



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 21, 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
Councilmember Kent	Absent
Councilmember Lukson	Absent
Councilmember VanDyke	Present (via Zoom)
Councilmember Whitten	Present

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

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Acting Chief of Police Neher, Fire Chief Huntington, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Manager Suchy, 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 5-0.

Presentations

None.

Public Hearing

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

1. Adopting the 2024 Annual Action Plan (Year Five) and Authorizing Submission of Grant Forms for the 2024 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Program Funds, Resolution No. 2023-176

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

Public Comments

Kevin George – 726 Saint Street, Richland WA: Mr. George asked the status of the one-way couplets project. Mayor Christensen advised that there is some partial funding available for the project, but because so much time has gone by, additional efforts will be made by the City to vet the project with citizens. Mr. George expressed his preference that road changes be made only by vote of the people.

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, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

2. Approval of the November 7, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

3. 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
4. Ordinance No. 2023-29, Approving the 2024 Budget and the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

Resolutions - Adoption

5. Resolution No. 2023-172, Authorizing an Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Anaerobic Digester Functionality Audit
6. Resolution No. 2023-173, Adopting the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program and Repealing Resolution No. 28-11
7. Resolution No. 2023-174, Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Friends of the Richland Public Library
8. Resolution No. 2023-175, Adopting the City of Richland's 2024 State Legislative Priorities

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

9. Expenditures from October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 for \$24,936,001.59 including Travel Check Nos. 20413-20437, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 316044-317043, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9754-9796, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13623-13674, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 214467-215623, and Pension Check Nos. 6587-6609

Items of Business

10. Resolution No. 2023-176, Adopting the 2024 Annual Action Plan (Fifth Year) and Authorizing Submission of Grant Forms for the 2024 Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Program

Toni Lehman, Richland's CDBG/HOME Administrator, provided an overview of the projects for recommended funding from 2024 CDBG and HOME funds. Ms. Lehman also shared the procedural history of the action, including a mandated public comment period and public hearing held by the Richland Planning Commission.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-176, ADOPTING THE 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (FIFTH YEAR) AND AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF GRANT FORMS FOR THE 2024 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

11. Solid Waste Partnership Opportunity (Discussion Item)

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Public Works Director Rogalsky discussed general partnership opportunities concerning the Horn Rapids Landfill. Public Works Director Rogalsky began with an overview of the history of the Horn Rapids Landfill, including its origin in the 1970s and the conditions under which it operated prior to 2020 (i.e., no liner, destruction of waste gas, no surrounding development). Since 2020, new conditions have been realized, including the addition of a liner, sale of waste gas as a renewable energy source, and increased urban development around the landfill.

Public Works Director Rogalsky then referenced two strategic priorities from the proposed 2024-2026 Strategic Plan to explain why exploring a partnership may make sense. Public Works Director Rogalsky described the opportunity to pursue regional partnerships to increase revenue to further offset operating costs and improve regional solid waste processing in a cost-effective manner. The partnership would be with a regional waste-hauling provider, who would bring additional refuse into the new capacity of the updated landfill at a cost. Doing so would stabilize and/or lower rates and possibly assist in bracing the City for regulatory changes.

Councilmember Whitten shared his position that any partnership opportunity that could reduce rates should be explored. If a partnership is created, profit should be dedicated toward additional expansion to allow the operation to pay for itself.

Councilmember Jones thanked Public Works Director Rogalsky for his presentation and agreed that opportunities should be explored to capitalize on the landfill. Councilmember Jones also expressed concern about residential developments starting to surround the landfill and inquired whether a fence would be installed. Public Works Director Rogalsky advised that litter management is and will continue to be a priority for the City. Councilmember Jones also inquired as to what type of waste we would be seeking through a partnership. Public Works Director Rogalsky advised that no particular waste type is targeted at this time. Councilmember Jones asked for a landfill tour. Public Works Director Rogalsky advised that a tour is forthcoming.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked Public Works Director Rogalsky for his presentation, and then asked how a partnership for accepting additional refuse would limit the 50+ year capacity of the current landfill. Public Works Director Rogalsky advised that even the most aggressive partnership will not compromise the landfill's capacity for decades to come, which gives ample time to plan for the next iteration of the resource.

Mayor Christensen shared his concerns related to overlooking long-term impact for the benefit of short-term gain.

Councilmember VanDyke suggested investigation of waste-to-energy as is done in Spokane. Public Works Director Rogalsky advised that the types of facilities that do this are not frequently pursued because they are cost prohibitive. A feasibility study would

be required.

No action was taken as the item was discussion only.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson asked Public Works Director Rogalsky and Deputy City Manager Schiessl to speak with Mr. George about the one-way couplets street project. City Manager Amundson then invited everyone to Richland's Winter Wonderland event.

City Council

Councilmember VanDyke had no comments

Councilmember Jones and Whitten wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson shared her gratitude that the campaign season is over and congratulated her fellow councilmembers. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson then shared her excitement for the upcoming Winter Wonderland event and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen commented favorably about the upcoming Winter Wonderland event and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Executive Session

12. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Legal Counsel (30 minutes)

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 30 MINUTES BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M.

Those present included Mayor Christensen, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson, and Councilmembers Jones, VanDyke (via phone) and Whitten. Also present were City Attorney Kintzley, City Manager Amundson, and Assistant City Manager Florence. Deputy City Manager Schiessl joined late.

AT 7:30 P.M., MAYOR CHRISTENSEN ANNOUNCED AN EXTENSION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20 MINUTES.

COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:49 P.M.

Adjournment

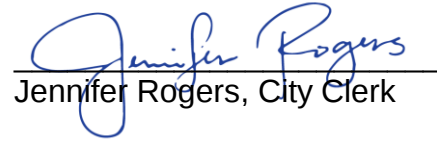
Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

APPROVED:



Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: December 5, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: December 6, 2023