



Agenda
City Council Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Items:

1. 2024 Legislative Priorities Discussion with State Representatives
 - Jon Amundson, City Manager
2. Columbia Point Tracts D & E Request for Qualifications Update
 - Amanda Wallner, Economic Development 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: 10/24/2023

Department: City Manager

Core Focus Area I - Promote Financial Stability & Operational Effectiveness

Subject:

2024 Legislative Priorities Discussion with State Representatives

Summary:

The City has engaged contracted lobbyist Mr. David Arbaugh to assist in the development of the City's 2024 state legislative priorities. A current draft of the City's priorities is attached and includes the following headings: economic development, capital budget, transportation and infrastructure, housing, community safety, and hydroelectric generation.

Richland's local state elected delegation will join the Council and Mr. Arbaugh for the discussion. The Council may consider editing the draft legislative priorities following the meeting. Adoption of a final document by resolution is expected in November. Many of the specific initiatives within the category headings will be further refined with single-page detailed handouts. Those detailed handouts will be completed prior to the January 9, 2024 start of the upcoming state legislative session. The legislative session runs through April 24, 2024.

Attachments:

- I. Draft 2024 State 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 proposes a minor RCW amendment to support 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 proposes Capital Budget funding:

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 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. (\$300,000; 8th Legislative District)

Richland proposes capital assistance for Transportation and Infrastructure projects benefitting the region:

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..

Richland proposes assistance to help the region address a lack of low barrier homeless housing and housing inventory:

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.

Richland supports statewide efforts of WSPSC to improve 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.

Richland supports hydroelectric generation:

Richland supports clean, affordable, 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 baseline energy resources as the state moves to implement emission reduction objectives.

The City will support the efforts of other state and local organizations on issues consistent with City positions. These include efforts of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC), Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau (TCVCB), The Port of Benton, The Port of Kennewick, The Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA), and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).



COUNCIL WORKSHOP COVERSHEET

Council Date: 10/24/2023

Department: Development Services

Core Focus Area 3 - Increase Economic Vitality

Subject:

Columbia Point Tracts D & E Request for Qualifications Update

Summary:

The City recently received qualifications from developers in response to a call for qualifications to purchase City-owned Tracts D & E of the Plat of Columbia Point. One submittal was responsive to the minimum qualifications.

The firm, Cascadia, will introduce themselves to the Council and highlight the material contained in their submittal. The process has not yet evolved to a solicitation of project proposals, and Cascadia's materials do not constitute a proposal. This is an opportunity to evaluate the background and experience of the qualified firm prior to evaluating next steps in the process.

Should the City decide to move forward, a land use lawyer with specialized experience in development agreements will be retained to represent the City's interests.

Attachments: