Council, the current council assignments will need to be amended for the remainder of 2023. Mayor Christensen encouraged Council to communicate any feedback regarding their current and desired assignments to City Manager Amundson for preparation of a resolution to formalize the assignments at the February 7, 2023 meeting.

Public Hearing

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

4. Establishing a Targeted Urban Area (TUA) in North Richland on Lands Zoned for Industrial and Manufacturing Uses, Resolution No. 2023-10

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

The following individuals provided public hearing testimony:

Diahann Howard - 3250 Port of Benton Blvd. Richland, WA: Ms. Howard, Executive

Director of the Port of Benton, thanked staff for their collaboration and partnership, then thanked City Council for including the Port of Benton's industrial property in the proposed TUA district. Lastly, Ms. Howard provided testimony supporting adoption of Resolution No. 2023-10.

Karl Dye - 7130 W. Grandridge Blvd. Kennewick, WA: Mr. Dye, TRIDEC President and CEO, thanked staff for their collaboration on the proposed TUA district and provided testimony supporting adoption of Resolution No. 2023-10.

Hearing no other testimony, Mayor Christensen closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

Laila Krowiak - 1523 Hains, Richland, WA: After referencing a recent pedestrian-vehicle accident, Ms. Krowiak called on Council to consider diverting the \$3.5 million grant funding received from the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) designated for the Downtown Connectivity Improvements Project towards street and traffic calming designs in high conflict zones. Ms. Krowiak also asked Council to prioritize the safety of pedestrians by implementing a road diet on all major inter-urban multi-lane arterials to protect vulnerable road users.

Michael Alvarez - Richland, WA: Benton County Commissioner Michael Alvarez congratulated Mayor Christensen, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson and Councilmember Whitten, then thanked all councilmembers for their service.

Amanda Divine - 2148 Davison Ave., Richland, WA: Ms. Devine thanked Council for implementing pedestrian safety measures, and encouraged Council to continue their focus on prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle safety within the community.

Randy Slovic - 42 Newcomer, Richland, WA: Ms. Slovic spoke of a pedestrian-vehicle accident involving a family member some years ago, and advocated for improved pedestrian and bicycle safety measures.

Patrick McLaughlin - 2313 Enterprise Dr., Richland, WA: Mr. McLaughlin concurred with statements made regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety. Mr. McLaughlin also advocated for reduced traffic speeds and the utilization of traffic calming measures for the residential neighborhood within the vicinity of the Snyder boat launch.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the consent calendar as follows:

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

5. Approval of the January 3, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 6, 2023 City Council Special Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

6. Ordinance No. 2023-02, Amending Chapter 5.30 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Public Massage Parlors and Public Bathhouses

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions – Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2023-08, Setting a Public Hearing Date to Receive Comments on the Proposed Vacation of a Portion of the Windmill Road Right-of-Way
9. Resolution No. 2023-02, Authorizing a Purchase Order Contract with Boyd's Tree Service, LLC for Tree Pruning and Vegetation Management

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

10. Expenditures from December 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 for \$27,439,739.40 including Travel Check Nos. 20244-20253, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 307065-308001, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9326- 9363, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13098-13149 Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 201799-202905 and Pension Check Nos. 6341-6365

Items of Business

11. Resolution No. 2023-10, Designating Portions of the Horn Rapids Triangle as a Targeted Urban Area for the purpose of Industrial and Manufacturing Tax Exemption

Development Services Director Jensen explained the purpose of a Targeted Urban Area (TUA), which is to encourage new manufacturing and industrial uses on undeveloped or underutilized lands zoned for industrial and manufacturing uses. Eligible property owners within the TUA may apply for and receive a tax incentive, which consists of up to ten (10)

years of no city property tax. Development Services Director Jensen reviewed the TUA creation process and the qualifying criteria for property owners to receive the tax incentive. Additional information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet. Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10, DESIGNATING PORTIONS OF THE HORN RAPIDS TRIANGLE AS A TARGETED URBAN AREA FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING TAX EXEMPTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson thanked Council for supporting the *2023 Richland Huddle*. The event was held at the Three Rivers Convention Center on Monday, January 16, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The purpose of the *2023 Richland Huddle* was to educate staff on city priorities and services, and to provide a better understanding of the City's processes. Staff then spent the afternoon engaged in dialogue with department directors and managers regarding goals and priorities for the new year.

City Manager Amundson announced upcoming vacancies on eight (8) of the City's various boards, commissions and committees and encouraged those interested in serving to apply online at www.ci.richland.wa.us/bccvacancies. Applications will be accepted January 25, 2023 through February 8, 2023.

Lastly, City Manager Amundson provided an overview of the January 24, 2023 City Council workshop meeting agenda items.

City Council

Councilmember VanDyke congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Richardson on being chosen to serve as mayor pro tem for the 2023 calendar year.

Councilmember Kent welcomed Councilmember Whitten to the Richland City Council, and congratulated Mayor Christensen and Mayor Pro Tem Richardson. Councilmember Kent then shared that the Parks & Recreation Commission is currently reviewing the Little Badger Mountain Trail Master Plan. Citizens are encouraged to visit the Richland Parks & Public Facilities website to learn more about the Little Badger Mountain Trail Master Plan and provide feedback by completing the online survey. In addition, citizens may participate in three (3) upcoming public open house events. The open house dates and times can be found online at <https://www.richlandparksandrec.com/>.

Councilmember Lukson congratulated Mayor Christensen, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson and Councilmember Whitten. Councilmember Lukson then thanked those who offered

comments regarding pedestrian and bicycle safety. Councilmember Lukson reported that staff is constantly looking for ways to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety efforts. The Downtown Connectivity Improvements Project is underway and will enable enhancements to pedestrian, bicycle and on-street parking features in the downtown area, making the city more walkable and bikeable.

Councilmember Whitten had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked City Manager Amundson for his leadership in planning and organizing the *2023 Richland Huddle*. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson then shared her observations from three (3) meetings she attended last month: Code Enforcement Board, Port of Benton, and Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Committee:

Code Enforcement Board: Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked Sgt. Swanson, and Code Enforcement Officers Dorko and Williams for the work they do to enforce and raise awareness of code enforcement issues. In addition to enforcement, the Code Enforcement division also works to connect community groups who serve the poor and elderly with property owners struggling with code compliance in specific areas of the community. Staff has a goal of 99% voluntary compliance for 2023, and are currently at 97% voluntary compliance. Code Enforcement staff responds to approximately fifteen hundred (1,500) code complaints each year for storage of junk and inoperable vehicles.

Port of Benton: Mayor Pro Tem Richardson reported on the City's ongoing positive relationship with the Port of Benton, whose legislative emphasis is the rail system. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson expressed excitement over the opportunity to recruit energy-sector companies to the community.

Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Mayor Pro Tem Richardson stated the committee's focus has been on cost and recycling challenges and evaluating legislative recycling changes and requirements.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen thanked Mayor Pro Tem Richardson and Councilmember Kent for providing a report on the various boards, commissions and committees to which they are assigned.

As Council liaison to the Ben-Franklin Transit Board, Mayor Christensen shared that the *Free Youth Pass* program has been wildly successful. Effective September 1, 2022, the *Free Youth Pass* program qualifies all youth aged eighteen (18) or younger to ride the BFT for free with a BFT-issued free youth pass. Data indicates a rise in youth riders since the implementation of the *Free Youth Pass* program.

Additionally, Mayor Christensen reported the Ben-Franklin Transit Board is considering conducting a rate study to determine the feasibility of reducing fares for all transportation

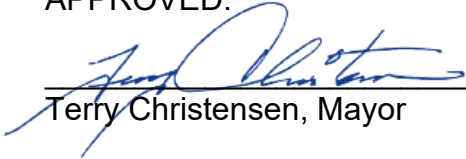
services. Ben Franklin Transit is also conducting a survey among Hanford contractors to determine if there is sufficient interest and support to resume transportation services for employees in an effort to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads.

Lastly, Mayor Christensen welcomed Councilmember Whitten to Richland City Council and congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Richardson on being selected to serve as mayor pro tem.

Adjournment

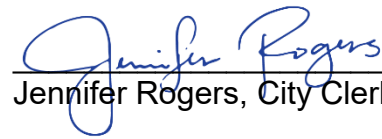
Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

APPROVED:



Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: February 7, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: February 8, 2023