



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, August 15, 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 and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson, VanDyke, and Whitten were present. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson was absent. Note: Councilmembers Jones and VanDyke joined the meeting remotely via Zoom after roll call was taken and after the motion to excuse their absence.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES AND VANDYKE. 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, 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

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Councilmember Jones joined the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Presentations

1. Swearing-In of Richland Police Officer Adam Morin

Chief of Police Clary, Deputy Chief of Police Neher and Commanders Jansen, Judge and Schwarder, and Police Professional Staff Manager Carper were in attendance to welcome

newly commissioned Police Officer Morin. Chief of Police Clary administered the Oath of Office to Officer Morin then introduced Monica Malhan, President of the Richland Police Department Foundation. Ms. Malhan welcomed Officer Morin to the department, wished him well, and presented him with a welcome basket on behalf of the Richland Police Department Foundation. On behalf of the entire Council, Mayor Christensen welcomed Officer Morin.

2. Attendance Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Christensen read aloud a proclamation declaring the month of September to be Attendance Awareness Month in the City of Richland. Dr. LoAnn Ayers, President & CEO of United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties, was in attendance to receive the proclamation. Dr. Ayers thanked Council for its support, then explained that family and community support contribute to a student's academic success.

3. American Heart Association Award

Fire Chief Huntington expressed pride in receiving the Mission: Lifeline EMS award, adding the award was made possible only by the continued efforts staff has made in cardiac survival rates within the community. Fire Chief Huntington turned the floor over to Fire Battalion Chief VanBeek.

Fire Battalion Chief VanBeek presented on the City's award of the 2023 American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition awards of the Silver with Target: Heart Attack Honor Roll. Fire Battalion Chief VanBeek spoke of the City's partnership with Kadlec's stroke and heart attack coordinators, especially Kadlec's Medical Program Director Dr. Kevin Hodges. In summary, Fire Battalion Chief stated the education, training, and efforts are performed to provide the best health care possible for community members.

Councilmember Lukson thanked Fire Chief Huntington for his vision, for the successful implementation of the program, and for achieving the AHA Mission: Lifeline EMS program awards. Likewise, Councilmember Whitten and Mayor Christensen thanked Fire & EMS staff for their work and congratulated them for receiving the award.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

The following individuals provide public comments:

- Victor Epperly – 8930 W. Canyon Place, Kennewick, WA: Mr. Epperly requested Council consider creating an exploratory committee to canvass whether the cities of Richland and Kennewick and the respective Public Facilities District Boards

would be interested in utilizing their voter-approved sales tax to fund a regional performing arts center to provide a quality venue for Tri-Citians to experience national travel entertainment events and otherwise meet the needs of the growing region. Mr. Epperly then provided basis for this request.

- Trent Reyes – 2203 Putnam Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Reyes stated he is receiving treatment through a Benton County court mental health program and that he would like to present ideas to Council at a future meeting.
- Lauren True – 1865 Birch Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. True provided statements opposing the Washington State Department of Transportation's upcoming projects to construct a crosswalk at the intersection of SR-240 and Richland Airport and to construct a sound wall on the opposite side of the bike trail in the same vicinity.
- Elizabeth Vann Clark – 1920 Pine Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Vann Clark urged Council to provide notice to property owners affected by projects such as the WSDOT project referenced by Ms. True.

Councilmember VanDyke joined the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

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

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4. Approval of the August 2, 2023 City Council Special Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

5. Ordinance No. 2023-18, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 2.04.210 related to Limited Commissions in the Richland Police Department
6. Ordinance No. 2023-19, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 8.10.070 related to Public Camping Enforcement

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

7. Resolution No. 2023-104, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Benton County regarding Badger Mountain South Traffic Mitigation
8. Resolution No. 2023-130, Authorizing a Change Order with Big D's Construction for the Columbia Park Trail - Leslie Storm Retrofit Project
9. Resolution No. 2023-131, Authorizing a Change Order with C&E Trenching, LLC for the Hains Avenue and Goethals Drive Stormwater Quality Retrofit Project
10. Resolution No. 2023-134, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Heavy 2, LLC for Property located at 999 Queensgate Drive

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

11. Expenditures from July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023 for \$22,412,089.50 including Travel Check Nos. 20347-20358, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 313308- 314161, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9633-9671, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13463-13510, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 210229-211471, and Pension Check Nos. 6513-6536.

Items of Business

12. Resolution No. 2023-133, Authorizing a Contingency Agreement with Atlas Agro North America for a Community Economic Revitalization Board Sewer Project Loan

Economic Development Manager Wallner explained the City has applied for a low-interest loan in the amount of \$4 million from the Washington Department of Commerce's Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) to finance a 6,800 linear feet sewer extension project into the North Horn Rapids Industrial Park (renamed the Northwest Advanced Clean Energy Park) to support future industrial uses.

To be eligible for the low-interest loan, the City's application to CERB requires a contingency agreement between the City and a private business to ensure that the public and private investment will be constructed upon receiving the CERB loan. CERB will review applications on September 21, 2023. If the full \$4 million loan request is awarded, an \$800,000 match will be required, and the interest rate and term will be determined by CERB.

Following the presentation, staff engaged in a question-and-answer session with Council.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-133, AUTHORIZING A CONTINGENCY AGREEMENT WITH ATLAS AGRO NORTH AMERICA FOR A COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD SEWER PROJECT LOAN. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson announced the City broke ground on the National Fitness Court located in Howard Amon Park, south of the tennis courts. The amenity will be the first in the area and will be decorated by a local artist selected by the Richland Arts Commission and Richland City Council. The project, funded by the National Fitness Campaign and the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, will be completed this fall.

This week's heat wave will pose a challenge to some of the City's electric infrastructure. Though there are no current loading issues, the transmission system in the Tri-Cities does have constraints that are stressed by high temperatures. Electrical equipment experiences additional stress during high temperatures. The City has crew available 24-7 to respond to outages. In an effort to stay safe during high temperatures, community members are encouraged to utilize City Hall, the Richland Public Library, and the Richland Community Center as cooling centers.

Lastly, City Manager Amundson sought clarification from Council regarding the potential placement of Mr. Epperly's proposed agenda item to discuss the suggested creation of an exploratory commission to gauge interest in a regional performing arts center.

City Council

Councilmember Jones commended staff for soliciting community feedback concerning the new city website.

Councilmember VanDyke had no comments.

Councilmember Whitten expressed interest in discussing Mr. Epperly's proposed agenda item at a future Council workshop meeting. Councilmember Whitten shared that he attended a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and reviewed the design for new playground equipment in Howard Amon Park and Columbia Point Marina Park.

Next, Councilmember Whitten announced that the Arts Commission favorably recommended placement of the Bernard Hosey Round and Round art sculpture at Lee Landing in Howard Amon Park. The Arts Commission will meet on August 16, 2023 to further discuss the preferred placement of two (2) additional Bernard Hosey art

sculptures.

Councilmember Kent spoke positively of implementing additional art in the community. Next, Councilmember Kent stated that though she fully supports discussing Mr. Epperly's suggestion to create an exploratory committee, she questioned whether the City is in a position to financially support and sponsor the concept within the 2024 budget.

In response to Mr. Reyes' public comments, Councilmember Kent requested City Manager Amundson or other staff contact Mr. Reyes to discuss his ideas associated with mental health.

Councilmember Lukson congratulated and welcomed Officer Morin to the Richland Police Department, and encouraged those interested in joining RPD to apply as there are several vacancies. Next, Councilmember Lukson thanked Development Services Director Jensen and Economic Development Wallner for their efforts in bringing development to the City's industrial area. Lastly, Councilmember Lukson expressed general support for a performing arts center, but cautioned about timing of the proposed project given that the public safety sales tax renewal will be up soon for voter approval.

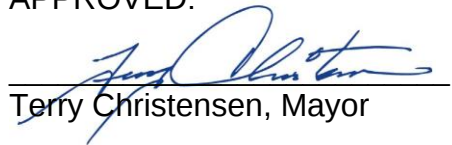
Mayor

In response to Mr. Epperly's comments, Mayor Christensen expressed interest in reviewing information regarding the proposed project but did not believe it would be beneficial to discuss it during a workshop setting since the City already supports the REACH Museum through the Richland Public Facilities District Board. Mayor Christensen suggested that Mr. Epperly communicate with the Arts Center Task Force to collaborate on this idea. Finally, Mayor Christensen encouraged citizens who are not able to reach a cooling station to have a contingency plan in place to stay cool.

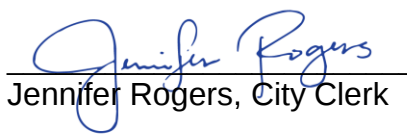
Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 5, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: September 6, 2023