



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 17, 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	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Richardson	Present
Councilmembers Jones	Present (via Zoom)
Councilmember Kent	Absent
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Absent
Councilmember Whitten	Present

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBERS KENT AND VANDYKE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, 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 Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Christensen led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Presentations

1. National Community Planning Month Proclamation

Mayor Christensen presented the National Community Planning Month proclamation to Planning Manager Mike Stevens and Planning staff members Matthew Howie, Kyle Hendricks and Jodie Hogan. Staff was recognized for the great work they do on behalf

of the City of Richland. Planning Manager Stevens shared some words of appreciation with the audience.

2. National Disability Employment Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Christensen presented the National Disability Employment Awareness Month proclamation to Responding to Autism Director Christine Lindgren. Ms. Lindgren thanked Mayor Christensen for the proclamation and shared a few words with the audience, to include the fact that Washington is one of the leading states for employing individuals of all abilities.

3. Tri-Cities Regional Hotel-Motel Commission Annual Budget and Tourism Promotion Area Marketing Plan

Kevin Lewis, President & CEO of Visit Tri-Cities, presented the 2023 Tri-Cities Regional Hotel-Motel Commission Annual Budget and Marketing Plan. Mr. Lewis gave a high level review of the purpose of Visit Tri-Cities, including its different funding sources (Hotel/Motel and TPA funding). Details of the presentation are available in the materials provided by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis closed his presentation with a description of the IRONMAN event coming to Richland in late 2024.

Councilmember Lukson asked about using social media influencers to drive events. Mr. Lewis reported that the use of social media and influencers is working well.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked Mr. Lewis for his presentation, and shared that her assignment as council liaison to Visit Tri-Cities is one of her favorites. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson also shared her excitement about the IRONMAN event.

Councilmember Jones thanked Mr. Lewis for the presentation and asked about sales teams, occupancy of hotels, and changes in market strategy.

Public Hearing

Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

4. Proposed Amendment to the 2023 Budget in the General Fund, City Streets Fund, Industrial Development Fund, Hotel/Motel Fund, Streets Capital Construction Fund, Parks Construction Fund, Electric Utility Fund, Medical Services Fund, Public Safety Facility 75 Construction Fund, and Public Safety Facility 73 Replacement Fund, Ordinance No. 2023-25

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m. No testimony was provided.

5. Proposed 2024 Revenue Sources Including Property Tax, Ordinance Nos. 2023- 26 and 2023-27

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m. No testimony was provided.

6. Proposed Adoption of the 2023 Conservation Potential Assessment and Demand Response Potential Assessment, Resolution No. 2023-162

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:41 p.m. No testimony was provided.

Public Comments

Quinn Smith - 334 Seattle Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Smith provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan. See Mr. Smith's written statement submitted to the record.

Diane Moeller - 1918 Harris Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Moeller provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan focused on Monarch butterflies. See Ms. Moeller's written statement submitted to the record.

Laila Krowiak - 1523 Hains, Richland, WA: Ms. Krowiak provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan focused on parking, traffic calming and speed in the area. See Ms. Krowiak's written statement submitted to the record.

Renee Smith, 334 Seattle Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Smith provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan focused on pickleball. See Ms. Smith's written statement submitted to the record.

Alex Corsten, 153 Spengler Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Corsten provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan focused on vegetation management. See Mr. Corsten's written statement submitted to the record.

Karen Albers, 2513 Harris Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Albers provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan focused on the proposed Nature Education Center. See Ms. Albers' written statement submitted to the record.

Jennifer Rodriguez, 2330 Harris, Richland, WA: Ms. Rodriguez provided comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan focused on safety and maintenance. See Ms. Rodriguez's written statement submitted to the record.

Anna King, 1912 Davidson Street, Richland, WA: Ms. King summarized the request of the previous speakers related to the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan. See Ms. King's written statement submitted to the record.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

7. Approval of the October 3, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 10, 2023 City Council Special Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

8. Ordinance No. 2023-24, Establishing and Dedicating the Right-of-Way for a Segment of Southgate Way

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution No. 2023-159, Authorizing the Award of Bid to DJ's Electrical, Inc. for the View Ridge Estates Boring and Cable Replacement Project
10. Resolution No. 2023-160, Authorizing \$225,000 from the Tourism Promotion Area Reserve Account for Supplemental Tourism-Related Projects in 2023
11. Resolution No. 2023-161, Awarding Hotel/Motel Funds to the Badger Mountain Park Parking Lot Improvements Project
12. Resolution No. 2023-163, Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Department of Commerce for Climate Planning

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

13. Expenditures from September 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 in the amount of \$24,128,298.22 including Travel Check Nos. 20373-20412, Accounts Payable

Check Nos. 315116-316043, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9720-9753, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13574-13622, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 213315-214466 and Pension Check Nos. 6563-6586.

Items of Business

14. Ordinance No. 2023-25, Amending the 2023 Budget in the General Fund, City Streets Fund, Industrial Development Fund, Hotel/Motel Fund, Streets Capital Construction Fund, Parks Construction Fund, Electric Utility Fund, Medical Services Fund, Public Safety Facility 75 Construction Fund, and Public Safety Facility 73 Replacement Fund

Finance Director Allen briefly described the budget adjustments effectuated through approval of Ordinance No. 2023-25 as listed in the staff report. Total value of the adjustments is approximately \$2.9M.

Councilmember Whitten asked whether the overtime for EMS was directly related to the Standards of Cover study. Finance Director Allen said it was not directly related to the study, but occurs due to vacancies in positions affecting the EMS Fund who are contributing to the study.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-25 FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

15. Ordinance No. 2023-26, Approving the 2024 Ad Valorem Tax and Property Tax Levies

Finance Director Allen advised that three public hearings are necessary for budget adoption, including the hearing held tonight related to this Ordinance No. 2023-26. Finance Director Allen provided an overview of the estimated revenue for 2024 in all funds. Total estimated revenues is \$291,332,456. More detailed information was provided specific to the General Fund, including an overview of projected 2024 property tax, sales tax and utility tax. See Finance Director Allen's PowerPoint presentation for more detail.

Councilmember Whitten questioned the 1% increase option and how it impacts homeowners with increased assessed value. Finance Director Allen agreed with Councilmember Whitten's understanding of the impact of increased assessed valuation, and pointed out that the examples provided are set under the circumstance of all things remaining equal.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND MAYOR CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-26 FOR FIRST READING, BY

TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

16. Ordinance No. 2023-27, Approving a Change to the 2024 Ad Valorem Tax over the Prior Year

Finance Director Allen's presentation for Ordinance No. 2023-26 also addressed Ordinance No. 2023-27. No additional presentation was provided.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-27 FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

17. Resolution No. 2023-162, Adopting the 2023 Conservation Potential Assessment and Demand Response Potential Assessment

Energy Services Director Clint Whitney provided a high-level overview of the 2023 Conservation Potential Assessment and the 2023 Demand Response Potential Assessment, both of which were previously vetted and recommended by the Utility Advisory Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-162. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson reminded Council of the Center Parkway grand opening on October 18, 2023. The Center Parkway extension has been years in the making, and the grand opening is a capstone event. City Manager Amundson also shared that Richland is in a friendly competition with Kennewick and Pasco to raise funds for the United Way, and encouraged Council to participate.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson congratulated staff on the Center Parkway grand opening, and thanked Mr. Lewis for his presentation and the exciting news about signature sports events like IRONMAN. Lastly, Councilmember Lukson thanked the public for sharing comments about the draft Leslie Groves Park Plan.

Councilmember Whitten also thanked the public for comments concerning the Leslie Groves Park planning process. Councilmember Whitten echoed Councilmember Lukson's comments about the IRONMAN event coming to Richland, and hopes to see more events of that caliber come to the area.

Councilmember Jones and Mayor Pro Tem Richardson had no comments.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen was pleased to see so many citizens come forward to speak about the Leslie Groves Park planning process. Mayor Christensen cautioned against trying so hard to build something new that you destroy what you already have. Mayor Christensen also shared his excitement about the IRONMAN event coming to Richland. In closing comments, Mayor Christensen spoke about code enforcement, including a desire to do more to address the blight that appears to be spreading through Richland. Mayor Christensen suggested that City Manager Amundson ask code enforcement staff develop an equitable approach.

Councilmember Lukson suggested the item come back to Council at a workshop after resources are evaluated.

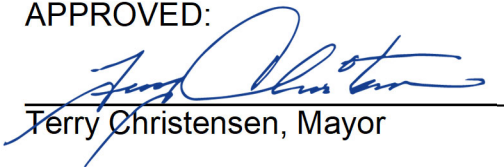
Mayor Pro Tem Richardson asked whether this was driven by a specific issue, or was based on Mayor Christensen's general sense of the community. Mayor Christensen advised that his comments were not centered on any specific item.

Councilmember Whitten advised that he would be interested to explore the issue further based on his understanding of the extensive code enforcement process.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Toni Fulton, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: November 7, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: November 7, 2023