



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 4, 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 (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember Whitten	Present

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. New Hires and Retirements

A video featuring seven (7) new hires for May 2024 was played for the audience. There were no retirements to recognize.

Public Hearing

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

2. 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution No. 2024-76

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

- Myra Oakes - 1115 Catskill Street, Richland, WA: Mrs. Oakes described the deteriorating condition of Catskill Street, which has been patched many times over the years but never repaved. She stated that the street is heavily traversed and should be included in the Transportation Improvement Program to lay down a new street.
- Maurice Twitchell - 1710 Del Cambre Loop, Richland, WA: Mr. Twitchell described his positive experiences with roundabouts in England and highlighted their traffic flow efficiency. Mr. Twitchell suggested the City of Richland adopt similar practices to improve the efficiency of roundabouts within the city.

No other testimony was received.

Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Senator Perry Dozier, representing the 16th Legislative District, introduced himself and noted that Richland is now part of the 16th District as a result of redistricting. He emphasized his commitment to understanding and addressing the issues in Richland to better serve the City and the District.
- Sara Egbert of Richland, WA shared concerns over her children's safety while biking to school, and advocated for better biking infrastructure, including physical barriers and increased lighting to ensure safer routes for children.
- Randy Slovic of Richland, WA recounted a near head-on collision caused by a reckless driver at the George Washington Way and McMurray Street intersection and emphasized the need for improved safety measures. She offered solutions then reiterated the importance of prioritizing pedestrian safety.
- Laila Krowiak of Richland, WA commended Council for allocating funding for its Safe Routes to School plan. She then acknowledged the improvements made in recent years to ensure pedestrian and bicycle safety but expressed frustration over years of inaction. Mrs. Krowiak emphasized the need for a stronger commitment to fund additional solutions to achieve Vision Zero, the City's strategy to eliminate

traffic related injuries and fatalities.

- Francesca Maier of Richland, WA began by praising the \$3.5 million funding for the Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements and highlighted specific enhancements such as the raised crosswalk at Jefferson Elementary and the cut-through path to Davison Avenue. She emphasized that such measures significantly enhance safety for children. Mrs. Maier then expressed frustration with the lack of compliance among parents in school zones, citing personal experiences where vehicles are parked improperly, creating unsafe conditions.

Mrs. Maier also commented on the public engagement aspect of the Safe Routes to School plan, pointing out that it was conducted by an out-of-town consultant who relied on cell phone data to estimate bike and pedestrian volume rather than firsthand observations such as bike rack counts at schools. She concluded by stating the plan does not adequately reflect incidents of traffic violence.

- Myra Oakes of Richland, WA, a longtime golfer, expressed her dissatisfaction over the lack of a permanent restroom facility at the Columbia Point Golf Course, which has offered portable toilets since its establishment in 1997. She further pointed out that there is no designated restroom facility for women only. Mrs. Oakes called for the installation of proper restrooms with flushing toilets and handwashing facilities.
- Kara Kirk of Richland, WA stated that she bikes with her children to school on a regular basis, then recounted a near-accident with a pedestrian due to unclear speed limits. Ms. Kirk emphasized the need for additional dedicated bike lanes and improved signage to ensure safety for both pedestrians and bikers, particularly in high-traffic areas and near schools such as Chief Joseph Middle School.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

3. Approval of the May 21, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 28, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 2024-22, Amending Chapter 9.16 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Public Nuisance Noise

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions – Adoption

5. Resolution No. 2024-71, Establishing the 2024 Docket of Comprehensive Plan Policies, Maps and Development Regulation Amendments
6. Resolution No. 2024-72, Authorizing an Agreement with Cloudburst Consulting Group, Inc. for the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, 2025 Annual Action Plan and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Plan
7. Resolution No. 2024-73, Authorizing Award of Bid to Apollo, Inc. for Wastewater Treatment Plant Gas Burner and Boiler Replacement
8. Resolution No. 2024-74, Adopting of the Safe Routes to School Plan and Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program **(PULLED BY COUNCILMEMBER JONES AND RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AT ITEM NO. 12)**
9. Resolution No. 2024-75, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Atlas Agro for Water Supply

Items - Approval

None.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. 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

10. 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 - First Reading)

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 on April 8, 2024, along with the Hearing Examiner's May 3, 2024 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 6:35 p.m.

Utilizing maps as a visual aid, Planning Manager Stevens presented a request submitted by Alex Rietman, on behalf of MD&D Investments, LLC, to rezone 26.3-acres located at 1251 Bermuda Road from Agriculture (AG) to Medium Density Residential - Small Lots (R-2S). The Hearing Examiner conducted an open-record public hearing on April 8, 2024, and issued a formal recommendation of approval for the requested rezone on May 3, 2024.

No other testimony was offered.

Mayor Richardson closed the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE 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), 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.

11. Resolution No. 2024-76, Adopting the 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro summarized the City's 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), an ongoing planning document that guides the City's transportation improvement initiatives as mandated by state law. The TIP is developed in coordination with local and regional agencies.

The TIP encompasses various projects including transportation projects, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other transportation enhancements. Staff assigns priority levels to projects and document funding sources and amounts. Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro detailed the annual public involvement process including meetings before Richland's Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning Commission. Both commissions reviewed the proposed 2025-2030 TIP, received public input, and favorably recommended adoption.

Overall, the TIP encompasses approximately seventy (70) different improvements city-wide. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation included in the

agenda packet.

Following the presentation, Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff. Questions included topics such as how projects are prioritized, the scoring metrics used, and whether a public dashboard could be made available to help citizens see the projects, their priority rating, and their status.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-76, ADOPTING THE 2025-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

12. Resolution No. 2024-74, Adopting the Safe Routes to School Plan and Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program **(FORMERLY ITEM NO. 8 UNDER CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Councilmember Jones sought clarification on whether the data submitted for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) grant includes all injuries or only accidents with property damage exceeding \$1,000. Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro replied that injuries and property damage data are included in the data source.

Councilmember Maier urged the City to report crash data frequently to WSDOT, regardless of injury or property damage value, to ensure the City is relying on accurate data.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent inquired whether the City's grant application to the WSDOT Safe Routes to School Program complied with the program's requirements for submittal. Interim Public Works Director D'Alessandro replied in the affirmative.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-74, ADOPTING THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN AND AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM. 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 invited Council and citizens to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony for the outdoor National Fitness Court at Howard Amon Park on Thursday, June 6, 2024. The Fitness Court's construction was generously funded by the Lodging Tax Advisory

Committee and provides a free opportunity for exercise.

Next, City Manager Amundson announced the City has launched EnerGov, an online portal for plan reviews, permits, and inspections. The system allows for permit payments, tracking of inspections, and viewing ongoing projects.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson expressed anticipation for the opening of the Fitness Court.

Councilmember Maier reported that the Ben Franklin Transit Board of Directors Hiring Committee is progressing well with interviews for the agency's next Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Councilmember Maier then reiterated the importance of accurate data and supported pedestrian counting, particularly around schools. He noted the need to establish baseline data and mentioned his efforts to understand and improve the accuracy of the WSDOT crash database. In conclusion, Councilmember Maier reiterated his commitment to ensuring the database's accuracy and promised to keep advocating for improvements.

Councilmember Whitten emphasized the importance of accurate data, especially for pedestrian vehicle incidents, as inaccuracies can significantly affect the results of the crash database. He stated that while the data can't be perfect, it can always be improved.

Next, Councilmember Whitten shared that he attended an event at Atomic Bowl on June 1, 2024 to celebrate the addition of new pinsetters. He then shared his experience bowling with 15-time world champion Jason Belmonte. Participants engaged in a friendly competition to raise a donation for the Tri-Cities Food Bank.

Finally, Councilmember Whitten announced an upcoming Art Walk event to be held at the Uptown on June 8, 2024. He noted that members of the Uptown had recently attended an Arts Commission meeting to seek assistance in enhancing the area's walkability and artistic appeal, particularly in the alleyways. Uptown members were directed to work with city staff, and perhaps recommendations will be presented to Council for review and approval in the near future.

Councilmember Jones thanked staff for their presentations and reiterated that accurate data is crucial for making valid funding requests and addressing issues within the city. She then suggested the use surveillance cameras to issue traffic tickets to encourage better driving behavior. In conclusion, Councilmember Jones advocated for reduced speed limits on busy roads to improve safety and manage traffic.

Councilmember VanDyke expressed appreciation for the comments on data sets and stated he believes the information presented is accurate for its intended purpose and cautioned Council against using the term "accuracy." Instead, he advocated for inclusivity of more detailed data sets specific to the community, while retaining baselines.

Additionally, Councilmember VanDyke thanked the Mid-Columbia Ballet for their long-standing contributions to the arts and community. He conveyed that Mid-Columbia Ballet staff expressed appreciation to city staff for their continued support.

Next, he shared his positive experience participating in a strategy session with Washington VERTical, noting the fresh approach to strategy and mission consolidation.

Lastly, Councilmember VanDyke shared that he and Mayor Richardson participated in a recent legislative update, and thanked Senator Dozier for his attendance. Councilmember VanDyke expressed optimism about last year's legislative engagement and anticipates continued focus and communication of those priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked Interim Public Works D'Alessandro and his team for the completion and successful approval of the TIP and the WSDOT SRTS program grant application. She then shared personal observations regarding art and music recently experienced at the Port Angeles Farmers Market and suggested similar community activities for Richland. She commended the Arts Commission's efforts to make Uptown spaces more art friendly and encouraged the expansion of these efforts to include music and other activities.

Next, Mayor Pro Tem Kent encouraged residents to participate in the National Community Survey to provide input on city services and priorities. The Open Participation Survey is open through June 28, 2024. Those who are interested in learning more can visit the City's website for additional information.

Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Kent announced that the Richland Farmers Market will be opening soon and encouraged everyone to visit and to shop locally.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson thanked the councilmembers for their community engagement and efforts beyond their regular roles. She then thanked Senator Dozier for attending tonight's meeting, and for his significant influence on the City.

Mayor Richardson then highlighted a ribbon-cutting event she attended for the opening of Burns & McDonnell, an engineering, construction, and architectural firm. She wished the firm success, expressed her enjoyment of attending opening ceremonies, and encouraged others to attend opening ceremonies when possible.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: June 18, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: June 19, 2024