



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 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 (remotely via Zoom), and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson, VanDyke (remotely via Zoom) and Whitten were present.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, 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 COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

1. Swearing In of Richland Police Officer Lucas Swanson

Chief of Police Clary introduced newly commissioned Police Officer Lucas Swanson and administered the Oath of Office. Following the swearing-in of Officer Swanson, Mary Dover and Brandi Hilmes of the Richland Police Department Foundation presented Officer Swanson with a welcome basket on behalf of the Foundation and welcomed him to the community.

2. Building Safety Month Proclamation

Mayor Christensen read aloud a proclamation declaring the month of May to be Building Safety Month in the City of Richland.

3. Economic Development Week Proclamation

Mayor Christensen read aloud a proclamation declaring May 8-12, 2023 to be Economic Development Week in the City of Richland.

4. Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation

Mayor Christensen read aloud a proclamation declaring May 1-6, 2023 to be Public Service Recognition Week in the City of Richland.

5. Fuse Launch University

Erik Ralston, Co-Founder of Fuse Business & Community Accelerator, provided an overview of the organization's mission and described the services available for entrepreneurs, small business owners and start-ups. Fuse Launch University will host a five-week workshop series for first-time founders May 9, 2023 through June 6, 2023 at Fuse in Richland, 723 The Parkway.

Following the presentation, Mr. Ralston responded to a series of questions raised by Councilmember Jones.

6. New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring new hires for the month of April was played for the audience. There were no retirements to recognize.

Public Hearing

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Hearing and Public Comment Procedures

7. Proposed Third Amendment to the 2019 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan, Resolution No. 2023-69

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

A.G. - This speaker elected to remain anonymous, but reported living in Kennewick and identifying as a Richland resident. The speaker urged Council to be the voice on issues such as the recent Emerald of Siam situation. The speaker opined that businesses that host indecent adult entertainment and advertise it as family friendly are a disgrace and a disservice to the community. The speaker further stated that a councilmember should make their views known on certain issues, such as the drag show event hosted by Emerald of Siam. The speaker shared that Council's silence during a vicious attack on a

fellow councilmember is un-American and is sufficient grounds for voters to demand the resignation of each seated councilmember.

The speaker supported Mayor Pro Tem Richardson's right to speak freely on matters of public interest and demanded each councilmember to apologize to Mayor Pro Tem Richardson and to the residents of the City of Richland for their silence. Lastly, the speaker proposed the adoption of an ordinance which would prohibit minors from attending erotic performances, including drag shows.

Bri - No other identifying information was given. Bri agreed with previous statements and added that she believes drag shows promote the essence of sexuality. Bri further stated that businesses have lacked transparency by marketing certain adult activities, such as drag shows, as family friendly.

Hayley Hoyt - No address given: Ms. Hoyt urged Council to protect minors by prohibiting their attendance at events not deemed to be age appropriate. Ms. Hoyt added that she has personally attended drag shows and does not view them as inappropriate activities for adults. However, her belief is that children should not be exposed to this type of event.

Nichole Hanniman - 214 Casey Ave., Richland WA: Ms. Hanniman agreed that while protecting children is a priority, she views drag shows as performance art and identity exploration. Ms. Hanniman stated she does not have knowledge of a predator conviction in the drag show sphere and would like people to have the same amount of fervor in protecting children from predators in religious organizations.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Minutes

8. Approval of the April 18, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 25, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

9. Ordinance No. 2023-07, Approving The Terraces at Queensgate South Planned Unit Development

Resolutions – Adoption

10. Resolution No. 2023-63, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Cities of Kennewick, Pasco and West Richland and the Benton-Franklin Health District for Funding the Operation of a Regional Algal Bloom Laboratory Screening Service
11. Resolution No. 2023-65, Authorizing a Second Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Commonstreet Consulting, LLC for Street Project Right-of-Way Acquisition Services
12. Resolution No. 2023-66, Authorizing a Purchase Agreement with Virginia Transformer Corporation for Procurement of Two Power Transformers for Thayer Substation Bank 1 Rebuild and Sandhill Crane Substation Bank 3 Addition
13. Resolution No. 2023-67, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding and Interlocal Agreement to Participate in the Foundation for Water & Energy Education (FWEE) Tri-Cities STEM Career Academy
14. Resolution No. 2023-68, Authorizing a Third Amended and Restated Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Interlocal Agreement

Items - Approval

15. Appointments to the Richland Public Facilities District Board: Steven Wiley and Charles Miller

Items of Business

16. Resolution No. 2023-69, Authorizing a Third Amendment to the 2019 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan

Kerwin Jensen, Development Services Director, provided a short description of the proposed reallocation of unspent Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. An amendment to the 2019 Annual Action Plan is required to reallocate the remaining funds to support mortgage/rent and utility assistance for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and installation of 52 pedestrian-level light fixtures in the common areas of the Uptown Shopping Center to increase traffic to businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-69, AUTHORIZING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE 2019 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson made the following announcements:

- Correspondence was received from the Yakima Nation expressing an interest in meeting with the Richland City Council in a government-to-government meeting. Mayor Christensen responded to the correspondence earlier in the day expressing support of the proposed meeting. Deputy City Manager Schiessl will be the City of Richland staff point of contact for this meeting.
- Staff had an encouraging meeting with representatives from the West Richland Chamber of Commerce and Richland Chamber of Commerce regarding the future of Cool Desert Nights. Staff will present Council with viable options in the near future which might possibly return the event to Richland.
- WSU Tri-Cities graduation will be held this Saturday, May 6, 2023. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2023.
- Chief of Police Clary has been working on creative methods to recruit additional police officers to fill current vacancies. Recruitment efforts will include a 3-4-month trial with KAPP-KVEW for a nationally targeted recruitment. Staff will provide an update on the recruitment effort outcomes at the end of the trial period.

City Council

Councilmember Whitten shared his views on the Emerald of Siam issue, expressing how unpleasant it is to be called names, harassed, threatened, or accused of advocating for issues to which one is personally opposed. Those behaviors are abhorrent and destructive to open and respectful discourse and out of line with the values of the community and the country. Councilmember Whitten further stated that the community will not improve if individuals cannot respect those with which they disagree. Councilmember Whitten promoted rallying behind the safety and development of children as they are the most precious resource.

Councilmember Whitten then voiced support for Mayor Pro Tem Richardson's comments regarding the Emerald of Siam situation and would defend any councilmember when advocating for citizens to exercise their First Amendment rights to make their opinions known in a respectful manner.

Councilmember Kent had no comments.

Councilmember Lukson spoke positively of the Richland Police Department's successful recruitment efforts. Councilmember Lukson then expressed anticipation over staff's continued efforts on Council's vision for the community through strategic planning.

Councilmember Jones spoke highly of the quality of new hires joining the Richland Police Department. Councilmember Jones then thanked Energy Services staff for rescuing a cat stuck in a light pole. Lastly, Councilmember Jones agreed with statements made by Councilmember Whitten regarding an individual's right to exercise First Amendment speech rights without being fearful of ensuing threats.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked Chief of Police Clary for the creativity employed in RPD's recruitment efforts.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson expressed support of this year's graduating class of WSU Tri-Cities by exclaiming "Go Cougs!"

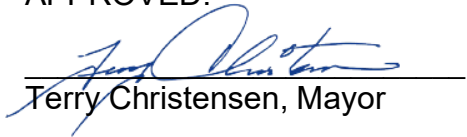
Mayor

Mayor Christensen stated that in addition to reinstating Cool Desert Nights, he is hopeful that Atomic Frontier Days will be held in September.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: May 16, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: May 17, 2023