



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 5, 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	Absent
Councilmember Kent	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present (via Zoom)
Councilmember Whitten	Present

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER JONES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire Chief Huntington, Acting Chief of Police Neher, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Development Services Director Jensen, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. New Hires and Retirements

The City welcomed five (5) new employees to the City of Richland in November 2023:

- Kelly Sorenson, Parks & Recreation Aide, Parks & Public Facilities Department
- Quinn Gianarelli, Engineering Technician II, Public Works Department
- Tyler Junt, Emergency Dispatcher, Benton County Emergency Services
- Brittney Lopez, Customer Service Supervisor, Finance Department
- Ricardo Arellano, Equipment Technician I, Administrative Services Department

Highlighted in the video was Officer Calvin Nash, who retired after twenty-nine (29) years of service with the Richland Police Department.

Public Hearing

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

2. Public Hearing on Rules Related to City Employment: Adopting the Proposed 2024-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 77 (Resolution No. 2023-184); Amending the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated Employees - 2024 and Continuing (Resolution No. 2023-185); Amending Chapter 2.28 RMC related to the City's Personnel Plan (Ordinance No. 2023-30)

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. No testimony was offered.

3. Proposed Amendment to the 2023 Budget in the General Fund, City Streets Fund, Special Lodging Assessment Fund, Public Safety Sales Tax Fund, Broadband Fund, Equipment Replacement Fund, and Workers Compensation Fund, Ordinance No. 2023-31

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. No testimony was offered.

4. Proposed Annexation and Zoning of 1.83 Acres Located at 24907 Dallas Road, Ordinance No. 2023-32

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. No testimony was offered.

5. Proposed Relinquishment of a Utility Easement at 1012 Country Court, Resolution No. 2023-183

Mayor Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individual provided public comments:

Darin Sweeney - 2836 Truman Court, Richland, WA: Mr. Sweeney provided favorable comments in support of Ordinance No. 2023-09, Amending Chapter 12.03 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Transportation Impact Fees.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF READING OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR, COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN ASKED TO MOVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-184 (ITEM NO. 14) TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS. MAYOR CHRISTENSEN RELOCATED ITEM NO. 14 TO ITEM NO. 22 UNDER ITEMS OF BUSINESS.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

6. Approval of the November 21, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

7. Ordinance No. 2023-30, Amending Chapter 2.28 of the Richland Municipal Code related to the City's Personnel Plan

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

See Ordinance No. 2023-09 on Items of Business

Resolutions - Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2023-177, Authorizing Award of Bid to DGR Grant Construction, Inc. for West Village Park Phase I - Rebid
9. Resolution No. 2023-178, Authorizing a Second Amendment to the Retail Water Service Area Agreement with Badger Mountain Irrigation District
10. Resolution No. 2023-179, Approving 2024 Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Funding Awards
11. Resolution No. 2023-180, Adopting the City of Richland 2024-2026 Strategic Plan
12. Resolution No. 2023-181, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Traffic Safety Committee for a Traffic Safety Grant

13. Resolution 2023-182, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Atlas Agro AG for Future Provision of Electric Service
14. Resolution No. 2023-184, Approving the 2024-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 77 **(RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS ITEM NO. 22)**
15. Resolution No. 2023-185, Amending the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated Employees - 2024 and Continuing

Items - Approval

None.

Items of Business

16. Ordinance No. 2023-09, Amending Chapter 12.03 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Transportation Impact Fees (Second Reading)

Public Works Director Rogalsky announced that this ordinance was presented to Council for a first reading on June 6, 2023. At Council's direction, staff engaged in further dialog with affected stakeholders to answer questions and consider the approach to implementing the updated transportation impact fee program.

Additionally, staff engaged Transpo Group, a traffic engineering firm, to conduct a third-party review of the City's traffic impact fee program. Public Works Director Rogalsky turned the floor over to Chris Comeau of Transpo Group to provide an overview of the tasks completed, a summary of key findings, and proposed recommendations resulting from the review and audit. Detailed information can be found in the presentation included in the agenda packet.

In conclusion, Public Works Director Rogalsky highlighted the revised fee proposal, criteria for low-income housing exemptions, latecomer agreement provisions, fees indexed to construction cost inflation, and the results of the large retail development case study.

Council thanked Public Works Director for embracing the feedback provided during the first reading of Ordinance No. 2023-09, which led to a more comprehensive, transparent, and uniform program.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09, AMENDING CHAPTER 12.03 OF THE RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEES. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

17. Ordinance No. 2023-31, Amending the 2023 Budget in the General Fund, City Streets Fund, Special Lodging Assessment Fund, Public Safety Sales Tax Fund, Broadband Fund, Equipment Replacement Fund, and Workers Compensation Fund

Finance Director Allen provided an overview of the proposed budget amendments. Ordinance No. 2023-31 will add \$2,103,048 in appropriations to the 2023 Budget. Of this amount, \$555,981 is from new revenue sources and \$1,547,067 is from fund balance.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-31, AMENDING THE 2023 BUDGET IN THE GENERAL FUND, CITY STREETS FUND, SPECIAL LODGING ASSESSMENT FUND, PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX FUND, BROADBAND FUND, EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND, AND WORKERS COMPENSATION FUND FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

18. Ordinance No. 2023-32, Annexing 1.83 Acres Located at 24907 Dallas Road (Short Plat 793, Lot 3)

Development Services Director Jensen stated that the property owner of 1.83 acres located at 24907 Dallas Road submitted an annexation request in order to connect to the City's water system. The Richland Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on March 22, 2023 and determined that R-1-10 (single-family residential) zoning represents the most appropriate zoning designation for the proposed annexation area, as it would be most consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and existing development pattern within the proposed annexation area.

Councilmember Kent inquired if the annexation applicant owns the property located south of the property proposed for annexation. Development Services Director Jansen advised that it is a different parcel and believes it to be under separate ownership.

Councilmember Whitten noted that according to the annexation application, neighboring property owners expressed no desire to be included in the proposed annexation.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-32, ANNEXING 1.83 ACRES LOCATED AT 24907 DALLAS ROAD (SHORT PLAT 793, LOT 3) FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS KENT, LUKSON, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

19. Resolution No. 2023-183, Authorizing Relinquishment of a Utility Easement at 1012 Country Court

Public Works Director Rogalsky stated property owners of 1012 Country Court have requested the relinquishment of a certain portion of an easement to accommodate the construction of a new home. The easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes as the utilities have been relocated to an alternate location for the City's use.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-183, AUTHORIZING RELINQUISHMENT OF A UTILITY EASEMENT AT 1012 COUNTRY COURT. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

22. Resolution No. 2023-184, Approving the 2024-2026 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 77 **(FORMERLY ITEM NO. 14 ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR)**

As a member of IBEW Local Union No. 77, Councilmember Whitten recused himself from participating in Council's deliberation of Resolution No. 2023-184 and exited the Council Chambers until the item was concluded.

MAYOR CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-184, APPROVING THE 2024-2026 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION NO. 77. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Councilmember Whitten rejoined the meeting after the vote concluded on Item No. 22.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson announced that Council approved the City of Richland 2024-2026 Strategic Plan on tonight's consent agenda. City Manager Amundson thanked Council for their work and support on the Plan's development. The eighteen-month development process resulted in the creation of five (5) new strategic priorities that reflect Council's priorities. City Manager Amundson added that the established priorities cannot be realized without the engagement of all employees.

City Council

Councilmember Kent thanked City Manager Amundson and staff for their work on the 2024 Budget and the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. Councilmember Kent commended City Manager Amundson for including other key staff members in the strategic planning process.

Next, Councilmember Kent complimented the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee's selection of diverse activities to receive 2024 hotel/motel lodging tax funding awards.

Councilmember Lukson thanked Council and staff for their work in developing a strategic plan to capture and implement Council's vision and goals, adding that in his opinion, it is the most detailed strategic plan to date. Councilmember Lukson then stated that he looks forward to receiving periodic updates on the goals established.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked staff for their work on the 2024 Budget and the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Whitten thanked staff for their work on the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan and looks forward to the execution of the plan in the coming years. Councilmember Whitten also expressed his pleasure in participating in Richland's annual Winter Wonderland event on December 1, 2023 held at John Dam Plaza.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked Public Works Director Rogalsky for his work on the updated transportation impact fees in Ordinance No. 2023-09. Next, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked City Manager Amundson and Deputy City Manager Schiessl for hosting several Pancakes & Priorities events as a way to introduce the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan city-wide.

Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson thanked all staff who participated in the successful Winter Wonderland opening weekend event and added that she received positive feedback from numerous attendees who had a great experience.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen thanked staff for their outstanding effort on the successful Winter Wonderland event and noted that the event was well-attended this year. Mayor Christensen also spoke positively about the different groups invited to help develop the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan.

Executive Session

23.Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(I)(g): Review Performance of a Public Employee (60 minutes)

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 60 MINUTES BEGINNING AT 7:03 P.M.

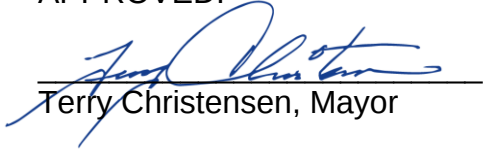
Those present in executive session included Mayor Christensen, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson, and Councilmembers Kent, Lukson, VanDyke and Whitten. Also present was City Attorney Kintzley. City Manager Amundson joined the executive session at 7:53 p.m. and remained until it concluded.

COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:03 P.M.

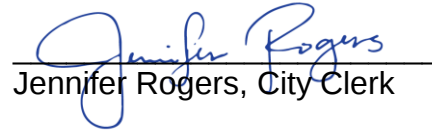
Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: December 19, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: December 20, 2023