



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

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

Attendance: Mayor Richardson	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kent	Present
Councilmember Jones	Absent
Councilmember Lukson	Absent
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro, Interim Chief of Police Meidl, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Items

1. Hanford Site Update

Brian Vance, Office of River Protection & Richland Operations Office Manager, began his presentation by highlighting the ongoing relationship between the City, the Department of Energy, and the Hanford Site. The Hanford Site, once focused on plutonium production for national security (1943-1989), is now dedicated solely to environmental cleanup.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Vance detailed various cleanup efforts, including treating 2 billion gallons of groundwater annually, soil remediation, demolishing old, contaminated facilities, and building new facilities, such as the waste treatment plant, which is a \$9 billion project.

The Hanford Site is 586 square miles and includes fifty (50) miles of the Columbia River, making it the largest Office of Environmental Management site of the fifteen (15) in the United States.

Key priorities for the Hanford Site include workforce health and safety, transitioning from traditional demolition to continuous operations, and ensuring fair contractor relationships. The site operates with several contractors responsible for different aspects of cleanup and infrastructure management, making it a comprehensive cleanup effort comparable to managing a county.

Mr. Vance also stressed the importance of engaging with a broad range of stakeholders to build awareness and support, which is crucial for securing congressional funding. Broad support and recognition of the Site's success make it easier to obtain the necessary \$3 billion-plus annually. Mr. Vance highlighted the significant federal investment in the cleanup effort, amounting to about \$65.8 billion since 1989.

The Hanford Site contributes to the local economy by supporting around 13,000 employees and subcontracting work to small businesses in the area, reinforcing its role as the largest employment enterprise and economic foundation in the Tri-Cities. Mr. Vance emphasized the importance of maintaining a thriving community to avoid negative perceptions that could impact the region's reputation and economy.

The presentation also outlined the "One Hanford" team concept, integrating six different contractors to ensure cohesive operations. These contractors handle various aspects, from tank farms and waste treatment to occupational medical services and infrastructure maintenance. The Department of Energy integrates these efforts to ensure all contractors work effectively together toward advance the Site's mission. Detailed information can be found in Mr. Vance's PowerPoint presentation.

Following the presentation, Mr. Vance engaged in a question-and-answer session with Council.

2. 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program Presentation

Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro explained the purpose of the workshop was to prepare Council for a public hearing scheduled on June 4, 2024 regarding the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). State law (RCW 35.77.010) mandates that each city annually develop and adopt a comprehensive TIP for the upcoming six calendar years. The proposed TIP is a state-wide coordinated financial planning document that will guide the City's transportation system improvements.

The TIP is crafted collectively by several stakeholders including cities, counties, transit agencies, regional planning organizations, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. The essence of the TIP is to identify transportation system improvements that may qualify for funding in the succeeding six-year planning horizon.

The City's approach to prioritizing projects on the TIP is stratified. Higher priority projects that are either fully or partially funded are listed in the early years of the six-year period while lower priority, unfunded projects appear closer to the end of this period.

Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro detailed a range of projects that have been removed, as well as new projects added. In total, forty-two (42) projects are included in the draft TIP. The draft TIP was posted on the City's website to allow for public input, was reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission for active transportation elements, and was reviewed by the Planning Commission for Comprehensive Plan compliance.

Recommendations from both Commissions will be forwarded to Council for review and consideration at the June 4, 2024 regular meeting. Lastly, Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro detailed the pathway forward by laying out key dates for drafts, public meetings, and site submissions. Detailed information on the proposed 2025-2030 TIP is included in the agenda packet.

Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro responded to Council inquiries throughout the presentation.

3. Chapter 9.16 RMC - Public Nuisance Noise

City Attorney Kintzley's presentation on Chapter 9.16 of the Richland Municipal Code (RMC) focused on proposed amendments to the City's Nuisance Noise regulations. The proposed amendments, introduced by Deputy City Manager Schiessl at the April 16, 2024 regular meeting via Ordinance No. 2024-18, included establishing parameters for the permit approval process, placing an annual limit on the issuance of permits per location, exempting city-hosted events, designating a responsible city department to oversee the permit process, creating an appeal opportunity, and introducing a permit application fee.

Ordinance No. 2024-18 did not advance due to a lack of motion, indicating the need for further discussion and refinement.

City Attorney Kintzley touched briefly on the Noise Control Act of 1974 before walking Council through the history of Richland's nuisance noise ordinance. Details are available in City Attorney Kintzley's PowerPoint presentation. City Attorney Kintzley then provided an overview of the three (3) major approaches used in Washington cities and counties for noise control, which include the adoption of decibel-based noise control provisions, the adoption of public disturbance noise standards, or a combination of both approaches.

City Attorney Kintzley addressed specific concerns raised previously by Council during first reading of Ordinance No. 2024-18 on April 16, 2024, including the rationale behind limiting permits to two (2) per year, the appropriateness of classifying violations as misdemeanors versus infractions, and the opportunity to provide notice prior to issuing citations. City Attorney Kintzley reiterated the purpose of the proposed edits is to continue the trend of refining the regulations governing public nuisance noise to better serve the community's needs.

Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with City Attorney Kintzley throughout the presentation.

City Manager Amundson addressed the need for amendments to accommodate compatibility and mixed use in different areas. The Central Business District would have longer hours compared to residential areas. He suggested starting with a baseline ordinance and adjusting as needed.

At the conclusion of the discussion, there was consensus among Council to maintain the classification of a misdemeanor for violating the nuisance noise ordinance, provided that notice is given. Additionally, the two (2) per year permit limit was endorsed as a place to start with the recognition that adjustments can be made if so warranted.

Executive Session

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

COUNCIL CONVENED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES AT 8:35 P.M.

Individuals present included Mayor Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, and Councilmembers Maier, VanDyke and Whitten. Also present were City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Finance Director Allen, and Information Technology Manager Vijayan.

COUNCIL MOVED OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:14 P.M.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson returned to the dais and adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

APPROVED:


Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: June 4, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: June 5, 2024