



MINUTES
RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 2, 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	Absent
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER JONES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire Chief Huntington, 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, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember VanDyke led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

- 1. New Hires and Retirements

A video featuring the new hires and retirements for June 2024 was played for the audience.

The City welcomed four (4) new employees to the City of Richland in June 2024.

- Toni Ulam - Accountant, Finance Division
- Damian Mendoza - Utility Craftsworker, Wastewater Maintenance Division
- Jose Munoz - Laborer, Parks & Facilities Division
- Tracey Boise - Police Public Records Specialist, Police Services Division

Additionally, the Library gained a new mascot, Thesaurus “Theo” Rex.

The City recognized the retirement of three (3) employees in June.

- Steve Ver Steeg retired after twenty (20) years of service with the City. Steve began his career in 2004 as a Systems Electrician and held various electrician roles over the years, culminating in his retirement as an Electrician III with the Parks & Facilities Division.
- Shawna Jackson-Bussell retired after twenty-two (22) years of service with the City. Hired in 2002, Shawna spent her entire career as a Meter Reader with the Energy Services Department.
- John Tallent retired after twenty-six (26) years of service with the City. He began his career in 1998 as a plant operator in the Water Operations Division and was promoted to Water Quality Coordinator in 2008, a position he held until his retirement.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedure.

Cassie Hammond, Director of Governmental Affairs at the Port of Benton, expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Port of Benton and its commissioners for Council's consideration of the interlocal agreement concerning the Steptoe Street and Tapteal Drive Intersection Improvements Project (see Resolution No. 2024-83). Ms. Hammond also provided a copy of the Port's Transportation Improvement Plan for Council review, and invited all councilmembers to the Port of Benton Rail Modernization & Intermodal Facility Information Night on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Richland Public Library.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

2. Approval of the June 18, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the June 25, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

3. Ordinance No. 2024-23, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 21.01.020 related to Administration, Permits, and Fees
4. Ordinance No. 2024-24, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 3.04.010 and 3.04.070 related to Small Works

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

5. Resolution No. 2024-84, Ratifying an Application to the Washington State Department of Commerce Public Works Board for Horn Rapids Landfill Expansion Construction Funding
6. Resolution No. 2024-85, Authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Construction Contract with Ellison Earthworks LLC for the Truman Avenue Reconstruction and Kennedy Road Water Main Improvements Project
7. Resolution No. 2024-86, Authorizing a Grant Application to Humanities Washington for a 2024 Prime Time Family Reading Grant

Items – Approval

8. Appointment to the Parks & Recreation Commission: Matthew Watrous

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Items of Business

9. Resolution No. 2024-83, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Port of Benton for the Steptoe Street and Tapteal Drive Intersection Improvements Project

Deputy City Manager Schiessl presented Resolution No. 2024-83, which proposes an interlocal agreement with the Port of Benton in support of the Steptoe Street and Tapteal Drive Intersection Improvements Project. The Project, which has been contemplated for several years, will reconfigure the intersection to accommodate the growth of undeveloped property and improve safety for all users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The realignment involves moving the intersection closer to where the rail crosses. The changes will enhance safety at the intersection, but requires complex coordination and regulatory approvals.

The Port of Benton operates a Class 3 railroad on the rail passing through the project site. In addition, the Class 1 railroads (Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific) have rights to use this same rail. As such, the City and the Port will engage with the Class 1 railroads for review of the proposed intersection design, and petition the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) for approval to pursue the project.

Resolution No. 2024-83 outlines the financial and administrative responsibilities between the City of Richland and the Port of Benton. The City proposes to take the lead in the regulatory process and facilitating review with the Class 1 railroads.

Additional information, including the draft Interlocal Cooperative Agreement, can be found in the agenda packet and PowerPoint Presentation on file. Following the presentation, Council engaged asked questions of staff.

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-83, AUTHORIZING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT OF BENTON FOR THE STEPTOE STREET AND TAPTEAL DRIVE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson had no comments.

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Kent reported that she learned in a recent Visit Tri-Cities meeting that the tourism industry is going well in the Tri-Cities. Convention reservations, revenues and hotel stays are all up, and there is increasing interest in the Tri-Cities as a possible venue

for outside events and businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent also encouraged others to take the time to thank veterans and active service members for their service, and to honor those who have passed in recognition of the 4th of July holiday. Mayor Pro Tem also encouraged safe travels.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent then spoke positively of the Ironman promotional video. Representatives for the Ironman event have been touring the Tri-Cities over the last several weeks and recently held a recruitment open house. Additional volunteers are still needed to help with the event. Individuals interested in volunteering can visit the Ironman website or the Visit Tri-Cities website for more information.

Councilmember Lukson wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July holiday.

Councilmember Whitten stated that during the previous council meeting, he mentioned the need for the Richland Police Department to increase parking enforcement to address parked vehicles on sidewalks. He thanked Interim Chief of Police Meidl and members of the Traffic Enforcement Unit for their efforts in addressing that concern. Councilmember Whitten also wished everyone a safe 4th of July holiday and emphasized the importance of safety while handling fireworks.

Councilmember VanDyke had no comments.

Councilmember Maier addressed crash data and shared that, in addition to the information received from Interim Chief Meidl, he submitted a public records request to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and he is expected to receive the information requested in approximately six (6) weeks. Councilmember Maier expects to use both datasets to accurately analyze the relative populations of the crash database to assist in developing comprehensive and improved policies.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson announced that the Cool Desert Nights event was a resounding success, and hopes the City will support the event indefinitely.

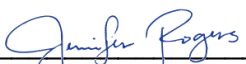
Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVED:


Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 16, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: July 17, 2024