



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, July 22, 2014

Call to Order:

Mayor Rose called the Council workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attendance:

Mayor Rose, Mayor Pro Tem Lemley, Council Members Christensen, Jones, Kent and Thompson present.

Also present were City Manager Johnson, Deputy City Manager King, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Police Services Director Skinner, Transportation and Development Manager Peters and City Clerk Hopkins.

Workshop Items:

1. Transportation System Improvement Priorities and Funding Strategies
(30 minutes)
 - Jeff Peters, Transportation and Development Manager

Mr. Peters said the purpose of the workshop discussion is to seek Council guidance on setting priorities and grant seeking approach for the City's highest priority transportation system improvements. Staff has identified the following projects that are the highest priority improvements with significant funding needs:

1. Duportail Bridge
2. South George Washington Way Safety and Mobility Improvements
3. Swift Corridor Improvements
4. Columbia Park Trail Improvements

Funding sources considered for these projects include: Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), Benton Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG), Washington State Departments of Transportation, Commerce and Ecology, and others. Several of the funding sources have specific program goals and criteria that limit their application. The TIB and BFCOG programs offer the most flexibility. Council guidance is needed most in directing the City's approach to TIB and BFCOG funding.

The City's strategy for funding the Duportail Bridge revolves around obtaining a significant grant from the federal or state government and assembling matching funds from local sources. The funding strategy was approved as part of the 2014 – 2030 Capital Improvement Plan, but will require adjustments periodically to respond to future

grant funding opportunities. Staff does not believe that the project lends itself to phasing and thus is not recommending prioritizing this project for any of the expected TIB or BFCOG grant programs that have funding amounts in the \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 range.

The South George Washington Way Safety and Mobility Improvements are progressing through a planning process involving City, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Federal Highway Administration staff. This project is a good candidate for TIB and BFCOG funding programs, as well as a WSDOT safety program.

The Swift Corridor Improvements involves modifications to the street features to support the downtown development strategy. The proposed improvements, wider sidewalks, on-street parking, bicycle lanes and pathways, will place this project in a special niche for grant funding. This project is not a good fit for TIB funding, but several downtown redevelopment programs are offered by State agencies that fit this project well. In addition, BFCOG funds could be targeted to this project.

The Columbia Park Trail Improvements would modify the street to include sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and streetscape features. The project will not require right-of-way acquisition or difficult regulatory approvals. Staff believes that Department of Ecology storm water retrofit funds could contribute to this project, as well as TIB and BFCOG funds.

Council guidance on the approach to BFCOG and TIB funds in the coming years will assist staff in presenting a focused program to the grant funding agencies and improve the chances of success.

After discussion, Council concurred that they were in agreement with the priority of the projects outlined by staff.

2. Recreational Marijuana (I-502) (60 minutes)
- Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

Ms. Kintzley said the purpose of the workshop discussion is to educate Council on the structure outlined by I-502, provide the current status of Richland and surrounding areas with regard to practical implementation of I-502, discuss anticipated impacts on the City related to authorizing the use, provide the City Attorney's recommendation, and obtain clear direction from Council on Council's desired path forward.

She said the City currently has a moratorium on the production, processing and retail sale of recreational marijuana. This moratorium was established in October 2013 and extended in April 2014 for the purpose of allowing City staff the time necessary to develop options for Council in deciding the path forward for recreational marijuana-related activity within the City of Richland.

The moratorium was also imposed during a time when the Washington State Legislature was actively debating issues related to the retail marijuana industry, including revenue sharing with local jurisdictions and remedying the disconnect between medical marijuana (unregulated and untaxed) and retail marijuana (heavily regulated and taxed). Although those efforts did not materialize, additional attempts at new legislation will likely occur in future sessions.

During the past several months, staff has worked diligently to draft proposed changes to the current zoning code that would zone these uses (production, processing and retail sales) in the best-suited locations within City limits. Staff has also met with various departments in the City to assess the impacts related to authorizing this use. The areas of notable concern include public safety, quality of life, and any anticipated financial gain or loss.

Simultaneous with the effort described above, the City Attorney has evaluated the legal issues surrounding practical implementation of Initiative 502 (I-502), including an analysis of whether recreational marijuana-related activity can be lawfully banned in the City of Richland, and what implications such a decision might have on the City.

In the event Council supports drafting of an ordinance to authorize recreational marijuana-related activity within the City of Richland, the ordinance would receive first and second reading on September 16, 2014 and October 7, 2014. These time frames are consistent with the work plan adopted by Richland City Council in April, 2014. The current moratorium is set to expire on October 15, 2014.

After an extensive discussion, Council requested that an ordinance be prepared to ban the use of marijuana and place it on the August 6, 2014, agenda for Council action.

Other Business:

Mayor Rose asked Council if they want to interview the three candidates for the Richland Public Facilities District or just review the resumes to make their selection. Council confirmed they would like to interview the candidates.

Mayor Rose asked if the proposals for Columbia Point are being reviewed by a subcommittee or just by the Economic Development Committee. Mr. King said that only one proposal has been received and it was reviewed by the Economic Development Committee. He will be bringing information on that proposal to Council at a future Council meeting.

Mr. King confirmed Council's approval of the final draft of letters discussed at the Council pre-meeting on July 15, to be sent to a specific Planning Commissioner and the Planning Commission as a whole. Ms. Johnson said that although Council Member Anderson was absent from the workshop, he confirmed with her that he approved of the letters as well. Ms. Johnson said that after all Council Members sign the letters, they would be sent out July 23, 2014.

Adjournment:

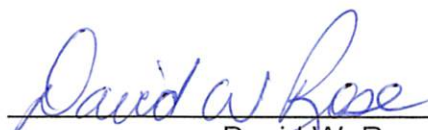
Mayor Rose adjourned the workshop at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

FORM APPROVED:



David W. Rose, Mayor

DATE APPROVED:

August 6, 2014