



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, July 6, 2023

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

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

Mayor Christensen called the special 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 and VanDyke were present. Councilmembers Kent, Lukson and Whitten were absent.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND MAYOR CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBERS KENT, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Clary, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, and Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester.

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 REVISED AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Presentations

1. Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation

Mayor Christensen presented Parks & Public Facilities Director Laura Hester with a proclamation recognizing the month of July as Parks & Recreation month. Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester thanked Mayor Christensen and City Council for the recognition, and extended her gratitude to staff for their commitment to the City.

2. Ben Franklin Transit Upcoming Projects

Ben Franklin Transit General Manager Rachelle Glazier began her presentation by walking Council through the projects reflected in a three-page hand-out provided during the meeting. Ms. Glazier's hand-out depicted the new BFT Operations building currently under construction, and the Queensgate Transit Hub which is expected to be completed in late 2023. Ms. Glazier emphasized BFT's appreciation of its partnership with the City of Richland. Immediately following, Ms. Glazier spoke briefly about BFT's fixed route service, Dial-A-Ride service, and BFT Connect, and also highlighted various events hosted by BFT and held in the City of Richland. Ms. Glazier promoted BFT's shuttle service to the Benton-Franklin County Fair, and mentioned that free youth and senior passes are available. Final points of Ms. Glazier's presentation included an overview of ridership growth and the opportunity for city-specific advertising on BFT busses free of charge. At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Glazier answered questions from Council.

3. New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring the new hires and retirements for the month of June was played for the audience. Highlighted in the video was Fire Battalion Chief Michael Wroolie, who retired after twenty-nine (29) years of service with the Richland Fire Department.

Public Comments

City Attorney Kintzley read the Public Comments procedure, after which the following individual provided public comment:

Jeff Losey, 10001 W. Clearwater Ave., Kennewick WA: Speaking on behalf of the Home Builders Association of Tri-Cities, Mr. Losey spoke about the pending traffic impact fee ordinance (Ordinance No. 2023-09). Mr. Losey expressed his opinion that traffic impact fees are unfairly applied and that all costs are passed along to the end-user, which makes it difficult for those already struggling to qualify for new construction. Mr. Losey advocated for a balance between the number of collector and arterial streets paid for by the City and those paid for by new construction occurring in newly developed subdivisions. Mr. Losey argued that the proposed increase in impact fees contemplated by Ordinance No. 2023-09 will place Richland in the lead as the least desirable jurisdiction to build because of cost.

Consent Calendar

City Attorney Kintzley read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES AND VANDYKE. THOSE

OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Minutes

4. Approval of the June 20, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the June 27, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

5. Ordinance No. 2023-14, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 2.44.010 related to Membership on the LEOFF I Firefighters' Pension Board
6. Ordinance No. 2023-15, Amending Chapter 9.18 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Misuse of 911 Emergency Call System

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

7. Resolution No. 2023-101, Authorizing an Agreement with the Washington Public Utility Districts Association for Participation in a Net Metering Study
8. Resolution No. 2023-102, Authorizing an Agreement with Energy Pro Insulation, Inc. for Weatherwise Program Participation
9. Resolution No. 2023-103, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with the Advisian-Worley Group for the United States Army Corps of Engineers Storm Flow Analysis
10. Resolution No. 2023-105, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Franklin Conservation District and the Cities of Kennewick, Pasco, and West Richland for Water Education
11. Resolution No. 2023-107, Setting a Public Hearing Date to Consider the Proposed Annexation of Approximately 1,643 Acres to be Known as The North Horn Rapids Industrial Park
12. Resolution No. 2023-108, Authorizing Circulation of a Petition for Annexation of 1.83 Acres of Short Plat 793, Lot 3
13. Resolution No. 2023-111, Ratifying Execution of an Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology on behalf of Hanford Communities

Items - Approval

14. Appointment to the Richland Public Facilities District Board: Veronica Kenney

Items of Business

15. Ordinance No. 2023-16, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 9: Crime related to Controlled Substances Violations and Penalties

City Attorney Kintzley provided an overview of Ordinance No. 2023-16, explaining it as a necessary housekeeping measure to remove conflicts between Title 9 of the Richland Municipal Code and Chapter 69.50 RCW, the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, in light of HB 5536, which fully occupies and preempts the field with regard to drug possession and use. City Attorney Kintzley shared highlights of the new state law related to criminalization of possession and use of controlled substances and counterfeit substances. Chapters 9.09, 9.10 and 9.11 RMC require repeal, and a number of state statutes are adopted by reference through approval of Ordinance No. 2023-16.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-16, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 9: CRIME RELATED TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES, FOR FIRST READING BY TITLE ONLY. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES AND VANDYKE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

16. Resolution No. 2023-106, Establishing Pricing for City-Owned Properties in the Horn Rapids Business Center, Horn Rapids Commercial Plaza and Horn Rapids Industrial Park

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Development Services Director Jensen provided an overview of the process to appraise and adjust pricing for property in the Horn Rapids Business Center, Horn Rapids Commercial Plaza, and the Horn Rapids Industrial Park every two (2) years to ensure that pricing stays competitive relative to the market. Pricing adjustments were set forth in proposed Resolution No. 2023-106. At the conclusion of his presentation, Development Services Director Jensen answered questions posed by Council.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-106, ESTABLISHING PRICING FOR CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES IN THE HORN RAPIDS BUSINESS CENTER, HORN RAPIDS COMMERCIAL PLAZA, AND HORN RAPIDS INDUSTRIAL PARK. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

17. Resolution No. 2023-109, Authorizing an Agreement with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for Officer Resiliency Program Funding

Chief Clary presented on the existing RPD Officer Resiliency Program and how grant funds have previously been secured from the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to establish the program. Chief Clary described the success of the program, and advised that the City was fortunate to obtain additional grant funding from CJTC for the 2023-2024 program year. Council engaged with Chief Clary about various ways the funding could possibly be spent to ensure that officers receive the support necessary to deal with job-related stress.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-109, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION FOR OFFICER RESILIENCY PROGRAM FUNDING. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

18. Resolution No. 2023-110, Establishing the 2023 Docket of Comprehensive Plan Policies, Maps and Zoning Code Amendments

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Development Services Director Jensen presented the proposed 2023 Docket of Comprehensive Plan Policies, Maps and Zoning Code Amendments to Richland City Council. All six (6) applications received by the City for consideration were briefly explained. Details on each application are available in the City Council agenda packet. At the conclusion of the presentation, Development Services Director Jensen recommended that all six (6) applications be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-110, ESTABLISHING THE 2023 DOCKET OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES, MAPS AND ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson clarified that the City does partner with Ben Franklin Transit for the Art In The Park event which is held in Richland. In addition, City Manager Amundson thanked Ben Franklin Transit for partnering with Richland on Richland's recent capital projects tour.

City Manager Amundson asked Chief Clary and Deputy Fire Chief Aust to briefly present 4th of July statics for 2024. Chief Clary reported that: 209 calls for service were received on the 4th of July (down 2.8% from last year); the total weekend calls for service relating to fireworks was 100 (up 25% from last year); four (4) fire-assist calls

were received; and 55 fireworks calls were received specifically on July 4th. Chief Clary explained that RPD responds in person to fireworks calls, but it is often difficult to discern exactly where fireworks are being initiated, and activity has often ceased by the time RPD arrives. Chief Clary further advised that the City's ordinance is difficult to enforce, so RPD issues very few citations and largely focuses on education. With regard to RFD activity, Deputy Fire Chief Aust advised that the City ran 93 calls for service over the two-day period (including July 4th), with only 19 calls related to fire. There were no structure fires. Mayor Christensen thanked RFD and RPD for their efforts over the holiday period.

In closing, City Manager Amundson commented on his recent visits to all shifts at all stations for Police and Fire, and noted that he always passes along Council's thanks and support to the City's first responders.

City Council

Councilmember Jones advised that the Richland Police Foundation is having a social night at an upcoming Tri-City Dust Devils game and encouraged citizens to attend.

Councilmember VanDyke had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson expressed concern over Mr. Losey's comment that Richland would become the least desirable jurisdiction in which to build if the proposed traffic impact fee updates are adopted. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson expressed her desire to see the matter return to a workshop for further discussion. Her concerns include killing small business in Richland, limiting first time homebuyer eligibility, and causing a budget shortfall if permit applications significantly decrease. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson noted that both Richland and Pasco are down in residential permits pulled, but Kennewick up, and ruminated that perhaps this was because of Kennewick City Council's willingness to absorb some of the impacts of development by limiting the traffic impact fees imposed.

Councilmember Jones advised that she supports additional workshop discussions. Councilmember VanDyke and Mayor Christensen advised that they did not believe there was benefit to additional workshop discussions in light of the previous workshop and stakeholder engagement on the topic. Mayor Christensen further advised that any councilmember who recommends subsidizing development from the General Fund as Kennewick does would need to identify the other city projects that would not be pursued to make this possible.

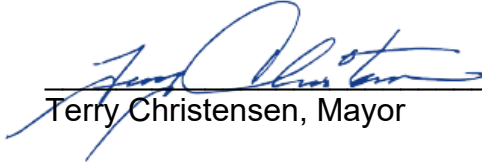
Mayor

Mayor Christensen shared his experience cutting the ribbon for Shoot-360, a new business in the Horn Rapids area that utilizes artificial intelligence to help correct and teach basketball skills. Located at 2541 Logan Street, the experience is highly recommended.

Adjournment

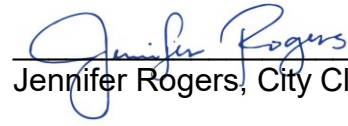
Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

APPROVED:



Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 18, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: July 19, 2023