



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 7, 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	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Acting Chief of Police Neher, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, 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 COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

1. New Hires and Retirements

The City welcomed six (6) new employees to the City of Richland in October, 2023:

- Jared Kirk, Police Officer, Richland Police Department
- Danielle Nogales, Customer Service Representative, Finance Department
- Julie Walker, Police Records Specialist, Richland Police Department
- Tyler Gibbs, Utility Craftsworker, Public Works Department

- Luis Coria, Equipment Technician I, Administrative Services Department
- Nikki Cronauer, Emergency Dispatcher, Benton County Emergency Services

In addition, Officer Erik Lundquist retired from the Richland Police Department after 28 years of service.

Mayor Christensen welcomed the new hires and thanked Officer Lundquist for his many years of service.

Public Hearing

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

2. Proposed 2024 Budget and 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan, Ordinance No. 2023-29

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

Public Comments

No public comment was offered.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR 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 October 17, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the October 24, 2023 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 2023-28, Amending Chapters 5.50, 13.06, 14.24, 15.03, 16.08, 17.56, 18.24 and 18.37 of the Richland Municipal Code to Establish Daily Utility Rates

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

5. 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
6. Ordinance No. 2023-26, Approving the 2024 Ad Valorem Tax and Property Tax Levies
7. Ordinance No. 2023-27, Approving a Change to the 2024 Ad Valorem Tax over the Prior Year

Resolutions - Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2023-135, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Cenate
9. Resolution No. 2023-158, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with PBS Engineering and Environmental Inc. for the Safe Routes to School Study
10. Resolution No. 2023-164, Establishing Richland City Council Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2024
11. Resolution No. 2023-165, Authorizing a Master License Agreement with USCOC of Richland, Inc. d/b/a U.S. Cellular for Wireless Small Cell Facilities
12. Resolution 2023-166, Authorizing a Change Order Threshold for Contract No. 210-22 with Virginia Transformer Corporation for the Purchase of Two Power Transformers
13. Resolution No. 2023-167, Authorizing an Extension of Contract No. 447-19 with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for the Green Power Program
14. Resolution No. 2023-168, Authorizing a Construction Contract with Paramount Communications, Inc. for the Fire Station No. 76 Fiber Build Project
15. Resolution No. 2023-169, Authorizing Application and Acceptance for Professional Development Grants from the Washington State Library
16. Resolution No. 2023-170, Authorizing Award of Bid to Sharpe & Preszler Construction Co., Inc. for the Sunset Street and Montana Avenue Watermain Replacement Project

Items - Approval

17. Appointment to the Richland Public Library Board of Trustees: Linda Isakson

Items of Business

18. Ordinance No. 2023-29, Approving the 2024 Budget and the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Finance Director Allen provided an overview of the proposed 2024 Budget and 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Total appropriations for all funds is \$312,942,767, which represents an increase of 3.9% over the 2023 Budget.

Finance Director Allen pointed out significant changes from the preliminary budget.

- (\$1,600,000) – Decrease due to deferral of CIP for BCES capital project.
- \$3,500,000 – Increase estimated revenue for one-time ARPA funds expected in 2024. Result is a reduction in appropriated fund balance.
- \$193,100 – Adjustments to Parks & Facilities equipment replacement resulting in an increase to transfers.

The total General Fund appropriations for 2024 is \$77,158,307. This represents a 6.9% increase from the 2023 Budget.

Total revenues for 2024 are projected at \$73,177,367.

Council engaged in a brief question and answer session with Finance Director Allen. Councilmember VanDyke thanked staff for including the resource navigator for the Richland Fire & Emergency Services Department in the 2024 Budget. Mayor Christensen asked about the impact of fuel prices on the City's budget. Some discussion also centered on items that were not funded, such as a proposed Richland Public Library mascot and a streetsweeper for the future one-way couplet enclosed bike lane on George Washington Way.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-29, APPROVING THE 2024 BUDGET AND THE 2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 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.

19. Resolution No. 2023-171, Authorizing Application to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program for the Tri-City Estates Water System Consolidation

Public Works Director Rogalsky presented on the proposed consolidation of the Tri-Cities Estates Water System, and the low-interest loan opportunity that would support consolidation. The system is facing possible failure based on deferred maintenance and increasingly burdensome regulatory requirements. The residents served by the Tri-Cities Estates Water System are within city limits, so there is no conflict for the City to absorb the ailing system. However, those who join the City's water system typically do so at their own cost. To minimize the burden to the City, staff recommends preserving the Tri-Cities Estates Water System to provide irrigation service.

Council engaged in a question-and-answer with staff.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-171, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM FOR THE TRI-CITY ESTATES WATER SYSTEM CONSOLIDATION. 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 spoke briefly about the City's designation as an American World War II Heritage City through the National Park Service, and brought Council's attention to the shirts offered on the dais with a logo from the American WWII Heritage City organization.

City Council

Councilmember Kent thanked military personnel for their service, and thanked those who volunteer for the City of Richland, including those who apply to serve on one of Richland's various boards, commissions or committees.

Councilmembers Lukson and Jones had no comments.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked Mayor Christensen and Councilmember Whitten for their military service. Councilmember VanDyke also thanked staff for the high quality Police Chief recruitment brochure and the extra details in the third quarter financial reports.

Councilmember Whitten encouraged others to enjoy Veterans' Day and to come out to the Veterans' Day parade this weekend.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson spoke about two meetings she recently attended. The first was an invitation to the Washington State Legislative Caucus where Mayor Pro Tem Richardson meet with other legislators from across the state to learn about specific areas of focus. The second was listening in on the most recent call regarding Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs and their potentially favorably impact on Richland. Learn more about Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program at www.energy.gov.

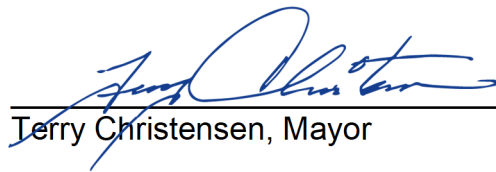
Mayor

Mayor Christensen thanked the executive team and specifically Finance Director Allen for the work on the 2024 Budget. Mayor Christensen also mentioned the posture of the wind farm project and its failure to designate a water source. Mayor Christensen recommends working with Benton County on the issue.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Toni Fulton, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: November 21, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: November 27, 2023