



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

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

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

Welcome and Roll Call

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

Attendance: Mayor Richardson	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kent	Present
Councilmember Jones	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, Human Resources Director Paulsen, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Swearing-In of Richland Police Officer Emilio Sanchez

Interim Chief of Police Neher administered the Oath of Office to Officer Emilio Sanchez then welcomed him to the department. Mary Dover and Brandi Hilmes of the Richland Police Department Foundation provided an overview of the services and programs funded for police officers and citizens. Mary Dover welcomed Officer Sanchez to the city then

presented him with a welcome basket on behalf of the Richland Police Department Foundation.

2. Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project Adjudication Update (5 minutes)

Pam Minelli, secretary of Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S., (TCC) provided an update to the Horse Heaven Wind and Solar Farm Project. Ms. Minelli stated that at the December 20, 2023 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) meeting, staff was directed to develop recommendation options to consider for the removal the most objectionable wind turbines. TCC has submitted documentation to EFSEC, requesting the number of wind turbines be further reduced to accommodate aerial firefighting needs.

EFSEC will discuss and likely vote on one of the four proposals at its January 24, 2024 meeting. The proposal selected by EFSEC will then be submitted to Governor Inslee.

Ms. Minelli presented five (5) specific actions drafted by TCC for Council's consideration and action regarding the wind farm project. Detailed information can be found in the agenda packet. Following the presentation, Council offered comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with Ms. Minelli.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent asked City Manager Amundson if correspondence had been previously submitted on behalf of Richland City Council to EFSEC regarding this project. City Manager Amundson replied that a record has been established by Council's adoption of Resolution No. 2023-76 which supports Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. as intervenor in the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project Adjudication. Additionally, a letter opposing the project was signed by Mayor Christensen on behalf of the Richland City Council and delivered to EFSEC in March 2023.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent further noted that EFSEC developed four (4) proposals for consideration, and TCC is requesting Richland City Council to endorse one (1) of the four (4) proposals. Mayor Pro Tem Kent wanted to confirm that the proposal endorsed by Richland City Council resonates with past support. City Manager Amundson replied that unless otherwise directed by Council, staff will finalize the draft letter provided by TCC, which continues to oppose the project, for Mayor Richardson's signature.

Public Hearing

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

3. Public Hearing on Rules Related to City Employment: Adopting the Proposed 2024-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local No. 839, Resolution No. 2024-10

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:25 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. 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

4. Approval of the January 2, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

5. Resolution No. 2024-06, Adopting the 2024-2029 Benton County Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plan
6. Resolution No. 2024-07, Declaring Intent to Increase Assessments for the Uptown Business Improvement District and Setting a Public Hearing Date
7. Resolution No. 2024-08, Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Property adjacent to 2619 Falcon Lane
8. Resolution No. 2024-09, Authorizing an Agreement with Workday, Inc. for an Enterprise Human Resources Information System

Items - Approval

9. Appointment to the Utility Advisory Committee: Ricky Hyson

Expenditures - Approval

10. Expenditures from December 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 for \$30,492,731.24 including Accounts Payable Check Nos. 318084-318943, Accounts Payable Wire Nos.

9839-9875, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13725-13778, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 216782-217916, and Pension Check Nos. 6633-6656.

Items of Business

11. Resolution No. 2024-10, Approving the 2024-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local No. 839

Human Resources Director Paulsen stated the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local No. 839 (“Teamsters”) has been certified by the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) as the exclusive representative for collective bargaining with the City for covered positions, effective January 4, 2023. On December 12, 2023, a tentative two (2) year agreement with Teamsters was reached.

Human Resources Director Paulsen highlighted amendments and additions to the proposed 2024-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). At the conclusion of the presentation, Human Resources Director Paulsen welcomed questions from Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent expressed her appreciation to Human Resources Director Paulsen and all parties involved on the negotiation team for their efforts in reaching an agreement within a reasonable period of time.

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-10, APPROVING THE 2024-2025 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL NO. 839. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

12. Resolution No. 2024-11, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Department of Transportation City Safety Program

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, Public Works Director Rogalsky provided a high-level overview of the following:

- Background regarding the City traffic safety work
- Staff’s approach to street system safety improvements
- Updates to the City’s adopted Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP)
- Local Road Safety Plan Process
- 2018-2022 crash record data with city data analysis
- Local Road Safety Plan Process
- City-wide traffic safety upgrades
- State and Federal grant opportunities
- Briefed Council on proposed grant applications to Washington Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) 2024 City Safety Program

Staff sought Council's authorization to submit grant applications to the WSDOT City Safety Program before the February 2, 2024 application deadline. The Program will provide

funding to improve City streets and requires no matching funds, provided that all phases of the successfully granted project are authorized before April 30, 2027. The City will seek funding for projects recommended in its 2023 CSAP.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Council provided comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11, AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CITY SAFETY PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

13. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Power and Transmission Update (Discussion Only)

Energy Services Director Whitney provided an update on power and transmission issues experienced within the Northwest and regionally as they pertain to energy policy and energy policy decisions. The update included an overview of the following:

- Timeframe summaries of baseload generation
- Resource Adequacy Studies
- BPA Power – Resource Adequacy
- BPA Generation Interconnection Requests
- BPA Tri-Cities Transmission Capacity
- BPA Tri-Cities Transmission Reinforcement
- Energy Services Substations and Capacity Plans
- BPA Power Timeline (Existing power contract 2008-2028)
- New BPA Provider of Choice contract (2028-2043)

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation included in the agenda packet. Council offered comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff throughout the presentation.

14. Opioid Abatement Update (Discussion Only)

Assistant City Manager Florence informed Council that since the last Opioid Abatement update provided to Council in June 2023, staff has been working with Benton and Franklin County agencies to draft an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to oversee the allocation and utilization of funds dispersed from the One Washington Opioid settlement. Funds will be specifically utilized for the operating costs of Columbia Valley Center for Recovery (CVCR), related to the treatments of patients suffering from substance abuse disorder. The final ILA will be presented to Council for review and approval at a future council meeting.

To date, the City of Richland has received \$115,278.76 as part of the One Washington Opioid settlement, and an additional \$1,022,707.60 is expected to be dispersed over the

next seventeen (17) years. As part of the ILA, Benton County will prepare and submit all required spending plan to the regional Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) on behalf of the City, submit all reporting required by the OAC showing how funds have been expended on behalf of all agencies, maintain all records, and provide the City copies of reports filed.

Assistant City Manager Florence turned the floor over to Benton County Deputy County Administrator, Matt Rasmussen. Mr. Rasmussen provided a review and update on the following related to CVCR:

- Building acquisition for regional treatment facilities
- Four (4) key treatments and services offered
- Contracted providers
- Contractors and design-build process
- Branding and marketing efforts
- Field Responder Program Request for Proposals (RPF)

Council offered comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Rasmussen at the conclusion of the presentation.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson reminded Council and the public that winter weather may impact the City's operating hours. The City of Richland Winter Weather Plan is posted on the main page of the City's website, and on the City's social media platforms. Information regarding the impacts of operating hours for City facilities, including the Richland Library and Community Center, as well as information regarding remote bill pay options is also posted.

Next, City Manager Amundson stated the Richland Chamber of Commerce will pursue reinstating the Cool Desert Nights event this summer. The City of Richland will be supporting the Richland Chamber of Commerce in its efforts.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson encouraged everyone to wear appropriate footwear and to take extra care when walking outdoors.

Councilmember Maier expressed support for the Columbia Valley Center for Recovery treatment center. In parallel, CSAP projects funded by the WSDOT 2024 City Safety Program would increase physical improvements within the community, programs and services offered through the CVCR would support the mental well-being of community members.

Councilmember Whitten provided positive feedback regarding the current agenda packet

layout on the City's website, expressing that it is notably easier to navigate. Councilmember Whitten then welcomed Officer Sanchez to the Richland Police Department, announced that the Arts Commission will be reviewing and deliberating on the Supporting the Arts In Richland (STAR) award nominations during the next Arts Commission meeting, and thanked those who submitted START award nominations.

Councilmember Jones thanked city staff for diligently maintaining city streets during inclement weather.

Councilmember VanDyke made the following remarks regarding the meetings he participated in:

Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)

- At the UAC Organization meeting, Dave Larkin was elected as Chair, and Dan Porter was as elected Vice-Chair.
- Ricky Hyson's appointment to one of two UAC vacancies was approved by Council on tonight's consent agenda.
- UAC voted unanimously to pursue and develop an appropriate equitable rate structure to accommodate Atlas Agro's energy and industrial non-potable water needs.

Planning Commission

- Councilmember VanDyke recognized and thanked past Planning Commission Chair Francesa Maier for her attendance.
- At the Planning Commission Organization meeting, Jet Richardson was elected as Chair and Phillip Townsend was elected as Vice-Chair.
- The Planning Commission is reviewing building height and zoning regulations for the waterfront development at Tracts D&E.

Clean Energy Supplier Alliance

- Councilmember VanDyke shared that he, Mayor Richardson, and Councilmember Whitten attended a Clean Energy Supplier Alliance meeting. The Clean Energy Supplier Alliance aims to aid organizations and companies in preparing to support infrastructure and supply clean energy going forward.
- A reception was held at the conclusion of the Clean Energy Supplier Alliance meeting to welcome Framatome to the community. Local, national, and international executives of Framatome were in attendance and were thanked by members of the Clean Energy Supplier Alliance for their investments in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent reminded everyone to exercise situational awareness and help others who might need extra assistance during inclement weather.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson made the following announcements:

- Announced there are several vacancies on the City's boards, commissions, and committees, and encouraged those who might be interested in serving to visit the City's website for more information.
- Stated that since serving in the role as Mayor, she has received numerous speaking engagement invitations, with the first one being from Liberty Christian School. The students of Liberty Christian School have requested

Mayor Richardson pass along a request to build a Chick Fil-A in the community.

- Reported on networking experiences with Framatome's executive leadership team at the welcome reception hosted by Clean Energy Supplier Alliance. Mayor Richardson expressed gratitude to Framatome for selecting the City of Richland to develop its nuclear fuel manufacturing facility, then shared statistics regarding the number of Framatome facilities and workforce.
- Thanked councilmembers for committing to serve on various internal and external council assignments as discussed at the January 12, 2024 Annual City Council Retreat meeting, adding that their dedication to attending meetings and reporting back to council is an investment in time and effort.
- Commended Richland Library Manager Nulph on his recent presentation on statistics relating to the community's involvement and appreciation of the library.
- Participated in a conference call with the Mayor Slavutych, a city in northern Ukraine. Slavutych has been Richland's sister city since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

Date Approved: February 6, 2024

Date Published February 8, 2024