



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 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, and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson (remote attendance via Zoom), VanDyke, and Whitten were present.

Also present were 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, 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 VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

None.

Public Hearing

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

1. Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of an Easement Lying within 933 Thayer Drive, Resolution No. 2023-149

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:04 p.m. No testimony was offered.

2. Amending the 2023 Budget in the Stormwater Utility Fund, Ordinance No. 2023- 22

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individual provided public comments:

Wright Beach - 1235 Jonagold Drive, Richland, WA: Mr. Beach provided comments as a resident and as a Board member of the Apple Wood Estates. Mr. Beach advocated for traffic calming measures to help reduce high-volume cross-through traffic in his neighborhood.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON 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

3. Approval of the September 5, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

See Ordinance Nos. 2023 – 2022 and 2023-23 on **Items of Business**

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

4. Ordinance No. 2023-20, Amending Chapter 9.04 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Crimes Against Persons
5. Ordinance No. 2023-21, Annexing Approximately 1,641 Acres known as the Northwest Advanced Clean Energy Park (formerly the North Horn Rapids Industrial Park)

Resolutions - Adoption

6. Resolution No. 2023-145, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for Local Parks Maintenance Grant Program Funding
7. Resolution No. 2023-146, Authorizing Award of Bid to Palouse Power, LLC for Construction of City View Substation Bank No. 2
8. Resolution No. 2023-148, Setting a Public Hearing Date to Consider the Proposed Annexation of 1.83 Acres of Short Plat 793, Lot 3

Items – Approval

9. Appointment to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Citizens Review Committee: Lee Schmolke
10. Appointment to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee: Char Gaza and Doug Sako
11. Appointment to the Utility Advisory Committee: Harry Staven and Roy Miller

Expenditures - Approval

12. Expenditures from August 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023 for \$28,316,208.98 including Travel Check Nos. 20359-20372, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 314162-315115, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9672-9719, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13511-13573, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 211472-213314, and Pension Check Nos. 6537-6562.

Items of Business

13. Resolution No. 2023-137, Authorizing a Purchase Order Contract with Great Western Installation, Inc. for New Playground Equipment at Howard Amon Park

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, Parks and Recreation Manager Piper presented the proposed redesign layout and playground equipment that would replace the equipment at Sturgeon Cove Playground located at Howard Amon Park. The project scope includes demolition of existing structures, installation of rubber safety surfacing, and new equipment.

Staff responded to Council inquiries regarding community engagement, cost, surface materials, timeline for equipment installation, and expected lifespan of the equipment.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-137, AUTHORIZING A PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT WITH GREAT WESTERN INSTALLATION, INC. FOR NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT HOWARD AMON PARK. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

14. Resolution No. 2023-149, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of an Easement lying within 933 Thayer Drive

Public Works Director Rogalsky announced the property owner at 933 Thayer Drive requested the relinquishment of a portion of an easement encumbering the property. The utilities that occupied the easement have been abandoned, and the easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes. Staff recommends approval of the request.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-149, DECLARING SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING RELINQUISHMENT OF AN EASEMENT LYING WITHIN 933 THAYER

DRIVE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

15. Ordinance No. 2023-22, Amending the 2023 Budget in the Stormwater Utility Fund

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the budget increase request to fund the administrative process to transfer property from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to the City of Richland for the purposes of creating a City stormwater retention and infiltration facility near the intersection of Steptoe Street and Columbia Park Trail.

Staff engaged in a question-and-answer session regarding the proposed stormwater retention and infiltration facility.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-22, AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET IN THE STORMWATER UTILITY FUND, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

16. Ordinance No. 2023-23, Rezoning a 9,600 Square Foot Lot at 521 Smith Avenue from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Medium Density Residential Small Lot (R-2S) (Closed Record)

Mayor Christensen, City Attorney Kintzley, and City Clerk Rogers read the closed record hearing procedures.

City Attorney Kintzley asked if any Councilmembers had any potential conflicts regarding the topic per the closed record hearing procedures. The Councilmembers stated they had none.

City Attorney Kintzley asked the audience if anyone had an objection to any Councilmember's participation in the closed record review. There were no objections.

City Attorney Kintzley asked the audience if they had any objections on jurisdictional grounds. There were no objections.

Planning Manager Stevens stated that property owners, Alan and Seana Mortensen submitted a request to rezone for property located at 521 Smith Avenue from Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Medium Density Residential Small Lot (R-2S). Pending Council approval of the rezone request, the property owners intend to split the property into two lots and construct a single-family dwelling on the remaining vacant portion of the property. The site is compatible with the proposed R-2S zone.

An open-public hearing was conducted by the Richland Hearing Examiner on May 8, 2023 to consider the rezone request, and on August 17, 2023, the Richland Hearing Examiner issued a favorable recommendation to approve the request.

Staff engaged in a brief question and answer session with staff.

Mayor Christensen opened the public hearing at 6:42 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:43 p.m. No testimony was offered.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-23, REZONING 9,600 SQUARE FOOT LOT AT 521 SMITH AVENUE FROM MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) TO MEDIUM-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL SMALL LOT (R-2S), FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. 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 was absent. Deputy City Manager Schiessl reviewed items listed on the September 26, 2023 City Council workshop meeting agenda.

City Council

Councilmember Whitten did not have any comments.

Councilmember Kent thanked staff, particularly City Attorney Kintzley, for providing clear instructions to Council and the public regarding the public hearing process. Councilmember Kent then encouraged citizens to support local small business owners by shopping locally.

Councilmember Jones thanked the Planning Department for their continuous proactive efforts to encourage and support the construction of affordable housing within the city limits. Councilmember Jones then appealed to landowners to consider utilizing their property to construct affordable housing.

Councilmember VanDyke congratulated staff for their work and response to the Energy Compliance Examination audit, then directed his comments to Chief of Police Clary, stating constituents have provided positive feedback regarding the reinstated Traffic Patrol Units. Next, Councilmember VanDyke requested Deputy City Manager Schiessl provide Council with information on ways the City can assist in combating the affordable home crisis.

In conclusion, Councilmember VanDyke expressed his appreciation to Deputy City Manager Schiessl and Assistant City Manager Florence for their willingness to step up to ensure the smooth continuation of operations during City Manager Amundson's absence.

Councilmember Lukson did not have any comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson reported that she recently represented the City of Richland at the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Conference in Washington D.C. Mayor Pro Tem

Richardson summarized her experience at the conference and reported it was announced that the City of Richland has the potential to be the national epic center for clean energy goals.

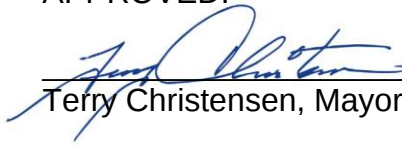
Mayor

Mayor Christensen did not have any comments.

Adjournment

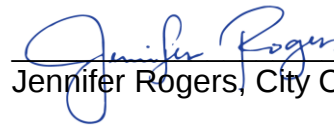
Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

APPROVED:



Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: October 3, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: October 4, 2023