



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 20, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Richardson, and Councilmembers Jones (remote attendance via Zoom), Kent, Lukson, VanDyke, and Whitten were present.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Clary, Fire Chief Huntington, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester, 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 VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedure.

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Guy Steen - 126 Cimarron St. Richland, WA: Mr. Steen announced that the Richland Police Department captures and uploads data to a software program called *Flock Safety* using automatic license plate reader (ALPR) cameras. Mr. Steen called on Council to establish limitations on how the data is used, maintained, and shared.

- George Penn - 6223 W. Deschutes, Kennewick, WA: Mr. Penn requested the dog park be open for use more than four (4) days per week, and suggested an alternative schedule be implemented to separately accommodate large and small dogs.

Mayor Christensen encouraged Mr. Penn to attend the City of Kennewick and the City of Pasco Council meetings to advocate for the development of a dog park within their cities.

- Tim Taylor - 462 Palm Drive, Richland, WA: Mr. Taylor stated he emailed all Councilmembers regarding a grant opportunity funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) but did not receive a response. Mr. Taylor stated that though his questions were ultimately answered by City Manager Amundson, he reminded Council of their responsibility to acknowledge and respond to constituents.
- Greg Jones - Gala Way, Richland, WA: Mr. Jones read aloud correspondence that described a recent single vehicular accident and the ever-present presence of speeding vehicles in the Gala Way and Queensgate Drive neighborhood. Mr. Jones cited several frequent speeding violators and added he has communicated his concerns with staff regarding the need to implement traffic calming measures. Mr. Jones called on Council to intervene by implementing traffic calming solutions to stop speeding in the Gala Way and Queensgate Drive area.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

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

Minutes

1. Approval of the June 6, 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

2. Ordinance No. 2023-10, Amending Chapter 11.08 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Speed Regulations
3. Ordinance No. 2023-11, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 11.40.030 related to Parking on Certain Streets

4. Ordinance No. 2023-12, Approving the Rezone of 19.47 Acres located along Bermuda Road from Agriculture (AG) to Medium Density Residential Small Lots (R-2S)
5. Ordinance No. 2023-13, Amending the 2023 Budget in the General Fund, Public Safety Sales Tax Fund, General Government Construction Fund, and Community Development Block Grant Fund

Resolutions - Adoption

6. Resolution No. 2023-83, Authorizing a First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement for the Tapteal 1 Booster Pump Station Project
7. Resolution No. 2023-87, Authorizing a Second Amendment to the Wholesale Water Service Agreement with the City of West Richland
8. Resolution No. 2023-88, Authorizing Award of Bid to Watts Construction, Inc. for the Vantage Highway Pathway - Phase 2 Project
9. Resolution No. 2023-89, Adopting a Vision Zero Goal with respect to Roadway Fatalities and Serious Injuries on City of Richland Streets
10. Resolution No. 2023-90, Adopting the 2023 Comprehensive Safety Action Plan and Authorizing a Grant Application to the United States Department of Transportation Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding Program
11. Resolution No. 2023-91, Authorizing Applications to the Washington State Department of Commerce's Public Works Board Construction and Pre-Construction Loan Programs
12. Resolution No. 2023-92, Authorizing a Third Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Keller Associates, Inc. for the Tapteal Booster Pump Station Upgrade and Kennedy Water Main Projects
13. Resolution No. 2023-94, Authorizing Award of Bid to Palouse Power, LLC for Airport Area Boring and Cable Replacement
14. Resolution No. 2023-95, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of 7,693 Square Feet of Property Located at 999 Queensgate Drive
15. Resolution No. 2023-96, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Rogers Surveying Inc., and HLA Engineering & Land Surveying Inc. for Surveying Services
16. Resolution No. 2023-99, Rejecting All Bids for the West Village Park - Phase 1 Project
17. Resolution No. 2023-100, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Granicus Experience Group (GXG) for Content Strategy and Governance Services

Expenditures – Approval

18. Expenditures from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 for \$30,076,850.97 including Travel Check Nos. 20305-20337, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 311375- 312259, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9546-9594, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13360-13410 Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 207890-209045 and Pension Check Nos. 6465-6488.

Items of Business

19. Resolution No. 2023-86, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the City of West Richland for Badger Mountain South Traffic Impact Mitigation

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed agreement with the City of West Richland. The Cities of Richland and West Richland have negotiated an interlocal agreement to mitigate traffic impacts generated by the Badger Mountain South development.

The City will collect fees from developers through its traffic impact fee program to cover the costs of the agreement. Payments to West Richland are estimated at approximately \$1,345,000, which can be paid out of Zone 3 Traffic Impact Fees (TIF).

Additional information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-86, AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND FOR BADGER MOUNTAIN SOUTH TRAFFIC IMPACT MITIGATION. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

20. Resolution No. 2023-97, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Lease of Property Located at 1900 Jadwin Avenue

Development Services Director Jensen shared that the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties has expressed interest in negotiating a market-priced lease of the former fire station for use as a teen center serving north-central Richland. The City will directly negotiate an acceptable lease agreement with the Boys & Girls Club of Benton and Franklin Counties. The property is no longer needed for municipal purposes and is surplus to the City's needs.

Following the presentation, Council provided comments supporting the proposed use for the former Fire Station No. 73 building.

COUNCILMEMBER KENT MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-97, DECLARING SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING LEASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1900 JADWIN AVENUE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

21. Resolution No. 2023-98, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish an Opioid Abatement Council (OAC)

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, Assistant City Manager Florence provided historical context to the Washington State Attorney General lawsuit against numerous opioid manufacturers and distributors, the initial settlement allocation agreement, and previous Council actions associated with the One Washington Opioid settlement. Assistant City Manager Florence explained that as part of the One Washington Opioid Settlement, participating local governments must establish an Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) to oversee Opioid Fund allocation, distribution, expenditures, and dispute resolution, in order to receive Opioid Funds.

Greater Columbia Behavioral Health, LLC has been identified as the region's lead administrative agency to oversee the OAC. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will formalize the City of Richland's participation in the OAC. Staff responded to Council inquiries throughout the presentation.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND MAYOR CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2023-98, AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ESTABLISH AN OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL (OAC). MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

22. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Utility Billing Update

Assistant City Manager Florence provided an update to the AMI project and utility billing software update. The update included previously identified challenges and a number of steps taken to enhance the customer service experience. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation. Following the presentation, staff engaged in a question-and-answer session with Council.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson directed Chief of Police Clary and Public Works Director Rogalsky to meet with Greg Jones at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss concerns raised during the public comment period.

City Manager Amundson made the following announcements:

- Members of the public are invited to provide input for the development of a long-range plan for Leslie Groves Park. Open-style meetings will be held at Leslie Groves Park, Shelter #1, on June 28, 2023 and July 26, 2023; both meetings will be held 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting(s) will be relocated to the Richland Community Center.
- City Manager Amundson invited Council to visit the nearly completed lobby remodel

of the Richland Community Center.

- The United States National Resources Committee will host a field hearing on Monday, June 26, 2023 at Richland High School. The hearing will be hosted by Congressman Dan Newhouse, and several members of the National Resources Committee will be in attendance. Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting to offer comments supporting or opposing the removal of the Lower Snake River Dam.
- City Manager Amundson thanked the Richland Kiwanis Club for inviting him to speak at their June 14, 2023 meeting. City Manager Amundson said it was a great opportunity to learn about their organization while sharing current City of Richland projects.

City Council

Councilmember Jones Council addressed the public comments relating to speed driving. Councilmember Jones stated that Council has been proactive and vocal in communicating the need to implement traffic calming measures and traffic enforcement to reduce speed driving in the city. Councilmember Jones requested that staff communicate that same message to citizens.

Councilmember VanDyke shared that City Manager Amundson, Chief of Police Clary, and Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester have been collaborating to address traffic safety concerns. City Manager Amundson answered that he has been working with Chief of Police Clary to develop a Traffic Safety Unit, and with Parks & Public Facilities Director Hester to find ways to deter reckless driving in parking lots.

Lastly, City Manager Amundson stated that staff comments directed to Mr. Jones do not reflect Council's position on mitigating traffic safety. Traffic calming measures are not universally appropriate for all streets; therefore, traffic calming measures must be implemented according to the engineering of specific streets.

Councilmember Kent thanked City Manager Amundson for providing clarification to the traffic safety concerns and for sharing prospective traffic calming measures. Councilmember Kent thanked those who provide comments, then reassured the public that all comments, whether provided in-person or via email are followed up by City Manager Amundson to ensure a uniform response is provided on Council's behalf.

Lastly, Councilmember Kent announced that all Farmers' Markets within the Tri-Cities are open and encouraged citizens to shop locally and support events hosted by the Farmers' Market.

Councilmember Lukson reiterated that councilmembers do not respond individually to public comment or questions, instead, the City Manager responds to ensure a unified response is provided on Council's behalf. Next, Councilmember Lukson shared that he is liaison to the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG) and spoke highly of

Michelle Holt's leadership as Executive Director to the BFCOG.

There is an effort to reinvigorate the my-Tri 2030 project, which creates a shared vision for the region through community engagement. Councilmember Lukson stated there is potential to create an Economic Development Partnership and to develop traffic calming measures through the BFCOG partnership.

Lastly, Councilmember Lukson commented on the City's efforts to resolve issues that arose from the dog park closure, adding that prior notice of the park closure would have alleviated citizen complaints. The Richland dog park cannot accommodate use by surrounding cities, and neighboring cities should consider developing a dog park for their communities.

Councilmember VanDyke inquired about the impacts of the Public Safety Sales Tax expiration. City Manager Amundson replied that the Public Safety Sales Tax will sunset at the end of 2024, however, Benton County has decided to place the sales tax on the November 2023 ballot for voter approval. At Councilmember VanDyke's request, City Manager Amundson will contact Benton County to request an update on the sales tax.

Councilmember Whitten concurred with Councilmembers Kent and Lukson's statements regarding City Manager Amundson's role in providing a uniform response to citizen comments and questions on Council's behalf. Councilmember Whitten congratulated staff on the progress made regarding the AMI project and the steps taken to improve the utility billing readings.

Mayor Pro Tem Richardson did not have comments.

Mayor

Mayor Christensen did not have comments.

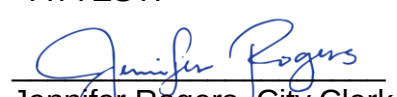
Adjournment

Mayor Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:


Terry Christensen, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 6, 2023

DATE PUBLISHED: July 7, 2023