



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

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

Attendance: Mayor Richardson	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kent	Present
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Absent
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Absent
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, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Finance Director Allen, and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Items

1. Benton-Franklin Health District: Columbia River Harmful Algal Bloom Data

Deputy City Manager Schiessl presented the agenda item and stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission has deliberated on the repercussions of toxic algae on recreational activities within the City of Richland. Deputy City Manager Schiessl pointed out that recreational activities and potable water are the two (2) key aspects to consider when discussing toxic algae. The focus of tonight's agenda item is dedicated to addressing the impacts of toxic algae recreational activities.

Deputy City Manager Schiessl turned the floor over to Jim Coleman, a Climate Effects Specialist from Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD). Mr. Coleman began his presentation by providing a lesson on harmful algae blooms (HABs), toxin levels, and negative health effects for both humans and animals following exposure to the toxic algae.

Mr. Coleman explained that in September 2021, portions of the Columbia River shoreline were closed after the deaths of several dogs who were exposed to toxic algae along the shoreline.

In February 2022, an Interlocal Agreement with BFHD and the Cities of Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, and West Richland was executed to allow for routine water sampling

in various locations to mitigate risks posed by HABs to the region's public water supplies.

BFHD has partnered with local and federal agencies, including the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide BFHD with funding, staff, equipment, training, and an established local capacity to screen untreated water samples for the presence of toxins associated with HABs, and HAB impacts.

BFHD will continue to monitor Columbia River with the same methods utilized in 2023 beginning in the spring of 2024. Details can be found in the PowerPoint presentation.

After the presentation, Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Coleman.

2. Downtown Connectivity Improvements Update

Public Works Director Rogalsky outlined the purpose of the workshop, which included a project development review, an update on the implementation plan, an overview of public engagement, and next steps.

Public Works Director Rogalsky reviewed the 2018 and 2024 Council Strategic Plans, emphasizing the goals of enhancing walkability, encouraging residential densities near the Waterfront District, and increasing office and commercial spaces in downtown Richland. The negative impact of George Washington Way on the city's downtown vision was highlighted.

The Downtown Connectivity Study was reviewed, showcasing community collaboration and the involvement of a diverse stakeholder committee. A Technical Alternatives Analysis was conducted, examining four options, and the results of a well-attended ended Open House and survey responses were shared.

A list of Stakeholder Committee members was presented, demonstrating a wide range of community and business representatives involved in the project. The four (4) alternatives considered in the Downtown Connectivity study were outlined: No Build, One-Way Couplet, Jadwin Widening, and Two-Way Road Diet.

The preferred design concept of the Complete Streets road diet was discussed, detailing how it would maintain vehicle capacity while repurposing right-of-way for bicycle space, wider sidewalks, on-street parking, stormwater facilities, and other urban design enhancements. A graph of the Implementation Plan was presented, showing the projected timeline and milestones for the project.

An overview of the project's agency support and funding sources was provided, including commitments from various governmental and local agencies amounting to \$19,759,640 of the total estimated cost of \$22,700,000.

Details of public engagements with the Engineering Design Outreach, Arts Commission, and an Open House were provided.

Public Works Director Rogalsky concluded his presentation by providing an overview of the next steps of the project, which included an amendment to the Engineering Contract, Washington State Stormwater Grant Agreement, and the inclusion of the project in the 2025 - 2030 Capital Improvement Plan, public outreach, and construction contract were discussed.

Details can be found in the PowerPoint presentation. Staff responded to Council inquiries throughout the presentation.

Council thanked Public Works Director Rogalsky and his staff for their contributions to the project and acknowledged their success in securing a substantial amount of funding for the project.

Mayor Richardson relayed positive feedback she received from local business owners about the project.

Closing Comments

City Manager Amundson informed Council that the Kennewick Housing Authority requested the City of Richland to nominate a board member to represent the City of Richland for a five-year term on the Kennewick Housing Authority Board of Directors. It is preferred that the recommended appointee not be a staff member or a councilmember. City Manager Amundson then presented an overview of the recruitment efforts and selection process.

Council briefly discussed the request and reached a consensus to proceed with recruitment efforts to fill the position.

Adjournment

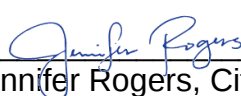
Mayor Richardson adjourned the workshop at 8:22 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 5, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: March 6, 2024