



Agenda
City Council Special Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

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

Agenda Items:

- I. 2024 Legislative Priorities
- Jon Amundson, City Manager

Adjournment

This meeting will be broadcast live on [CityView Channel 192](#) on the City's website and on the [City's YouTube Channel](#).

Richland City Hall is ADA accessible. Requests for sign interpreters, audio equipment, and/or other special services must be received 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling the City Clerk's Office at 509-942-7389.



COUNCIL WORKSHOP COVERSHEET

Council Date: 10/10/2023

Department: City Manager

Core Focus Area I - Promote Financial Stability & Operational Effectiveness

Subject:
2024 Legislative Priorities

Summary:

Tonight's discussion is intended to provide necessary preparation for a meeting scheduled on October 24, when the City will discuss our draft 2024 legislative priorities with our local state delegation. After working closely with the City staff, Mr. Arbaugh has created a draft document following the Council's September 26 discussion on this subject (attached). This document follows the City Council's direction to move toward a focused list of specific priorities versus the current generalized list of subjects. There are currently eleven (11) items on the list and another three for consideration. Several (if not all) of the items on the list will be detailed on single-page handouts. The final version of the City's 2024 legislative priorities will be adopted by resolution in November.

Economic Development

1. Targeted Urban Area: change law to allow additional time for nuclear projects to qualify for property tax exemption.
2. Lower Snake River Dams: support retention of the facilities.

Capital

1. Public safety communication: construct microwave infrastructure and consolidate radio frequencies.
2. Major waterfront capital tourism event: pathway and dock renovation to support tourism events.

Community Safety

1. Pursuit law fix: change law to allow law enforcement to initiate pursuit for probable cause for a felony, mandatory arrest, and reasonable suspicion of DUI.
2. Recruitment and retention of police and dispatch staff: allow jurisdictions to access a portion of existing state sales tax to fund law enforcement, defense, prosecution, and more.
3. Juvenile access to an attorney: Change the law to combat the trend of adult offenders using minors to commit crimes.

Transportation & Infrastructure

1. SR240/Aaron Drive Complete Streets project
2. Island View to Vista Field Trail System
3. Yakima Delta Habitat Restoration Project: construct a bridge to Bateman Island for pedestrian and emergency access and a marina breakwater.

Housing

1. Affordable housing supply

Other Potential Items: hospital capacity, health care system coordination, wildland fire mitigation

Attachments:

1. 2024 Draft Legislative Priorities

The City of Richland is a hub for technology and innovation as well as a high quality of life. Richland is working with state partners on the following items for the 2024 legislative session.

Richland supports economic development:

- When the legislature authorized targeted urban areas in 2022 legislation timelines for property tax deferrals for improvements were established. The timelines in the TUA statute do not account for the lengthy process required to comply with Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements. A timeline adjustment for nuclear industry projects would resolve this challenge, thereby helping to maintain the region's lead in clean energy technology.
- Richland supports clean, renewable, and reliable electricity supply. Most of the power for Richland comes from the Bonneville Power Administration which markets federal power including the Lower Snake River Dams. Richland strongly supports retaining these critical renewable energy resources as the state moves to implement emission reduction objectives.

Capital Budget funding:

- Richland supports funding for infrastructure upgrades and repairs related to a potential tourism, event, including work at the Columbia Point Marina Docks and enhancements to pathways along Howard Amon and Leslie Grove Park. (\$600,000; 8th Legislative District)
- Public safety communication system infrastructure upgrades for Benton and Franklin Counties and upgrading microwave technologies and transitioning fire and EMS bi-county radio systems to a single platform. (\$1 million; 8th, 15th, and 16th Legislative Districts)

Richland supports Community Safety

- Richland supports Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs efforts to refine the pursuit law fix enacted in 2023 by allowing pursuit in the event of probable cause for any felony, mandatory arrest, and reasonable suspicion of DUI.
- Richland supports the retention and recruitment of police and dispatch personnel by allowing jurisdictions to utilize a portion of existing sales tax revenues for funding additional criminal justice system staff including law enforcement, public defenders, prosecutors.
- Modifications to RCW 13.40 to allow for quicker investigations and responses in dealing with juveniles.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- SR-240/Aaron Drive Complete Streets Improvements project will improve safety and mobility by making needed changes to a 40-year-old traffic design. The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments has named this project a top priority of their congestion management plan, and Washington State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have each approved it.
- Island View to Vista Field Trail System (see drill-down) State funding can help put in place a major component of the Island View to Vista Field Trail System which connects streets in Richland, Kennewick, and Benton County. This plan was adopted in 2021 by the cities of Richland and Kennewick and the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments.
- Yakima Delta Habitat Restoration Project Richland seeks adequate funding to address the multi-agency project of removing the causeway which threatens the health of migratory fish runs..

Housing

- Richland supports legislation that encourages and facilitates access to housing through policies leading to increases in inventory and preservation of the current housing supply to serve a wide range of incomes and needs.