



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Regular Meeting - 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	Present
	Councilmember Lukson	Present
	Councilmember VanDyke	Absent
	Councilmember Whitten	Present

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Recognizing Public Works with Street Light Energy Efficiency Savings

Energy Services Director Whitney announced the Energy Services Department recently completed an energy-efficient light emitting diode (LED) street light conversion project in coordination with the Public Works Department. The replacement of approximately 5,500 street lights will lead to lower energy consumption and reduced maintenance costs. The

annual savings to Richland taxpayers will be approximately \$141,000 each year in energy consumption.

Energy Services Director Whitney stated the City has an Energy Efficiency Program managed by Energy Efficiency Coordinator Dawn Senger and Administrative Assistant Jackie Carpenter (both in attendance). Together, Ms. Senger and Ms. Carpenter annually process approximately \$1M in Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) energy efficiency monies, and \$750,000 in self-funding energy efficiency monies. The street light conversion project resulted in a \$198,950 incentive payment from BPA.

Energy Services Director Whitney, Energy Efficiency Coordinator Senger, and Administrative Assistant Carpenter presented Public Works Director Rogalsky with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$198,950 representing the rebate received from BPA. Public Works Director Rogalsky thanked Energy Services Director Whitney and staff for their work on the project, and thanked City Council for approving and supporting the project through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

Public Hearing

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

2. Proposed Amendment to RMC Title 26: Shoreline Management, Ordinance No. 2023-35

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

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comment:

Michael Alvarez, Benton County Commissioner: Commissioner Alvarez thanked City Manager Amundson and members of the Executive Leadership Team for ensuring the smooth functioning of city operations. Commissioner Alvarez added that staff's professional efforts enabled him to gain valuable experience while serving on Richland City Council, and that experience has assisted him in his role as Benton County Commissioner.

Next, Commissioner Alvarez thanked the Richland City Council for their partnership, particularly those with whom he served during his tenure as councilmember. Directing his comments towards Mayor Christensen, Commissioner Alvarez thanked Mayor Christensen for the decisions he has made which have contributed to the betterment of the community and citizens of the City of Richland. Further, Commissioner Alvarez thanked Mayor Christensen for his advice, leadership and friendship.

Adam Fyall - 1827 Alder Avenue, Richland, WA: Mr. Fyall reminisced fondly on his time serving with Mayor Christensen on the City's Parks & Recreation Commission, and

thanked Mayor Christensen for his service.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

3. Approval of the December 5, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 2023-33, Dedicating the Right-of-Way for a Segment of Malbec Avenue
5. Ordinance No. 2023-34, Approving the 2027 Council Compensation Plan

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

6. Ordinance No. 2023-30, Amending Chapter 2.28 of the Richland Municipal Code related to the City's Personnel Plan
7. 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
8. Ordinance No. 2023-32, Annexing 1.83 Acres Located at 24907 Dallas Road (Short Plat 793, Lot 3)

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution No. 2023-186, Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Lambert Properties, LLC for 150 Keene Road
10. Resolution No. 2023-187, Awarding 2024 Business License Reserve Fund Grants
11. Resolution No. 2023-188, Authorizing a Reimbursable Agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for Preliminary Engineering Activities and Facilities Study of Transmission Interconnection Request No. L0534 - Atlas Agro

12. Resolution No. 2023-189, Authorizing Award of Bid to Layne of Washington, Inc. for 2024 Pump Maintenance and Repair
13. Resolution No. 2023-190, Adopting the 2024 Fee Schedule
14. Resolution No. 2023-191, Accepting Two Cybersecurity Grants in the amount of \$190,000 from the State of Washington and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
15. Resolution No. 2023-192, Approving the 2024 Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission Budget and Marketing Plan
16. Resolution No. 2023-193, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of Benton for a Future Cooperative Property Exchange

Items - Approval

17. Authorizing an Increase to the City Manager's Annual Salary for Calendar Year 2024

Expenditures - Approval

18. Expenditures from November 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023 for \$29,987,044.80 including Travel Check Nos. 20438-20453, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 317044-318083, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9797-9838, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13675-13724, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 215624-216781, and Pension Check Nos. 6610-6632

Special Recognition and Intermission

19. Proclamation with Plaque for Mayor Christensen with 15-minute intermission

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson read aloud a proclamation that highlighted Mayor Christensen's service to the City, including a significant list of volunteer and Council liaison appointments to internal boards, commissions and committees, Council ad hoc committees, and numerous external boards. Following reading of the proclamation, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson presented Mayor Terry Christensen with a plaque commemorating his tenure on the Richland City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson personally thanked outgoing Mayor Christensen for his leadership and dedication.

CITY COUNCIL RECESSED BEGINNING AT 6:25 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL RESUMED THE MEETING AT 6:44 P.M.

Items of Business

20. Ordinance No. 2023-35, Amending Title 26 of the Richland Municipal Code regarding Shoreline Management

Planning Manager Stevens began his presentation by sharing that the City is required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act to review, and if needed, revise, its Shoreline Master Program (SMP) on an eight to ten-year schedule. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the SMP stays current with state law and consistent with City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information, and improved data.

The City initiated its periodic review of the SMP in October 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff vacancies, completion of the SMP update was delayed.

Planning Manager Stevens then introduced MillieAnne VanDevender, a consultant with AHBL, Inc., who provided a comprehensive overview of the SMP review process, including explanation of the timeline and a discussion of proposed edits for Council consideration. Following Council's approval of the updated SMP at a future City Council regular meeting, the City's consultant, AHBL, Inc. will submit the SMP and associated documents to the Washington State Department of Ecology for review and approval. Details of the SMP review were presented with the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson inquired if the City's SMP is more restrictive than the State's SMP, and whether the City has flexibility to address issues that may arise. Ms. VanDevender replied that the City's SMP is on par with the State's SMP. All cities are required to adopt the State's regulations and reflect those regulations in local planning documents. Regarding flexibility in the SMP, Ms. VanDevender stated that all codes are meant to have an element of interpretation, but ultimately, the SMP is intended to protect the shorelines.

Councilmember Lukson expressed appreciation to Ms. VanDevender for tying fees collected under the City's SMP directly to the values identified in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) as opposed to identifying the specific amounts in the Richland Municipal Code. This streamlined approach will eliminate the need to update the RMC whenever state law changes.

MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2023-35, AMENDING TITLE 26 OF THE RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING SHORELINE MANAGEMENT, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR CHRISTENSEN, MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson thanked Mayor Christensen for his years of years of leadership

and service, and shared what a pleasure it has been to work with him. Next, City Manager Amundson voiced appreciation to the entire City Council for all that they accomplished in 2023, and shared that he was looking forward to the upcoming year. Lastly, City Manager Amundson wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

City Council

Councilmember Kent wished everyone a happy holiday season and encouraged everyone to help those in need when possible. Next, Councilmember Kent stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Richland City Council with Mayor Christensen, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Councilmember Whitten thanked Mayor Christensen for his years of service. Councilmember Whitten also expressed his appreciation for working with the entire Council, City Manager Amundson, and the Executive Leadership Team. Councilmember Whitten shared that he is looking forward to continued partnership with staff to successfully implement the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. Councilmember Whitten also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Lukson thanked Mayor Christensen for his years of service and the perspective that comes with his generation, which will be missed on the Richland City Council. Councilmember Lukson also thanked Mayor Christensen for the advice offered during his tenure as Mayor for calendar years 2020-2021.

Councilmember Jones shared that, prior to her service on City Council, she met Mayor Christensen at her request when she was seeking answers to questions regarding the role of an effective councilmember. Councilmember Jones thanked Mayor Christensen for his time, leadership, mentorship, and for making the City a better place by mentoring individuals who have an interest in serving in a volunteer capacity.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson proclaimed that Mayor Christensen has the heart of a public servant. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson then thanked Mayor Christensen's family for allowing him the time and freedom to serve these many years. Next, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson stated that she hopes Mayor Christensen finds other meaningful opportunities in his next season of life, and continues to make a difference wherever he chooses to lend his support. Mayor Pro Tem Richardson concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen stated that he has been a resident of the City of Richland since the 1940s and has a love and appreciation for the City. Mayor Christensen expressed appreciation to the Richland Police Department for building stronger community relationships through positive interactions and community engagement. Mayor Christensen also thanked current and previous staff members for their support and collaboration throughout the years.

Mayor Christensen reflected on the experiences and successes realized during his tenure on the Richland City Council, and added that he will miss being a part of the inner workings of local government. Lastly, Mayor Christensen wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

Theresa Richardson
Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Rogers
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January 2, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: January 3, 2024