



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 5, 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, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Richardson led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. New Hires and Retirements

The City welcomed six (6) new employees to the City of Richland in February 2024:

- Brittany Grant, Police Officer, Richland Police Department
- Cynthia Nunez, Police Officer, Richland Police Department
- Amador Sanchez, Police Officer, Richland Police Department
- Emily Villafana, Police Officer, Richland Police Department

- Christian Martinez, Maintenance Worker I, Solid Waste Disposal
- Carlos Valenzuela, Plant Operator-in-Training, Wastewater Operations

The City also recognized the retirement of Valerie Markel-Welch, Customer Service Representative, after twenty-three (23) years of dedicated service in the Solid Waste Disposal division.

Public Hearings

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

2. Proposed Repeal and Replacement of Richland Municipal Code Title 24: Plats and Subdivision, Ordinance No. 2024-06

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. No testimony was provided.

3. Proposed Adoption of the 2023 Comprehensive Plan Update Amendments, Ordinance No. 2024-07

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. No testimony was provided.

4. Proposed Amendment to Richland Municipal Code Title 23: Zoning Regulations and the Official Zoning Map of the City of Richland, Ordinance No. 2024-08

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. No testimony was provided.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Karl Dye – President & CEO of the Tri-City Development Council (TRIDEC) shared that the City of Richland received the 2024 Innovation In Economic Development Award at the annual Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) held in Olympia, WA the prior week. This recognition was for successfully implementing the Targeted Urban Area (TUA) tax exemption program.

Mr. Dye then highlighted Atlas Agro's potential positive impact on the community, and urged Council to support and approve the TUA property tax exemption application submitted by Atlas Agro for the Pacific Green Fertilizer project.

- Jeff Lubek – Representing the Port of Benton, Mr. Lubek agreed with Mr. Dye's comments and thanked the City of Richland for its leadership and collaboration with Atlas Agro on the proposed advanced manufacturing project. The project,

anticipated to generate 235 full-time jobs upon completion, aims to support existing value-added agriculture companies and growers while transitioning the region towards a net-zero economy. Mr. Lubek stated the Port of Benton looks forward to maintaining collaborative efforts with the City to ensure the successful realization of the project.

- Gina Zejdlik – Head of Policy and Government Affairs for Atlas Agro thanked Council for considering the TUA tax exemption application submitted by Atlas Agro for the Pacific Green Fertilizer plant. Ms. Zejdlik emphasized Atlas Agro's commitment to revolutionizing the fertilizer industry by utilizing water, air, and renewable energy sources to produce premium fertilizers locally which would transform agriculture by reducing carbon footprint across the region and contribute to the community's sustainable growth.

Ms. Zejdlik acknowledged that as a startup company, Atlas Agro faces several challenges, particularly the necessity of competitive site costs, which are heavily reliant on the availability of tax incentive programs. Ms. Zejdlik applauded the collaborative efforts and proactive culture of Richland, TRIDEC, and the Port of Benton. Ms. Zejdlik concluded by stating the proposed Pacific Green Fertilizer plant would not only create jobs, but also offer a sustainable solution that adds value to local agriculture and to the quality of food consumed.

- Zachary Shaff of Richland, WA spoke in opposition of the TUA tax incentive application submitted by Atlas Agro. Mr. Shaff expressed concerns about the feasibility of the proposed fertilizer project, and urged Council to defer its decision on the TUA application until a comprehensive feasibility study is conducted and reviewed by independent technical experts.
- Josh Valle and Julian Jensen, representatives of the Western States Carpenters Union, advocated for the approval of the TUA application submitted by Atlas Agro. Both speakers highlighted the benefits of the proposed project, emphasizing that by adding local jobs, it would create opportunities for young adults to join a trade through an apprenticeship program. Local union apprentices were also in attendance to show support for the tax incentive request.
- William Santos of Kennewick, WA and Ricil Dorrough supported the TUA application, emphasizing the economic impact of job creation which would benefit the local workforce, apprentices, and the community.
- Randy Slovic of Richland, WA raised questions regarding the Atlas Agro project and shared her continued interest in information relating to a recent dog bite incident in Richland.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar as follows:

Minutes

5. Approval of the February 20, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 27, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

6. Ordinance No. 2024-05, Amending Chapter 7.03 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Animal Control
7. Ordinance No. 2024-12, Dedicating Public Street Right-of-Way for the South Orchard Subdivision

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution 2024-33, Authorizing the City of Richland's Participation in a Settlement Agreement with Johnson & Johnson negotiated by the Washington State Attorney General's Office
10. Resolution No. 2024-35, Authorizing a Fee and Release Agreement with the Columbia Center West (CCW) - East Property Owner's Association
11. Resolution No. 2024-36, Authorizing a Regional Application for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
12. Resolution No. 2024-37, Approving the 2024 Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Funding Awards
13. Resolution No. 2024-38, Authorizing Application and Acceptance of a Community Challenge Grant from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

Items – Approval

14. Appointment to the Board of Adjustment: Carl Van Hoff

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN 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.

Items of Business

15. Resolution No. 2024-39, Approving a Targeted Urban Area Application submitted by Atlas Agro North America Corporation

Economic Development Manager Wallner provided a comprehensive presentation of the Targeted Urban Area (TUA) application submitted by Atlas Agro. The proposed Pacific Green Fertilizer Plant project, to be located at 1500 North Horn Rapids Road, is projected to create 158 direct jobs and up to 298 indirect permanent jobs. The project, valued at \$1.1 billion, will exceed the TUA's minimum project valuation of \$800,000 and will encompass a 518,000 square foot property build-out. The project fulfills the necessary physical and valuation thresholds for the TUA tax exemption.

Following the presentation, Mayor Richardson underscored the importance of Atlas Agro's potential investment in the community, and its interest in hiring locally for engineering and leadership roles.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent expressed support for the project, acknowledging the collective efforts by the Port of Benton, TRIDEC, and city staff. Additionally, Mayor Pro Tem Kent stated that the project aligns with the Department of Energy's Clean Energy Program initiatives and will create a positive impact on local economic development.

Councilmember Maier inquired about the rationale for considering the TUA before the completion of the feasibility study, particularly concerning the power demands of the facility.

Economic Development Manager Wallner responded, acknowledging the hurdles with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and contract negotiations. The current phase is an initial step in the process to secure the site for the feasibility study. The study will primarily focus on ensuring that the science, construction, and siting aspects align with the project's goals. Economic Development Manager Wallner stated there are ample opportunities during the process to reassess if the feasibility study uncovers any concerns. Economic Development Manager Wallner expressed confidence in the security of the City's investment.

Energy Services Director Whitney added that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has conducted a study indicating the feasibility of providing transmission capacity for the project, contingent upon other system improvements. In addition, Energy Services Director Whitney confirmed that the City is in discussions with Atlas Agro to identify their power resource preference, but no decisions have been finalized. Energy Services Director Whitney explained that Atlas Agro would source their power independently, complying with the Northwest Power Act.

Mayor Richardson sought confirmation that Atlas Agro's energy needs would not deplete Richland's supply and that their interconnection would bolster the City's energy system. Energy Services Director Whitney affirmed that the project would introduce additional interconnections, improving overall capacity without drawing from BPA's federal resources, as Atlas Agro will source their power independently. Energy Services Director Whitney further clarified that Atlas Agro will not deplete Richland's energy supply, and their interconnection will add capacity, making the City's energy system more robust.

Councilmember Whitten inquired about potential repercussions if the feasibility study fails post-approval of the tax exemption. Economic Development Manager Wallner responded that the City will have contractual protections, with the ability to dissolve the agreement if the project does not materialize within the stipulated timeframe.

Council expressed support for the Atlas Agro project, with individual councilmembers highlighting the anticipated economic benefits, job creation, and alignment with clean energy initiatives.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-39, APPROVING A TARGETED URBAN AREA APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY ATLAS AGRO NORTH AMERICA CORPORATION. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

City Attorney Kintzley stated that after the closed-record review hearing held on February 20, 2024, she was contacted by the applicant's attorney, Mark Fickes, with concerns regarding staff's interpretation of Condition Nos. 20 and 23 in the proposed Property Use and Development Agreement (PUDA). City Attorney Kintzley stated that before Council deliberates on final approval of the item, she wanted to provide clarification on the Hearing Examiner's intent regarding the conditions of approval listed in his December 2023 recommendation.

City Attorney Kintzley shared that the issue centered around staff's interpretation of PUDA Condition Nos. 20 and 23 that would not allow the previously approved driveway location in the buffer. Condition No. 2 in the same proposed PUDA provides that "[t]he location/establishment of driveways for Parcel 3 have been pre-approved as a result of The Terraces at Queensgate PUD project. Additional and/or relocated driveways onto Parcel 3 will not be allowed." City Attorney Kintzley confirmed in the record for Ordinance No. 2023-07/PUD 2022-101 that the driveway locations for access from Keene were established through that land use action. Given that Condition No. 2 is inconsistent with staff's interpretation of Condition Nos. 20 and 23, the City Attorney contacted the Richland Hearing Examiner for clarification. Hearing Examiner Gary McLean confirmed his position that the previously approved driveways for access to Parcel 3 from Keene are not prohibited by the language in Condition Nos. 20 and 23, and the three (3) conditions read together (Nos. 2, 20 and 23) reflect that the driveway is allowed.

Councilmember Maier questioned why Mr. Fickes requested the redline addition of “drive aisles” to the proposed PUDA if the driveways were already allowed based on a previous land use decision. City Attorney Kintzley explained she believes the applicant sought the amendment as a precautionary measure in response to staff’s interpretation of Condition Nos. 20 and 23.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 4.7 ACRES FROM AGRICULTURAL (AG) AND SUBURBAN AGRICULTURAL (SAG) TO RETAIL BUSINESS (C-2), FOR SECOND READING AND PASSAGE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

17. Ordinance No. 2024-06, Repealing and Replacing Richland Municipal Code Title 24: Plats and Subdivision

Planning Manager Stevens explained that the proposed code amendments are a result of years of collaboration between various staff members and departments. Planning Manager Stevens highlighted the significant changes to Title 24. The adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-06 will update the process and procedures surrounding the City's various land division actions such as short plats, subdivisions, and binding site plans. The ordinance also codifies review processes for exempt land segregation and boundary line adjustments.

On October 25, 2023, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and recommend approval of the proposed changes to Title 24 RMC.

Council provided feedback and engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-06, REPEALING AND REPLACING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 24: PLATS AND SUBDIVISION, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

18. Ordinance No. 2024-07, Adopting the 2023 Comprehensive Plan Amendments into the existing 2017 Comprehensive Plan.

Planning Manager Stevens explained that the City accepts applications for amendment to its land use regulations and Comprehensive Plan on an annual basis. During the 2023 amendment cycle, the following proposals were processed and are before Council for approval:

- Nicole Stickney, AHBL, on behalf of Washington State University, requests to change the Comprehensive Plan Land Use designation for 3.7 acres of an existing 19.62-acre parcel from Public Facility (PBF) to High-Density Residential (HDR), to be accompanied by a rezone of 3.37 acres from Parks & Public Facilities (PPF) to Multi-Family Residential (R-3).
- Washington State University (WSU) requests text amendments to both the Comprehensive Plan and RMC Title 23: Zoning to create a new zoning district to be referred to as University District (UNIV). Zoning map amendments would also be required. Although this action is a city-wide initiative, the new zoning district would only apply to properties associated with institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.07.020(4) or 28B.10.016(4).
- MD&D Investment, LLC requests a change to the Badger Mountain Subarea Plan Land Use designations to reclassify portions of five (5) parcels to reapportion the existing land use designations Medium-Density Residential (MDR), Civic (CIVIC), and Commercial (COM). This proposal is intended to contemporize land use designations in the area based on recent boundary line adjustments and the topographical challenges associated with extension of Gage Blvd.
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requests a Comprehensive Plan Map amendment for approximately 16 acres of land from Public Facilities (PBF) to Medium-Density Residential (MDR).
- AHBL on behalf of City of Richland Economic Development Division requests a Comprehensive Plan Map amendment for approximately 4.3 acres (no assigned parcel number) to classify the property as a Commercial (COM) land use (24 Lawless Dr.).
- The City of Richland Public Works Department requests Comprehensive Plan text amendments to the Transportation Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan to reflect routine and anticipated changes that have been made over the past 6 years and in anticipation of future needs. Changes include, but are not limited to street functional classification, short-term transportation improvements, long-term transportation improvements, future impacts to the City's collector street system, the City's traffic impact fee program, and amending the level-of-service language to meet concurrence requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07, ADOPTING THE 2023 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS INTO THE EXISTING 2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

19. Ordinance No. 2024-08, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 23: Zoning Regulations and the City's Official Zoning Map to Conform to the Updated 2017 Comprehensive Plan

Planning Manager Stevens advised that his presentation for Ordinance No. 2024-08 is the same as that made for Ordinance No. 2024-07, and that the purpose of Ordinance No. 2024-08 is to incorporate the development regulation and comprehensive plan changes approved by Ordinance No. 2024-07 into the Richland Municipal Code and the Official Zoning Map of the City of Richland.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-08, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 23: ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE CITY'S OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO CONFORM TO THE UPDATED 2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

20. Ordinance No. 2024-09, Rezoning Three Parcels of Property at 801 Dalton Street from Business and Commerce (B-C) to Medium Industrial (I-M) (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 November 13, 2023, along with the Hearing Examiner's January 30, 2024 written recommendation 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 closed-record review hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Development Services Director utilized several maps to reference the parcels proposed for rezoning, all while offering an overview of the proposed rezone application.

No comments were offered by the applicant or the public.

Mayor Richardson closed the closed-record review hearing at 7:37 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-09, REZONING THREE PARCELS OF PROPERTY AT 801 DALTON STREET FROM BUSINESS AND COMMERCE (B-C) TO MEDIUM INDUSTRIAL (I-M), FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

21. Ordinance No. 2024-10, Rezoning Approximately 366 Acres near Twin Bridges Road and State Highway 240 from Agricultural (AG) to Public Parks & Facilities (PPF) (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 September 11, 2023, along with the Hearing Examiner's January 30, 2024 written recommendation 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 closed-record review hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Development Services Director Jenson showed the parcels on a vicinity map and offered an overview of the proposed rezone application for property located west of the Horn Rapids Landfill and north of SR-240. The area is currently zoned as Agricultural (AG) but has been used for recreational activities for decades. The request for a zone change aims to align the official zoning with the City's vision for the property. No public input was received at the open record public hearing. Staff recommends approval.

No comments were offered by the applicant or the public.

Mayor Richardson closed the closed-record review hearing at 7:45 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-10, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 366 ACRES NEAR TWIN BRIDGES ROAD AND STATE HIGHWAY 240 FROM AGRICULTURAL (AG) TO PUBLIC PARKS & FACILITIES (PPF), FOR

FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

22. Ordinance No. 2024-11, Rezoning One Parcel of Property at 953 Jericho Court from Retail Business (C-2) to General Business (C-3) (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 January 8, 2024, along with the Hearing Examiner's January 30, 2024 written recommendation 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 closed-record review hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Development Services Director used several maps to refer to the parcels proposed for rezoning, all while offering an overview of the proposed rezone application.

No comments were offered by the applicant or the public.

Mayor Richardson closed the closed-record review hearing at 7:51 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2024-11, REZONING ONE PARCEL OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 953 JERICO COURT FROM RETAIL BUSINESS (C-2) TO GENERAL BUSINESS (C-3), FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. 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 had no comments.

City Council

Councilmembers Lukson and VanDyke had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked representatives of the Western States Carpenters Union for their attendance at tonight's meeting to support the TUA application, and extended appreciation to the apprentices for sharing their story. Next, Mayor Pro Tem Kent commended City Manager Amundson and staff for diligently preparing the agenda and ensuring a seamless meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Kent highlighted the significant improvements in process and protocol over the years, specifically mentioning the enhanced quality of the closed-record hearing script.

Councilmember Jones acknowledged March as National Women's History Month.

Councilmember Whitten thanked members of the Western States Carpenters Union for their attendance and voiced support for the union and all trades. He emphasized the importance of supporting trades, particularly for young men, as learning a trade is a source of pride that motivates many individuals.

Next, Councilmember Whitten announced that the Arts Commission will meet on March 6, 2024 to discuss an alternate location for one of the Bernard Hosey art sculptures recently donated to the City of Richland. Lastly, Councilmember Whitten shared that he will participate in a ride-along with the Richland Police Department on Friday.

Councilmember Maier commended staff for their efforts in updating certain sections of the Richland Municipal Code and urged the prioritization of updates to the parking code. Next, Councilmember Maier expressed concern over the one (1) appointment to the Board of Adjustment and offered his assistance in any capacity needed to address existing vacancies.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson encouraged her fellow councilmembers to contact her or City Manager Amundson prior to the meeting if they would like to pull an agenda item from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Early notification will allow the appropriate staff an opportunity to be present and prepared.

Next, Mayor Richardson mentioned her attendance at Benton County Therapeutic Court's drug-court graduation ceremony, which celebrates the completion of a year-long engagement program designed to support individuals recovering from addiction. Upon successful completion of the program, criminal charges are dismissed, which symbolizes a fresh start for each drug-court participant.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 19, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: March 21, 2024