



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

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

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

Mayor Christensen called the Council 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 and Whitten were present. Councilmember Kent was absent.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN 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, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, 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 6-0.

Presentations

1. See3Slam - Tri-Cities Sunrise Rotary Club

Terry Marie Fleischman, See3Slam Committee Event Director, thanked the City of Richland for its partnership with the See3Slam event held July 8-9, 2023 at John Dam Plaza and George Washington Way. Ms. Fleischman shared that Dr. Guzek's *Gifting the Gift of Sight* project in Ethiopia, Africa is the inspiration behind establishing the event. Next, Ms. Fleischman reviewed event logistics and highlights of the 6th annual See3Slam basketball event. Lastly, Ms. Fleischman thanked city staff, officials, sponsors, partners, supporters, volunteers, and participants for their contributions to the event.

2. New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring the new hires and retirements for the month of July was played for the audience.

The City acknowledged the retirement of Fire Captain Damon Bryan, who served twenty-eight (28) years with the Richland Fire Department.

Public Hearing

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

3. Proposed 2023-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Police Command Staff Association, Resolution No. 2023-129

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing at 6:26 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

Terry Marie Fleischman - 1321 Hains Ave., Richland, WA: Ms. Fleischman read aloud an email she sent to Transportation & Development Manager Carlo D'Alessandro. In the email, Ms. Fleischman communicated that there has been an increase in speeding and several near misses at the entrance of the Riverfront Trail. Several related incidents have been reported to the Richland Police Department over the years. Ms. Fleischman asked Council to consider implementing viable traffic calming solutions to this area before a serious pedestrian injury occurs.

Charles Swearingen - 1650 Mowry Square, Richland, WA: Mr. Swearingen requested Council consider amending Chapter 23.54 RMC related to off-street parking to remove the minimum number of parking stalls for commercial and residential uses. Mayor Christensen recommended Mr. Swearingen contact City Manager Amundson via email for an opportunity to learn more about the City's parking regulations.

James Berndt - 215 George Washington Way, Richland, WA: Mr. Berndt requested the City engage an additional engineering firm to evaluate whether it is necessary to acquire private property to expand lanes for the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements project. Additionally, Mr. Berndt requested staff provide notice to property owners affected by the project. Lastly, Mr. Berndt announced that a meeting with Public Works Director Rogalsky has been scheduled to discuss this topic. Mayor Christensen commented that Public Works Director Rogalsky is the appropriate staff member to discuss these concerns.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

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

Minutes

4. Approval of the July 18, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 25, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions – Adoption

6. Resolution No. 2023-125, Authorizing Grant Applications to the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board's Urban Arterial Program and Active Transportation Program
7. Resolution No. 2023-126, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Sale of Property Located at 150 Keene Road
8. Resolution No. 2023-127, Authorizing a Purchase Agreement with States Manufacturing for Procurement of Metalclad Switchgear for Stevens and Thayer Substations
9. Resolution No. 2023-128, Authorizing an Internet Crimes Against Children Memorandum of Understanding with the Seattle Police Department

Items - Approval

10. Travel for Mayor Pro Tem Richardson to attend the Energy Communities Alliance National Cleanup Workshop in Arlington, Virginia
11. Travel for Mayor Pro Tem Richardson and Councilmember VanDyke to attend the

12. Appointment to the Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission: Lacey Stephens

Expenditures - Approval

None.

Items of Business

13. Resolution No. 2023-129, Adopting the 2023-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Police Command Staff Association

Human Resources Director Paulsen provided an overview of the proposed 2023-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the Richland Police Command Staff Association. The proposed two (2) year agreement includes a total compensation package within the parameters set by the Richland City Council. The Richland Police Command Staff Association membership voted unanimously to ratify the proposed agreement on July 17, 2023. Staff recommends approval of the proposed CBA.

After the CBA highlight summary, Human Resources Director Paulsen and Chief of Police Clary responded to Council inquiries.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-129, ADOPTING THE 2023-2024 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE RICHLAND POLICE COMMAND STAFF ASSOCIATION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

14. Discussion Regarding Placement of Potential Donation of Public Art

Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester began her presentation with a recap of Council's initial review of the Bernard Hosey metal art sculptures and their proposed locations on June 27, 2023 at the City Council workshop. After the July presentation, Council directed staff to seek alternative locations for the art structures *On the Edge* and *On the Threshold of Liberty*.

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester presented renderings for alternative locations for the two metal art sculptures and sought Council feedback. Councilmember Lukson suggested that the Arts Commission's recommendation would be a valuable asset as Council contemplates approval of the art locations. P&PF Director Hester advised that both the Arts Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission will review Council's feedback from tonight's meeting and provide official recommendations based on Council's input to date. Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson thanked Council for their participation in the National Night Out (NNO) event held the previous day at Howard Amon Park. City Manager Amundson shared positive feedback he received from community members who attended the event, and thanked staff for putting on such a successful event.

Next, City Manager Amundson confirmed that staff will meet with Mr. Berndt to discuss the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements project.

In response to Ms. Fleischman's comments regarding speeding in residential areas, City Manager Amundson shared that staff will present the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program and Speed Limit policy update at the August 22, 2023 workshop meeting. City Manager Amundson cautioned that a systematic or methodical approach to citizen concerns regarding speeding is necessary to avoid arbitrary application of rules and/or accommodations throughout the city.

Lastly, City Manager Amundson thanked Human Resources Director Paulsen, Chief of Police Clary, and other staff involved for their work on the Richland Police Command Staff Association CBA.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson concurred with City Manager Amundson's comments regarding Council's response to concerns raised during the public comment. Next, Councilmember Lukson spoke favorably of accepting and placing the Bernard Hosey metal art sculptures, and stated additional public art displays would positively impact the community.

Councilmember Jones suggested a citizen survey of residents in the vicinity of Badger Mountain Trailhead Park to help assess whether residents are in favor of placing public art at the park since the art sculptures might increase traffic in the area. Next, Councilmember Jones stated that she believes the presence of patrol officers is the most effective speed control solution to reduce speeding in residential areas.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked staff for their work at the NNO event. Councilmember VanDyke also thanked staff involved in preparing the proposed 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) presented at the July 25, 2023 City Council workshop meeting.

Councilmember Whitten thanked staff for their work at the NNO event, and also thanked organizations who donated items for the event. Councilmember Whitten concurred with Councilmember Jones that the presence of patrol officers will reduce speeding.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked all staff who participated in the NNO event. Next, Pro Tem Richardson stated that speeding is the most common topic brought to her

attention when she is approached by constituents in the community, and she looks forward to reviewing and discussing the City's Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program and Speed Limit policy update at the next workshop meeting. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson shared her belief that the recently reactivated RPD traffic unit will have a positive impact on the community.

Mayor

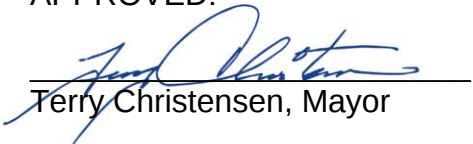
Mayor Christensen thanked those involved in the successful NNO event. Next, Mayor Christensen thanked Finance Director Allen and staff for compiling the informative 2024 CIP data presented at the July 25, 2023 workshop meeting.

Mayor Christenson, as the City's representative on the Benton County 2060 Affordable Housing Steering Committee, also reported on the fund balance for the Affordable Housing Grant Program (SHB 2060), Sales Tax Revenue (HB 1406), and Homeless Housing Grant Program (HB 2163) Funds. For additional information on these funds, individuals are encouraged to contact Kyle Sullivan, Manager of Benton County Human Services at 509-737-3909 or kyle.sullivan@co.benton.wa.us.

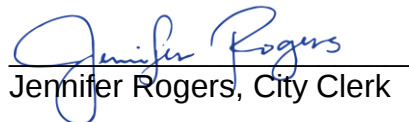
Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: August 15, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: August 16, 2023