



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, February 20, 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	Absent
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

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

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, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Swearing-In of Richland Police Officers: Blake Fabbri, Brittany Grant, Cynthia Nuñez, Jordan Phillips, Amador Sanchez, and Emily Villafaña

Interim Chief of Police Neher presented the six (6) newly commissioned police officers, welcomed them to the Richland Police Department, and administered the oath of office to all six (6) officers simultaneously.

Mary Dover, representing the Richland Police Department Foundation, provided an overview of the various services and support programs that the Richland Police Department Foundation offers to the police officers of Richland. She highlighted the commitment of the Foundation to the well-being and professional development of the officers. In conclusion, Ms. Dover announced that each officer will receive a welcome gift basket, comprised of items donated by individuals and local businesses.

Following Ms. Dover's comments, Interim Chief of Police Neher formally introduced each of the new officers to Richland City Council.

2. Inaugural Impact Academy Graduates

Fire Chief Huntington shared that the graduation ceremony of the inaugural class of Richland's new Impact Academy was held earlier in the day. The program, envisioned by City Manager Amundson and executed in collaboration with Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, and Fire Chief Huntington, is a leadership development initiative aimed at providing city employees the opportunity to grow personally and professionally with a group of their peers.

The year-long program included eleven (11) employees selected by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) for their potential and commitment to professional growth. The curriculum focused on leadership and professional development. In addition to classroom instruction, the participants were tasked with developing a city culture statement that unifies the City's Mission, Vision, and Core Values. The culture statement is included in the agenda packet.

Fire Chief Huntington expressed his gratitude to City Manager Amundson and Council for their support of high-performance governance and workforce engagement which highlights initiatives in the context of the City's Strategic Plan. Fire Chief Huntington emphasized the significance of investing in succession planning and leadership development to ensure the future success of the City's workforce.

Fire Chief Huntington introduced each of the graduating members of the Impact Academy inaugural class:

- Dana Cullen - General Craftsworker (Wastewater)
- Joe DeRousie - Fire Battalion Chief
- Scott Hanks - Electrical Distribution Engineer II
- Shawn Harper - Parks & Public Facilities Supervisor
- Gwen Stanley - Operations Manager (SECOMM)
- Braddon Stigall - Survey Technician
- Shawn Swanson - Police Sergeant

- Justin Tucker - Risk & Safety Program Administrator
- Alyssa Uretsky-Pratt - Teen Librarian
- Mandy Wallner - Economic Development Manager

Public Hearing

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

3. Proposed Amendment to Richland Municipal Code Sections 23.22.040 and 23.38.080 to Increase Maximum Building Height Requirements in the Waterfront Zoning District, Ordinance No. 2024-02

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

Francesca Maier - 2146 Hudson Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Maier clarified that she is attending and speaking as a private citizen, and not in her official capacity as a member of the Planning Commission. Ms. Maier expressed opposition to both options presented in Ordinance No. 2024-04 on the agenda and recommended Council refrain from acting on the proposed ordinance and instead, direct staff to address issues concerning the parking code.

No further public comments were offered.

Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing at 6:19 p.m.

4. Proposed Amendment to Richland Municipal Code Section 27.08.040(A)(2) related to Freestanding Signs, Ordinance No. 2024-03

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. No testimony was offered.

5. Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of an Easement Lying within 3353 Village Parkway, Resolution No. 2024-31

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:19 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided comments:

- Francesca Maier – Ms. Maier addressed Council with her concerns relating to existing and upcoming vacancies on the Planning Commission. Ms. Maier urged Council to demonstrate support for these volunteer advisory boards by actively considering their recommendations.
- Matt Murphy – Mr. Murphy introduced himself as the new Director of Government Affairs and Regional Affairs Director for the Tri-City Regional Chamber of

Commerce. Mr. Murphy stated he has already had the opportunity to meet several councilmembers and is looking forward to establishing relationships with the rest. Mr. Murphy shared a goal of collaborating with Council to enhance the quality of life in the Tri-Cities.

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 AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

6. Approval of the February 6, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

See Ordinance Nos. 2024-02, 2024-03, and 2024-04 under **Items of Business**

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

7. Ordinance No. 2024-01, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 3.24.930 and Increasing Uptown Business Improvement District Assessments

Resolutions - Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2024-20, Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Salta, LLC for Property located at 2589 Robertson Drive
9. Resolution No. 2024-21, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with STK Hosford South, LLC, LPRP Hosford South, LLC, 4RT Hosford South, LLC, and SFT Hosford South, LLC for Property located at 600 Cullum Avenue
10. Resolution No. 2024-22, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Dovetail Properties, LLC for Property located at 2573 Robertson Drive
11. Resolution No. 2024-23, Awarding Commercial Façade Improvement Grant Funds to Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Company
12. Resolution No. 2024-24, Approving the Final Plat of South Orchard - Phase One
13. Resolution No. 2024-25, Authorizing Award of Bid to Ellison Earthworks, LLC for Truman Avenue Reconstruction and Kennedy Road Water Main Improvements

14. Resolution No. 2024-26, Authorizing an Agreement with Tapteal Properties, LLC for Easement Relinquishment, Water Pipeline Extension, and Stormwater Conveyance Infrastructure
15. Resolution No. 2024-27, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the North Richland Slow Sand Facility Evaluation
16. Resolution No. 2024-28, Authorizing an Application for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
17. Resolution No. 2024-29, Authorizing a First Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Electric Power Systems, Inc. for Engineering Services Design of the Stevens Substation Bank 1 and Thayer Substation Bank 1 Rebuilds
18. Resolution No. 2024-32, Authorizing a Second Amendment to the 2015 Amended and Restated Master Agreement with Nor Am Investment, LLC for Badger Mountain South

Items - Approval

19. Travel for Councilmember Jones

Expenditures – Approval

20. Expenditures from January 1, 2024 to January 31, 2024 for \$31,367,330.71 including Travel Checks Nos. 20454-20467, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 318944-320096, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 9876-9920, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 13779-13831, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 217917-219053, and Pension Check Nos. 6657-6679.

Items of Business

21. Ordinance No. 2024-02, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 23.22.040, 23.38.080 and 23.22.090 to Increase Maximum Building Height Requirements in the Waterfront Zoning District

Deputy City Manager Schiessl utilized the City's Maps and Geographic Information System (GIS) software to reference the three (3) designated waterfront zoning districts, and the eleven (11) vacant properties within the waterfront district in Richland.

Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-02 would amend Richland Municipal Code Sections 23.22.040, 23.38.080 and 23.38.090 to increase the maximum building height in the Waterfront zoning district from 35-55 feet to 85 feet. Additionally, the proposal will remove the existing allowance for towers, gables, penthouses, scenery, lofts, cupolas, water tanks, similar structures, and mechanical appurtenances from being erected on a building to a height greater than the limit established within the Waterfront zone.

The increased height allowance will allow taller buildings, including multi-family dwellings, leading to an opportunity for increased housing density.

Staff recommended approval of Ordinance No. 2024-02 Option A, which would increase the maximum building height within the Waterfront zone from 55 feet to 85 feet without additional parking regulations.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of Ordinance No. 2024-02 Option B, which approved the 85-foot maximum building height with additional parking requirements. The Planning Commission's additional requirements would take effect when any building exceeds the height of 55 feet and would place a maximum threshold of on-site parking that may not be exceeded (sixty percent (60%) of the minimum parking requirement), require a developer to reduce the amount of surface parking by ten percent (10%), and require the construction of a parking garage to accommodate at least thirty percent (30%) of the required on-site parking.

Both options were presented for Council consideration.

Council discussed at length the proposed ordinance options, the complexity of the parking code, and concerns for allowing applicants to vest under parking requirements currently disfavored by the City Council. Councilmember Maier vocalized an objection to both options presented, and suggested pausing on the question of building height until the parking code could be revised in its entirety. Councilmembers Lukson and Whitten expressed similar interest in comprehensive review of the City's parking ordinances. Mayor Richardson acknowledged Council's consensus to engage in further discussion regarding parking regulations in a workshop setting.

In an effort to find compromise on the action pending before Council, Mayor Richardson made the following motion:

MAYOR RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION (FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES) TO ACCEPT THE HEIGHT AMENDMENT ON PARCELS D & E, CONTINGENT ON COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF THE PARKING DESIGN.

At the request of Councilmember VanDyke, Manager Stevens provided input on the motion, including his opinion that parking regulations and height requirements are development regulations that must be adopted by ordinance. City Attorney Kintzley advised that Ordinance No. 2024-04 (Option A or B) were before Council for action, and that a proper course would be to approve one, or deny both, or table the matter with further direction to staff.

Mayor Richardson inquired as to how to withdraw her motion. City Attorney Kintzley advised to proceed to a vote on the motion recognizing that it would not pass.

THOSE IN FAVOR: NONE. THOSE OPPOSED: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. MOTION

FAILED 0-6.

Councilmember Maier made the following motion in an effort to address Options A and B and Council's general consensus that neither option should advance at this time:

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO REJECT OPTIONS A AND B OF ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 23.22.040, 23.38.080, AND 23.22.090 TO INCREASE MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS IN THE WATERFRONT ZONING DISTRICT.

Prior to calling for a vote, and for purpose of creating a clear record, City Attorney Kintzley clarified that it is unnecessary to vote against an item that the body does not intend to approve. Instead, an item does not advance if there is no motion for approval, or when an item does not receive a second to the original motion. City Attorney Kintzley advised that no vote was required, and that Ordinance No. 2024-02 was not advancing because there was no motion to approve Option A or Option B for first reading. Council concurred with City Attorney Kintzley's summary status of Ordinance No. 2024-02.

22. Ordinance No. 2024-03, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 27.08.040(A)(2) related to Freestanding Signs

Planning Manager Stevens stated that the Richland School District proposed a code amendment to allow freestanding signs on all school campuses. Current language in the code allows freestanding signs only on high school or college campuses. The proposed amendment will provide consistent signage on all school campuses throughout Richland. City staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval of the amendment.

Staff engaged in a brief question and answer session with Council regarding current and proposed signage requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 27.08.040(A)(2) RELATED TO FREESTANDING SIGNS, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

23. Ordinance No. 2024-04, Rezoning Approximately 4.7 Acres from Agricultural (AG) and Suburban Agricultural (SAG) to Retail Business (C-2) (Closed Record)

Mayor Richardson, City Attorney Kintzley, and City Clerk Rogers read the closed record hearing procedures.

Mayor Richardson identified the items that comprise the record for purposes of the closed-record review hearing. The items of record include all documents that were

presented to the Richland Hearing Examiner and accepted into evidence at or prior to the open record public hearing held July 14, 2023, along with the Hearing Examiner's December 6, 2023 written decision and all ordinances and comprehensive plans adopted by the City and applicable to the project.

City Attorney Kintzley asked if any councilmembers had any potential conflicts of interest regarding the topic. No conflicts were disclosed. City Attorney Kintzley asked the audience if anyone had an objection to any councilmember's participation in the closed record review. No objections were raised. Finally, City Attorney Kintzley asked if anyone present had any objection based on jurisdictional grounds as required by the Richland Municipal Code. No objections were raised.

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Planning Manager Stevens presented a request submitted by Columbia Valley Property Holdings, LLC to rezone approximately 4.7 acres from Agricultural (AG) and Suburban Agricultural (SAG) to Retail Business (C-2) for property located at 2155 Keene Road. The Hearing Examiner conducted an open-record public hearing on July 14, 2023 and on December 6, 2023, issued a formal recommendation of approval for the requested rezone, subject to a Property Use and Development Agreement, including a 204-foot buffer to mitigate impacts on adjacent residential areas.

Planning Manager Stevens offered a comprehensive review of the zoning designations, along with details on the land use and development agreement adopted by Richland City Council in 2010 and amended in 2022.

Staff recommends approval of the Property Use and Development Agreement and Ordinance No. 2024-04 as presented, and as recommended by the Hearing Examiner.

- Mark Fickes - 405 E. Lincoln Avenue, Yakima, WA: Mr. Fickes, a land use and real estate attorney representing Columbia Valley Property Holdings, LLC, requested the inclusion of *drive aisles* be incorporated in Conditions 20 and 23 of the Buffer and Screening Requirements. Mr. Fickes stated that excluding drive aisles in the buffer areas would restrict the developer's flexibility in accessing the building, pointing out that the original Property Use and Development (PUD) agreement already allows drive aisles to extend into the buffer area under Conditions 2 and 3.
- Rick Simon - Mr. Simon was in attendance to provide comments on behalf of the applicant, Columbia Valley Property Holdings, LLC. Mr. Simon concurred with the comments offered by Mr. Fickes, then referenced sections of the original PUD agreement regarding anticipated uses. Mr. Simon emphasized that installing a narrow drive aisle along the rezone site's boundary would offer flexibility for future commercial development. Mr. Simon expressed the applicant's agreement with the conditions proposed by staff, the Hearing Examiner, and those outlined in the proposed ordinance.

- Michael Froehlich – Mr. Froehlich, a resident of Country Ridge Estates, provided comments on behalf of the Country Ridge Homeowners Association (HOA) to oppose the addition of any materials by the applicant and expressed support for the proposed ordinance and development agreement as presented.

No other testimony was offered.

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the subject property's land use zoning designation, past, current, and proposed zoning amendments, and buffer area using various maps. Mr. Stevens explained that the buffer area, crucial for protecting Country Ridge Estates residents, prohibits commercial development.

The original Property Use and Development (PUD) Agreement only applied to Lot 4, the residential component. Although the boundary line adjustment revised Lot 3, it did not align with the commercial designation, leading to discussions about the drive aisle during an open-record public hearing.

Staff recommended a boundary line adjustment, but the applicant disagreed, and the Hearing Examiner sided with the Country Ridge residents, opposing the drive aisle and commercial activity within the specified area.

Councilmember Whitten expressed support for the rezone request with conditions provided by the Hearing Examiner. Councilmember Lukson inquired about the drive aisle's discussion during the open-record public hearing. Planning Manager Stevens clarified the discussion and the Hearing Examiner's decision.

Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 4.7 ACRES FROM AGRICULTURAL (AG) TO SUBURBAN AGRICULTURAL (SAG) TO RETAIL BUSINESS (C-2), AS PRESENTED FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

24.Resolution No. 2024-30, Adopting the 2024 Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Transportation & Development Manager D'Alessandro presented a general overview of the updated 2024 Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) which serves as a guiding document for prioritizing traffic safety improvement projects. The updated CSAP incorporates the latest analysis of the most recent five (5) years of traffic crash data to support an application to the Washington State Department of Transportation's City Safety Program, and aligns with the City's Vision Zero goal to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries. Detailed information regarding this item can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation on file.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2027-30, ADOPTING THE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

25. Resolution No. 2024-31, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of a Certain Portion of an Irrigation Easement Lying within 3353 Village Parkway

Public Works Director Rogalsky stated the property owner of 3353 Village Parkway has submitted a request to relinquish a portion of an irrigation easement to accommodate the construction of a swimming pool. The homeowner has provided an alternate easement route to the City. Staff recommends the adoption of this resolution.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-31, DECLARING SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING RELINQUISHMENT OF A CERTAIN PORTION OF AN IRRIGATION EASEMENT LYING WITHIN 3353 VILLAGE PARKWAY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

26. Term Limit Waiver Request for Parks & Recreation Commission Membership: Maria Gutierrez

Deputy City Manager Schiessl explained that Parks & Recreation Commission member, Maria Gutierrez has reached her maximum term limit of twelve (12) consecutive years on the Commission and has reapplied to continue service. The Richland Municipal Code allows Council to waive this limitation for any member of any board, commission, or committee by majority vote (except for the Library Board of Trustees) wishing to continue service. It was noted that since 2005, Council has only granted three (3) term limit waivers.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE TERM LIMIT WAIVER REQUEST FOR PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBER MARIA GUTIERREZ TO SERVE AN ADDITIONAL TERM ON THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

27. Appointment to the Arts Commission: Jet Richardson and Terri Rice

Due to Mayor Richardson's familial connection with a commission member recommended for reappointment, she recused herself from participating in deliberation and voting on the item, turned the meeting over to Councilmember Lukson, then exited the council

chambers.

Council provided comments supporting the reappointment of both members and thanked them for their willingness to continue their volunteer service with the Arts Commission.

Councilmember Lukson offered suggestions on how to fill vacant volunteer positions.

Councilmember Maier reminded Council that public comment was received about recruitment efforts to fill vacant board, commission, and committee positions, and the importance to creating an environment that would draw people to volunteer.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF JET RICHARDSON AND TERRI RICE TO THE ARTS COMMISSION. THOSE IN FAVOR: COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0. MAYOR RICHARDSON ABSTAINED.

Mayor Richardson rejoined the meeting after the vote concluded on Item No. 22. Councilmember Lukson turned the meeting over to Mayor Richardson.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson acknowledged that though it was his idea to implement the Impact Academy, he credited Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, and Fire Chief Huntington for leading the program. City Manager Amundson thanked Council for supporting succession planning and leadership development within all levels of the organization.

Next, City Manager Amundson mentioned partnership opportunities with the County, the Fire Department, and health organizations to install two (2) Automated External Defibrillators (AED) SaveStations on Badger Mountain Trailhead Park trail. This adds to the total of four (4) SaveStations in the area, including those at Howard Amon Park and Columbia Point Marina Park.

Lastly, City Manager Amundson reminded Council about the Executive Session scheduled at the conclusion of Council comments.

City Council

Councilmember Maier offered comments and suggested amendments for Residential Office zoning designations and associated parking regulations. Councilmember Maier expressed encouragement by Council's discussion and input on the matter.

Councilmember Whitten extended congratulations to the Impact Academy graduates for successfully completing the program, expressed enthusiasm for future participants and the positive impact it will have on staff and the City.

Next, Councilmember Whitten welcomed the six (6) new police officers to the City and wished them a safe and extended service in their career.

Lastly, Councilmember Whitten echoed the sentiments of Councilmember Maier on the need to revise the parking code.

Councilmember Jones commended the Impact Academy's potential positive influence on both staff and the entire City. Next, Councilmember Jones expressed interest in receiving an update on the City's efforts relating to homeless encampments and potholes within the City.

Councilmember VanDyke thanked City Manager Amundson and the ELT for supporting the leadership and professional development of staff through the Impact Academy. Councilmember VanDyke stated that in addition to supporting leadership and professional development opportunities for staff who participate in the Impact Academy program, he expressed a willingness to support any opportunity for invest in the professional development for City leadership and the Executive Leadership Team.

Next, Councilmember VanDyke commended Deputy City Manager Schiessl for his involvement related to the Parks & Public Facilities Director Candidate Reception held earlier in the day.

Lastly, Councilmember VanDyke acknowledged Councilmember Jones' representation in Olympia the following day as part of the Tri-Cities Day at the Capitol, an event sponsored by the Tri-Cities Legislative Council.

Councilmember Lukson recounted observations from his visit to remnants of homeless encampments, noting the living conditions he witnessed, and the safety concerns they present within the community. While acknowledging existing County programs for substance abuse and mental health, he expressed concern about insufficient efforts in addressing low-barrier shelters. Councilmember Lukson stated he looks forward to learning what staff is undertaking to address this issue within the city.

While concurring with comments made regarding parking amendments, Councilmember Lukson asked Council to consider staff's workload when assigning tasks. Councilmember Lukson thanked staff for their efforts on the two (2) proposed options relating to the waterfront zoning.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson agreed with Councilmember Lukson that it may be time to discuss what can be done regarding low-barrier shelters. Mayor Richardson stated it was a

substantial council agenda, and acknowledging the busyness of the day, thanked staff for their work.

Executive Session

28. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Legal Counsel (45 minutes)

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL CONVENED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR 45 MINUTES BEGINNING AT 8:00 P.M.

Those present in the executive session included Mayor Richardson and Councilmembers Jones, Lukson, Maier, VanDyke, and Whitten. Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, and City Attorney Kintzley.

COUNCIL EXITED THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:44 P.M.

Adjournment

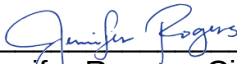
Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 5, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: March 6, 2024