



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson welcomed those in the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Richardson	Present
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmembers Kent	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, 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

Councilmember Kent led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

- Swearing-In of Councilmembers:
 - Jhoanna Jones, Position No. 1 (Re-elected) 4-Year Term
 - Theresa Richardson, Position No. 2 (Re-elected) 4-Year Term
 - D. Shayne VanDyke, Position No. 5 (Elected) 4-Year Term
 - Kurt Maier, Position No. 6 (Elected) 2-Year Term
 - Ryan Whitten, Position No. 7 (Elected) Remainder of Unexpired Term

City Clerk Rogers administered the oath of office to councilmembers elected and re-elected into public office.

2. Selection of Mayor for 2024-2025

Councilmember Richardson opened the floor for nominations for the office of Mayor.

- Councilmember Jones nominated Councilmember Richardson.
- Councilmember Kent nominated Councilmember Richardson.
- Councilmember Maier nominated Councilmember Kent.

No other nominations were made. The following votes were cast:

- For Richardson: Jones, Kent, Lukson, Richardson, VanDyke and Whitten.
- For Kent: Maier

Councilmember Richardson won the office of Mayor by a majority vote of 6-1.

3. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem for 2024-2025

Mayor Richardson opened the floor for nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem.

- Councilmember Jones nominated Councilmember Kent.
- Councilmember Whitten nominated Councilmember VanDyke.

No other nominations were made. The following votes were cast:

- For Kent: Jones, Kent, Lukson and Maier.
- For VanDyke: Richarson, VanDyke and Whitten.

Councilmember Kent won the office of Mayor Pro Tem by a majority vote of 4-3.

4. New Hires and Retirements

A video featuring the new hires and retirees for December 2023 was played for the audience.

The City welcomed four (4) new employees to the City of Richland in December 2023:

- Denise Hovland: Administrative Assistant, Information Technology Division
- Toby Zigan: Police Quartermaster, Police Department
- Silvano Hernandez: Plant Operator, Wastewater Operations Division
- Laura Champoux: Administrative Assistant, Parks & Public Facilities Department

The City recognized the following three (3) employees who retired in December 2023.

- Phillip Becker retired as a truck driver-heavy with the Solid Waste Collection Division after twenty-three (23) years of service with the City.
- Annette Melville retired as an Administrative Assistant with the Parks & Public Facilities Division after twenty (20) years of service with the City.
- Jarin Whitby retired as a Police Sergeant with the Police Department after twenty (20) years of service with the City.

Public Hearing

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

5. Proposed Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Plan, Resolution No. 2024-01

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:11 p.m.

Francesca Maier - 2146 Hudson Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Maier provided comments supporting the removal of the South George Washington Way/Aaron Drive intersection pedestrian bridge element from the 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan, and urged City Council to install a high-quality pedestrian at-grade crossing at the intersection.

No additional public testimony was offered. Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

Mark Freshley – Richland, WA: Mr. Freshley recounted a recent dangerous dog incident involving a middle school student. Mr. Freshley urged City Council to amend the Richland Municipal Code to update the definitions of dangerous and potentially dangerous animal. Mr. Freshley also recommended that police officers be stationed in the vicinity of the dangerous dog incident to address safety concerns and promote safe routes for children who walk to school.

Karl Dye – President and CEO of Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC): Mr. Dye congratulated Mayor Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Kent, then provided comments supporting the adoption of the Targeted Urban Area property tax exemption applications on tonight's agenda (Resolution Nos. 2024-04 and 2024-05).

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Minutes

6. Approval of the December 19, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

7. Ordinance No. 2023-33, Dedicating the Right-of-Way for a Segment of Malbec Avenue
8. Ordinance No. 2023-34, Approving the 2027 Council Compensation Plan
9. Ordinance No. 2023-35, Amending Title 26 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Shoreline Management

Resolutions - Adoption

10. Resolution No. 2024-01, Amending the 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan **(PULLED BY COUNCILMEMBER MAIER AND RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS ITEM NO. 15)**
11. Resolution No. 2024-02, Authorizing Award of Bid to Pipe of Washington, Inc. for the Tapteal 1 Booster Pump Station Project
12. Resolution No. 2024-03, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with 590 Gage Blvd. Richland, LLC for Real Property located at 590 Gage Blvd.
13. Resolution No. 2024-04, Approving a Targeted Urban Area Application Submitted by Framatome for Phase One
14. Resolution No. 2024-05, Approving a Targeted Urban Area Application Submitted by Framatome for Phase Two

Items - Approval

None.

Items of Business

15. Resolution No. 2024-01, Amending the 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan **(FORMERLY ITEM NO. 10 ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Councilmember Maier inquired if alternative pedestrian safety improvements will be considered at the South George Washington Way/Aaron Drive intersection following the removal of the pedestrian bridge from the 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and whether there will be other opportunities to review pedestrian safety concerns the pedestrian bridge was intended to address for that intersection.

Public Works Director Rogalsky described the purpose of the TIP as a planning document (instead of a design document) and Council's role in project planning. Mr. Rogalsky added that the pedestrian crossing intersection project is currently being engineered by a professional team responsible for applying engineering judgment and best practices to all street improvement projects. City Council will be asked to approve a future construction contract for the intersection improvements when the project is successfully bid, but does not otherwise play a role in designing the street improvements.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-01, AMENDING THE 2024-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson congratulated Mayor Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Kent for being selected to serve in the leadership offices on City Council, and also extended his congratulations to all councilmembers who were sworn in during the meeting. City Manager Amundson stated that he looks forward to working with each councilmember in the upcoming year.

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Kent congratulated Mayor Richardson and thanked fellow councilmembers for their vote in electing her as mayor pro tem. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also thanked those in the audience, including TRIDEC President and CEO Karl Dye, for expressing interest in the agenda and the Council's work.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent then welcomed Councilmember Maier, adding that he will be a valuable asset on the Richland City Council. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Kent wished everyone a happy new year filled with joy and good health.

Councilmember Lukson congratulated all councilmembers who were elected and re-elected. Councilmember Lukson welcomed Councilmember Maier to the Richland City Council and added that he will bring a unique and diverse perspective to Council. Next, Councilmember Lukson congratulated Mayor Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Kent and expressed enthusiasm for their leadership for the upcoming year.

Councilmember Jones congratulated Mayor Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Kent, and expressed her pleasure at a woman serving in the role as mayor, pointing out that Mayor Richardson is the second female mayor in Richland's history. Councilmember Jones then congratulated fellow councilmembers on their election and re-election to the Richland City Council.

Councilmember VanDyke congratulated Mayor Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Kent and welcomed Councilmember Maier to the Richland City Council.

Councilmember Maier thanked fellow councilmembers for their kind words and looks forward to working with everyone on the Richland City Council.

Councilmember Whitten congratulated Mayor Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Kent and welcomed Councilmember Maier to the Richland City Council. Councilmember Whitten concurred with Councilmember Jones' comments regarding women in leadership roles on the Richland City Council, and pointed out that this is the first time in Richland's history when both roles were filled by women. Councilmember Whitten wished everyone a safe and happy new year.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson thanked fellow councilmembers for their vote of confidence in electing her as mayor and vowed to work hard, treat everyone with kindness and respect, and be the last to speak and the first to listen. Mayor Richardson expressed excitement over the upcoming year and Richland's future.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Date Approved: January 16, 2024

Date Published: January 17, 2024