



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Regular 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, Lukson, VanDyke (remote attendance 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 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, 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. Update from Benton County on Public Safety Sales Tax and the Recovery Center

Matt Rasmussen, Benton County Deputy County Administrator provided a chronological list of accomplishments realized thus far in 2023 relating to the regional Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH) Recovery Center:

- April 2023 - A contract was awarded to Comprehensive Health Care for the operation of the GCBH Recovery Center. Comprehensive Health Care is the current regional provider for the Crisis Response team contracted by GCBH.

Contract negotiations are ongoing as the scope of services is still being developed. It is anticipated that the contract will be finalized and executed within the next couple of months. Additionally, Comprehensive Health Care will be incorporated as part of the Design-Build team for the GCBH facility.

- May 2023 - The Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC) issued a Request for Interest (REOI) to assess local interest in the development of a regional Field Responder Program. Three (3) firms responded to the REOI. BHAC created a sub-committee to develop a scope of services for the Field Responder Program. A formalized proposal will be created based on a cost estimate provided by the interested firms.
- June 2023 - A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to solicit bids for the Design-Build firm for the GCBH facility. Vendors have been narrowed down to two (2) firms. It is anticipated that the bid will be awarded in August and a contract finalized in September.
- June 2023 - As part of the Opioid Settlement requirement, nineteen (19) cities and counties in our region entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to form an Opioid Abatement Council (OAC), and GCBH has been identified as the administering agency. The OAC will oversee opioid fund allocation, distribution, expenditures, and dispute resolutions. Representatives from participating municipalities receiving funds will participate in discussions to determine the allocation of funds for allowable services and programs.
- July 2023 - Benton County closed on the purchase of the facility located at 10 E. Bruneau Avenue. The County received a \$300,000 rebate on the purchase price from the previous property owners. In the long term, the County will see a cost savings of nearly \$2.5 million by purchasing the facility now versus leasing the facility to term.
- BHAC has had ongoing discussions regarding the possibility of operating a voluntary Sobering Center in the interim while awaiting the opening of the GCBH Recovery Center. BHAC will evaluate the response of interests received and submit a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Council provided comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Rasmussen.

Mr. Rasmussen then provided the following update to the Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST). In 2014, Benton County voters authorized an increase in local sales and use tax by three-tenths of one percent (0.3%), to fund criminal justice and public safety programs in Benton County. The tax revenues would be used for specific public safety needs and purposes. The PSST will expire on December 31, 2024, and the Board of County Commissioners has decided to place the PSST tax on the November 7, 2023 ballot to allow citizens to determine whether the tax should be renewed. A sunset date on the tax

will not be included in the proposed ballot proposition. Members of the Law and Justice Council have met regularly to discuss the expiration of the PSST, language for the PSST ballot proposition, and PSST Jurisdictional Spending Plans.

All members of the Law and Justice Council expressed the need for continued receipt of the PSST funds to maintain services, programs, and staff funded by the PSST. A firm has been retained to assist with the public education campaign to demonstrate to the community how the PSST funds have been utilized over the last ten (10) years.

Benton County Commissioner Alvarez invited Councilmembers to attend the Law and Justice Council meeting to be held the following day at the Benton County Justice Center located at 7122 Okanogan Place, Kennewick to receive additional information on the PSST expiration and possible next steps to consider should the tax not be renewed. Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Alvarez.

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

Public Hearing

1. Relinquishing a Utility Easement at 311 Van Giesen Street, Resolution No. 2023-121

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. No testimony was offered.

2. Proposed 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Union Rank and File, Local No. 1052, Resolution No. 2023-122

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Karl Dye – 7130 Grandridge, Kennewick, WA – Karl Dye, President & CEO of Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), provided comments in support of the adoption of Resolution No. 2023- 118, Approving a Targeted Urban Area (TUA) Application submitted by ATI Specialty Alloys and Components. Mr. Dyke thanked the Richland Economic Development Department for their partnership and for leading the TUA tax exemption program in the state of Washington.
- Doug Kosie – 1683 Mountain Drive, Stephen, OR – Mr. Kosie, Senior Finance Director of ATI Specialty Alloys and Components, thanked Council for its consideration of the TUA application submitted by ATI Alloys and Components, listed on tonight's Consent Calendar. Mr. Kosie thanked Karl Dye of TRIDEC,

Economic Development Manager Wallner, and the entire Economic Development Department for their partnerships.

- Andrew Richardson – 213 George Washington Way, Richland, WA – Mr. Richardson stated he recently discovered the City purportedly intends to acquire a portion of his driveway for the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements project. Mr. Richardson pointed out that George Washington Way is a busy street, and additional difficulties would be created for him when merging to or from GW Way, should the City acquire a portion of his driveway for the project. Mr. Richardson suggested the City explore other avenues to expand GW Way.
- Jim Berndt – 215 George Washington Way, Richland, WA: Mr. Berndt stated he through conversations he had with a surveyor contracted by the City, he discovered the City intends to widen South GW Way by acquiring a portion of his parking lane. Mr. Berndt spoke against the plan, citing difficulties it would create for the residents. Mr. Berndt stated residents have not been properly notified of the City's intentions and asked the City to consider exploring other avenues to expand GW Way.
- Connie Taresh – 217 George Washington Way, Richland, WA: Ms. Taresh agreed with statements made by Mr. Richardson and Mr. Berndt and asked Council to consider other options to alleviate traffic issues on South GW Way.
- Randy Slovic – 74 Newcomer St. Richland, WA – Ms. Slovic raised concerns over whether the City is following due process by providing sufficient notice to private property owners affected by City projects.
- Liz Van Clark – 1920 Pine Street, Richland, WA – Ms. Van Clark questioned whether granting property tax exemptions would be enough to secure a long-term commitment from companies after their tax exemption expires. Ms. Van Clark requested Council conduct additional research before approving property tax exemptions and consider whether the tax exemptions will result as a benefit or burden to the City in the long run.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES 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 6-0.

Minutes

3. Approval of the July 6, 2023 City Council Special Meeting Minutes and Ratifying the Port of Benton's Approval of the June 27, 2023 City Council Special Joint Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 2023-17, Amending the 2023 Budget in the General Fund in support of the Richland Police Department Officer Resiliency Program

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions – Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2023-93, Authorizing a Services Agreement with Hometown Connections, Inc. for Meter Data Management Software Services
9. Resolution No. 2023-113, Authorizing an Agreement with 3AC Engineering for Transformer Monitoring Installation Project Support
10. Resolution No. 2023-114, Authorizing an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Energy
11. Resolution No. 2023-115, Approving the Final Plat of Siena Hills - Phase 3
12. Resolution No. 2023-116, Awarding Commercial Facade Improvement Program Grant Funds to 610 The Parkway, LLC
13. Resolution No. 2023-117, Authorizing a Third Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Northwest Code Professionals for Plan Review Services
14. Resolution No. 2023-118, Approving a Targeted Urban Area Application submitted by ATI Specialty Alloys and Components
15. Resolution No. 2023-119, Authorizing Award of Bid to C&E Trenching, L.L.C. for the Clubhouse Lane - Phase 2 Project

16. Resolution No. 2023-120, Authorizing a Fifth Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Rio & Foltz, PLLC

Items – Approval

None.

Expenditures – Approval

17. Expenditures from June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 for \$30,990,681.26 including Travel Check Nos. 20338- 20346, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 312260-313307, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9590-9632, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13411-13462, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 209046-210234, and Pension Check Nos. 6489-6512

Items of Business

18. Resolution No. 2023-112, Authorizing an Agreement with Energy Northwest for Badger Mountain Co-Location and Shared Equipment Use

Prior to discussion, Councilmember Lukson recused himself from this agenda item and exited Council Chambers due to his employment as legal counsel for Energy Northwest.

Energy Services Director Whitney explained that the proposed agreement with Energy NorthWest will reinstate an expired agreement to co-locate, operate and maintain radio equipment at facilities owned by Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) and Benton PUD (see Contract No. 13-033).

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-112, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY NORTHWEST FOR BADGER MOUNTAIN CO-LOCATION AND SHARED EQUIPMENT USE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON RECUSED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0 WITH 1 RECUSAL.

Councilmember Lukson rejoined the meeting after the vote concluded on Item No. 18.

19. Resolution No. 2023-121, Relinquishing a Utility Easement at 311 Van Giesen Street

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed utility easement relinquishment. Staff supports the request for relinquishment as the easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-121, RELINQUISHING A UTILITY EASEMENT AT 311 VAN GIESEN STREET. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND

COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

20. Resolution No. 2023-122, Approving the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052 - Rank and File

Fire Chief Huntington highlighted amendments and additions to the proposed 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement. On June 29, 2023, The International Association of Firefighters Union (IAFF) Local 1052 – Rank and File (R&F) membership voted unanimously to ratify the proposed three (3) year Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Councilmember Lukson thanked staff for their work on this CBA.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-122, APPROVING THE 2023-2025 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 1052 – RANK AND FILE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

21. Resolution No. 2023-123, Adopting Bonneville Power Administration's Load Forecast

Energy Services Director Whitney explained that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) requires customers to provide a ten (10) year Load and Resource Customer (LaRC) forecast with annual updates due by September 1st. The LaRC will aid BPA in transmission planning and identify non-federal power resource commitments.

Energy Services Director Whitney provided an overview of how the LaRC is associated with the state's Carbon Commitment Act (CCA) and the Cap and Investment program. The City intends to maximize its carbon allowance through the CCA program.

Councilmember Jones thanked Energy Services Director Whitney for his leadership within the Energy Department.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-123, ADOPTING BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION'S LOAD FORECAST. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson responded to public comments regarding the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements project, indicating that the project was in preliminary stages and no eminent domain decisions had been made. Next, City Manager Amundson reminded Council that the annual National Night Out (NNO) event will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at Howard Amon Park from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Residents will have an opportunity to visit with representatives from the Richland Police Department and other city departments.

Council and the public were reminded that the regular City Council meeting will be held the following evening on August 2, 2023.

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson and Councilmembers Jones and Lukson had no comments.

Councilmember Whitten responded to public comments regarding the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvement project. Next, Councilmember Whitten thanked firefighters for their response to recent fire events. Lastly, Councilmember Whitten stated he was pleased that the City and IAFF-RF reached an agreement on a successor CBA that was acceptable to both parties.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked city staff for their timely negotiations and completion of negotiations with IAFF-RF. Next, Councilmember VanDyke expressed an interest in receiving an update on the recent fire at Top of the World park. Lastly, Councilmember VanDyke stated he will ask the chair of the Utility Advisory Committee to attend an upcoming Council meeting to provide an update on future energy concerns.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen had no comments.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: August 2, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: August 3, 2023