



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 18, 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 (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember VanDyke	Present (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember Whitten	Present

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Whitten led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the pledge of allegiance, Councilmember Maier joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission Presentation

Chris Highley, Region IV Senior Resident Inspector for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) assigned to the Columbia Generating Station, presented an overview of the agency's role and operations. The presentation covered the NRC oversight process, focusing on inspection, assessment, enforcement, allegations and investigations.

Geoff Miller, Director of Operating Reactor Safety for the NRC's Region IV Office, was also present. Mr. Miller introduced himself and explained his role within the NRC. He shared that the Columbia Generating Station is currently the subject of additional inspections due to past performance issues and that the facility has taken several actions to ensure the site's corrective actions are effective over time.

In conclusion, Mr. Highley provided a summary of the materials he brought for the public. Following the presentation, Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Highley and Mr. Miller. Additional details are available in Mr. Highley's PowerPoint presentation in the agenda packet.

2. Benton-Franklin Council of Governments Presentation

Michelle Holt, Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG) Executive Director, explained that BFCOG is a voluntary association of cities, counties, and port districts in Benton and Franklin counties. Established in 1966, its purpose includes improving communication, multi-jurisdictional decision-making, and regional planning with a focus on transportation, economic development and land use, and provision of multi-jurisdictional programs.

Ms. Holt further explained that BFCOG holds multiple designations, including Council of Governments, Regional Planning Commission, Metropolitan Planning Organization/ Transportation Management Area, Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and Economic Development District. These roles involve studying regional issues, making recommendations to legislative bodies, and acting as a conduit between member jurisdictions and state and federal programs for planning and development activities.

Ms. Holt provided an overview of the purpose of the agencies mentioned and summarized the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Regional Bicycle Plan and Biennial Regional Traffic Count Program, Regional System Analysis with WSDOT Safe Streets & Roads for All, Benton-Franklin Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Action Plan, the Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, and the recruitment information for a new grant navigator position.

Ms. Holt then invited Council to share topics of regional concern and to brainstorm ways BFCOG might be able to assist. Following the presentation, Ms. Holt engaged in a

question-and-answer session with Council. Detailed information is available in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedure.

No public comments were offered.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

3. Approval of the June 4, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

4. Ordinance No. 2024-22, Amending Chapter 9.16 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Public Nuisance Noise
5. Ordinance No. 2024-21, Rezoning Approximately 26.3 Acres located at 1251 Bermuda Road from Agriculture (AG) to Medium Density Residential - Small Lots (R-2S) (Closed Record)

Resolutions – Adoption

6. Resolution No. 2024-77, Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Property located at 2443 Henderson Loop
7. Resolution No. 2024-78, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Sale of Property Located at 24 Lawless Drive
8. Resolution No. 2024-81, Authorizing an Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Ecology on behalf of Hanford Communities

9. Resolution No. 2024-82, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Office of Public Defense for Participation in the Simple Possession Advocacy and Representation Program

Items – Approval

10. Appointment to the Americans with Disabilities Act Citizens Review Committee: Autumn Chamberlin

Expenditures - Approval

11. Expenditures from May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024 for \$35,732,632.06 including Travel Checks Nos. 20523-20560, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 322697-323875, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10054-10102, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 14007-14060, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 223198-224424, and Pension Check Nos. 6748-6769.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Items of Business

12. Resolution No. 2024-79, Authorizing a Cooperative Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the South George Washington Way Project

With the aid of a PowerPoint Presentation, Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro provided an overview of the proposed cooperative agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the South George Washington Way Project. The project, located south of the George Washington Way and Columbia Point Drive/Adams Street intersection, is included in the 2024-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The proposed agreement covers the design, right-of-way, and advertisement phases of the project to ensure WSDOT standards and design guidelines are followed where applicable, and that WSDOT is included in the review process.

Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro stated that the estimated construction cost is \$2.8 million, with bidding scheduled for late August or early September 2024. Construction is set to begin in the spring of 2025, with a construction schedule of 16-18 weeks. Any future cooperative agreements pertaining to the construction phase of the project will be under a separate agreement brought to Council for review and approval.

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

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-79, AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SOUTH GEORGE WASHINGTON WAY PROJECT. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

13. Resolution No. 2024-80, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Energy West LLC to support New Large Single Loads and Wholesale Power Management

Energy Services Director Whitney provided an overview of the proposed consultant agreement with Energy West LLC to support the New Large Single Load (NLSL) and wholesale power management.

The primary focus of the agreement is to manage the power needs for Atlas Agro, which will require power greater than ten (10) megawatts (MW) in a twelve-month period. This significant load is classified by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) as a NLSL, and federal power cannot be utilized to serve this new economic development load.

The agreement with Energy West LLC, a company based in Moses Lake, WA, spans five (5) years. This period covers the remaining time before Atlas Agro's project construction is complete and accommodates potential changes in power contracts.

Additionally, the agreement will help navigate complexities related to wholesale power management, transmission, and compliance with Washington State's Climate Commitment Act. Upcoming legislative decisions in 2025 will aid in determining whether the City or BPA should construct and maintain the transmission lines and substation for Atlas Agro.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-80, AUTHORIZING A CONSULTANT AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY WEST LLC TO SUPPORT NEW LARGE SINGLE LOADS AND WHOLESALE POWER MANAGEMENT. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson was absent. Deputy City Manager Schiessl reported that the Cool Desert Nights event will return on Friday, June 21, 2024, starting with a concert at John Dam Plaza.

Next, Deputy City Manager Schiessl announced that street resurfacing efforts are underway in central Richland and reminded motorists to be cautious around construction zones. He then outlined the upcoming agenda items for the June 25, 2024 City Council workshop meeting.

Lastly, Deputy City Manager Schiessl touched briefly on the City's current carbon credit balance and the fact that the City has received advice from an industry consultant to auction half of its carbon credits in the near future. An upcoming initiative could potentially repeal the Climate Commitment Act, which could impact the value of the City's carbon credits. The City plans to take a conservative approach by selling half of the credits in an auction in September.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson noted that the meeting was largely focused on energy and thanked staff for their contributions.

Councilmember Jones had no comments.

Councilmember Whitten began by responding to two questions posed Councilmember Jones during the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission presentation. He replied that that Energy Northwest has roughly 1,100 employees and generates approximately 1,150 MW of energy, which constitutes about ten percent of Washington's energy production. He noted that the nearest nuclear power station is nearly 1,000 miles away in California.

Councilmember Whitten then shared his enjoyable experience at the Columbia Basin BMX event and the Richland Regatta this past weekend. He also mentioned his informative tour of the Benton County Mosquito Control facility and shared the reason why there was a notable reduction in the number of mosquitos in the area this past spring.

Lastly, Councilmember Maier recommended increased parking enforcement by the Richland Police Department to address parked vehicles on sidewalks, particularly around bus stops and intersections.

Councilmember VanDyke reported that he attended a Port of Benton Commission meeting, during which they discussed the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Port of Benton Commissioner Roy D. Keck will provide an update to Council in the near future.

Councilmember VanDyke then stated he is currently in Vancouver, WA attending the annual Association of Washington Cities (AWC) meeting. He added that he looks forward to briefing Council on various workshop sessions. Councilmember VanDyke thanked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) representatives for their attendance and presentation, and is looking forward to continued discussion of the challenges mentioned.

Councilmember Maier also thanked representatives of the NRC for their presentation, and for their willingness to engage with the attendees. He then expressed disappointment for not being able to attend the Cool Desert Nights event, but hoped the event would be successful. Councilmember Maier concluded by encouraging everyone to attend the event.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson reported that she attended the Richland Chamber of Commerce meeting earlier in the day where she observed a high level of energy and planning around the Cool Desert Nights event. Mayor Richardson encouraged anyone available to consider volunteering.

Mayor Richardson then shared her experience observing 911 dispatch at SECOMM this past Saturday evening. She commended staff for their calmness and professionalism. Despite the staff shortage, the team managed their duties gracefully and supported each other efficiently. Mayor Richardson encouraged other councilmembers to visit SECOMM, suggesting it could aid in recruiting suitable candidates for such a demanding environment.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 2, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: July 3, 2024