



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 7, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson, and Councilmembers Jones, Lukson, VanDyke (remotely via Zoom) and Whitten were present. Councilmember Kent was absent.

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

Also present were 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, 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

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. Swearing-In of Richland Police Officer Trevor Meads

Chief of Police Clary introduced newly commissioned Police Officer Meads and administered the Oath of Office. Following the swearing-in of Officer Meads, Police Commander Schwarder introduced Stevie Pena and Mary Dover, members of the Richland Police Department Foundation, who bestowed upon Officer Meads a welcome basket on behalf of the Richland Police Department Foundation.

2. 2022 Supporting The Arts in Richland (STAR) Award Presentation and Annual Arts Commission Presentation

Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester introduced Richland Arts Commission (RAC) Chair, Jet Richardson, who presented the 16th Annual Supporting The Arts in Richland (STAR) Awards. Selected from public nominations, the STAR Award is bestowed upon one (1) organization and one (1) individual for their extraordinary contributions to the arts.

The Three Rivers Folklife Society was awarded the STAR Award in the category of contributing community organization. The Three Rivers Folklife Society, founded in 1988, is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting folk music in the Tri-Cities and the southeastern corner of Washington state. The Tumbleweeds Music Festival, run solely on volunteers and sponsored by the Three Rivers Folklife Society, hosts the annual Tumbleweed Music Festival on Labor Day weekend.

Three Rivers Folklife Society members Katrina Knight, Micki Perry and Dave Carson were present to accept the award.

Ellicia Elliott was awarded the STAR Award in the category of individual artist. Among many contributions and accomplishments, Ms. Elliott is co-founder and artistic director of The Rude Mechanicals, a non-profit Shakespeare-inspired arts organization.

Following the presentation, RAC Vice-Chair Jeff Kissel presented the Arts Commission Annual Report which highlighted major accomplishments in 2022 and the 2023 Arts Commission Work Plan. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet. Before closing, Mr. Kissel introduced members of the Arts Commission.

3. 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals

Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester introduced Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC) Chair, James Buelt, who introduced members of the PRC then presented the Parks & Recreation Commission Annual Presentation, including goals and objectives for 2023. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

4. Richland Police Department Annual Report

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Chief of Police Clary provided a high-level 2022 Year-End Review for the Richland Police Department. The presentation included details on the following topics: 2022 organizational chart, recruitment/retention efforts and challenges, retirements, calls for service, arrests, Metro Drug Task Force, FBI Task Force, Street Crimes Unit, and legislative challenges. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation and on the Richland Police Department website.

Following the presentation, staff responded to a series of questions posed by Council.

5. Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Fire Chief Huntington provided a high-level 2022 Year-End Review for Fire & Emergency Services (RFES). The report contained incident breakdown by type and metrics for the following:

- Response data
- Call volume
- Response times by Station
- Call volume by Station
- Heart Safe Richland Initiative
- Resource Navigator Program
- Lives Saved
- Quality of Life Impact
- Property Protected
- RSES Performance Indicators

Next, Fire Chief Huntington provided an update on the following projects:

- Fire Station No. 76 in Badger Mountain South
- Medical Utility Strategic Plan
- Standard of Cover Study/Community Risk Assessment & EMS Systems Study

The Standard of Cover Study Community Risk Assessment & EMS System Study will be published on the City's website in the near future. Detailed information can be found in Chief Huntington's PowerPoint presentation.

Following the presentation, staff responded to a series of questions posed by Council.

6. New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring nine (9) new hires for the month of February was played for the audience. The City acknowledged Richard Kane's retirement after serving twenty-one (21) years with the Richland Police Department (RPD). During his tenure with the RPD, Mr. Kane served in a variety of assignments, including patrol, field training officer (FTO), officer-in-charge (OIC), department instructor for defensive tactics and firearms, detective in Street Crimes, and RPD Community Services. Most recently, Officer Kane served as a school resources officer (SRO) at Hanford High School.

Public Hearing

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

7. Adopting the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan Program (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan, Resolution No. 2023-37

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 7:43 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Emilia Keener - Cypress Court, Pasco, WA: Ms. Keener voiced concerns relating to the treatment of animals housed at the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter (TCAS). Ms. Keener advocated for the creation of a TCAS Stakeholder Advisory Board.
- Mary Mattox - 1781 N. Bellevue Rd. Eltopia, WA: Ms. Mattox stated she runs a non-profit organization called Service Peace Warriors to provide service animals to military veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Ms. Maddox shared that she is also owner of Maddox Dog Training Academy and receives funding from local active and retired police and firefighters to fund service animal training offered by Service Peace Warriors. Lastly, Ms. Maddox provided statements regarding the dogs recently euthanized at TCAS.
- Stacy Shells - Pasco, WA: Ms. Shells shared she spent four (4) years as a volunteer and animal foster for TCAS. Ms. Shells voiced concerns regarding current animal intake practices and called on Richland City Council to assist in upholding accountability for individuals who contribute to pet overpopulation.
- Terry McCan - Huntington St. Kennewick, WA: Ms. McCan, a current foster at Mikey's Chance Canine Rescue and former TCAS volunteer, spoke of concerns relating to animal care and conditions at the TCAS. Ms. McCan called on Richland City Council to hold TCAS staff accountable and provide education on animal behavior.
- Angela Zeiler - 6095 Collins Road, West Richland, WA: Ms. Zeiler provided historical background regarding TCAS and animal priorities over the years. Ms. Zieler spoke of concerns relating to current TCAS administration, animal intake and lack of animal code enforcement.
- Mona Durham - 94 Collins Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Durham voiced concerns relating to the current TCAS administration.
- Kristi Kestler - 437 S. Buchanan Street, Kennewick, WA: Ms. Kestler concurred with previous statements regarding TCAS and advocated for the creation of a TCAS Stakeholder Advisory Board.
- Brian Moreno - Pasco, WA: Mr. Moreno advocated for the creation of a TCAS Stakeholder Advisory Board, to include animal experts.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar as follows:

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

8. Approval of the following Richland City Council Meeting Minutes:
 - February 21, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting
 - February 21, 2023 City Council Special Workshop Meeting
 - February 28, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting
- Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

9. Ordinance No. 2023-03, Vacating a Portion of Windmill Road Right-of-Way and Accepting a Dedication Deed for New Windmill Road Right-of-Way

Resolutions - Adoption

10. Resolution No. 2023-30, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Federal Engineering, Inc. for Project Management and Engineering Services Related to the Bi-County VHF Radio System Replacement Project
11. Resolution No. 2023-31, Authorizing Submission of Comments to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for the Yakima River Delta Habitat Restoration Project
12. Resolution No. 2023-32, Authorizing a Work Crew Agreement with Benton County
13. Resolution No. 2023-33, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement for 1,344 Square Feet of Surplus Property in Claybell Park
14. Resolution No. 2023-34, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with DKS Associates for the Speed Limit Setting Policy Study
15. Resolution No. 2023-35, Authorizing Participation in Five New Opioid Settlement Agreements Negotiated by the Washington State Attorney General's Office
16. Resolution No. 2023-36, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. for Characterization and Visioning for the Former Landfill within Tracts D of the Plat of Columbia Point

Items - Approval

None.

Items of Business

17. Resolution No. 2023-37, Adopting the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Allocation Plan

Development Services Director Jensen began his presentation by announcing that the proposed HOME-ARP allocation plan had been made available for public comment during a duly advertised and statutorily required public comment period, and that tonight's public hearing satisfies the statutory public hearing requirement.

Development Services Director Jensen then introduced Stephanie Jennings, a consultant with The Cloudburst Group, who facilitated stakeholder consultations, data analysis and surveys, and collected feedback used to develop the proposed HOME-ARP Allocation Plan on behalf of the Tri-Cities HOME Consortium.

Ms. Jennings shared that in 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which provided \$5 billion dollars to communities in the form of HOME-ARP funds. The Tri-Cities HOME Consortium is eligible to receive an allocation of \$2,394,949. These funds can be used for the following four (4) HOME-ARP qualifying populations:

- Individuals experiencing homelessness;
- Individuals at risk of homelessness;
- Persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking; and
- Other populations where providing supportive services or assistance would prevent homelessness or would serve those at greatest risk of housing instability.

On behalf of the Tri-Cities HOME Consortium, The Cloud Burst Group gathered input from individuals across thirty (30) community organizations and affordable housing developers through extensive consultation and surveys. Community members were also given significant opportunities to provide feedback on the draft plan between February 17, 2023 and March 7, 2023. Ms. Jennings provided an overview of key takeaways from consultations and data analysis.

Based on the work described above, the Tri-Cities HOME Consortium intends to prioritize the use of HOME-ARP funds for the following eligible activities:

- Affordable rental housing;
- Supportive services;
- Non-Profit operating and capacity building.

Following Ms. Jennings' presentation, CDBG/HOME Administrator Toni Lehman reviewed details of the proposed HOME- ARP Allocation Plan and provided a summary of the public comments received. The Tri-Cities HOME Consortium anticipates receiving a one-time allocation of \$2,394,949 in HOME-ARP funds to be expended by September 30, 2030. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in

the agenda packet.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-37, ADOPTING THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (HOME-ARP) ALLOCATION PLAN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson was absent. Deputy City Manager Schiessl shared the following updates/reports:

- The City continues to work with customers who were negatively affected by the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) implementation.
- The City received verbal confirmation that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public comment period for the Bateman Island Causeway removal project is likely to be extended beyond the March 10, 2023 deadline.
- A meeting is scheduled with representatives from Atlas Agro to discuss various projects, including annexation in North Richland.
- The concerns voiced during public comment regarding TCAS will be shared with the city of Pasco as the operating jurisdiction for TCAS.

Mayor Christensen added that he would like to receive an update on TCAS's current animal intake process.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson requested to receive an update after staff communicates TCAS concerns with the city of Pasco.

Councilmember Jones concurred with Councilmember Lukson's comments and added that she is in favor of seeking an independent audit of TCAS. Councilmember Jones also supported the idea of creating a TCAS Community Advisory Board.

Councilmember Whitten generally agreed with previous statements and added that TCAS should provide the level of service expected by the community.

Councilmember VanDyke agreed with previous statements.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson requested to receive feedback from the city of Pasco on the possible creation of an Advisory Control Council for TCAS. Next, Mayor Pro Tem

Richardson announced that she recently participated in a Visit Tri-Cities meeting where she learned that the movie *Oppenheimer*, to be released in July 2023 and involving many A-list actors, will feature our nuclear community.

Mayor

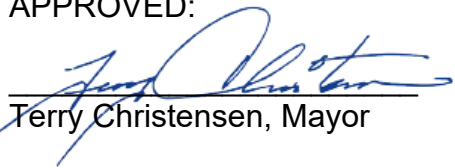
Mayor Christensen provided statements opposing the premature creation of an Animal Shelter Advisory Board. Mayor Christensen shared that the city of Pasco first needs an opportunity to finish construction of the new facility and otherwise let the dust settle on the transition of taking the service “in-house” before decisions are made about establishing an advisory board. In the meantime, Mayor Christensen asked for periodic updates regarding TCAS.

Mayor Christensen also complimented the Arts Commission on tonight’s update and expressed an interest in City Council reviewing art before it is implemented in the community. Finally, Mayor Christensen personally thanked Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Jim Buelt for presenting the PRC annual report and goals.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 21, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: March 22, 2023