



MINUTES
RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 20, 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
Councilmember Whitten	Present

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

Also present were City Manager Amundson, 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, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, 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 recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Presentations

1. Park Smart Initiative

Commander Mason of the Richland Police Department (RPD) introduced a public safety video regarding *Park Smart*, the City's initiative aimed at reducing illegal parking in Richland. The public safety campaign is designed to improve parking compliance, enhance public safety, and ensure a smoother flow of traffic throughout the city. The initiative recently launched on social media to educate the community about parking regulations. Starting September 2, 2024, RPD will transition from issuing reminders to enforcing parking regulations through citations.

COUNCILMEMBR MAIER JOINED THE MEETING VIA ZOOM AT 6:06 P.M.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedures.

Diahann Howard - Port of Benton Executive Director, expressed support for adoption of Resolution No. 2024-111, which would authorize a land exchange between the City of Richland and the Port of Benton. Ms. Howard thanked City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, and the entire City team for their efforts, and acknowledged that the years of planning, collaboration and partnership have successfully transformed North Richland into an economic development hub for the entire region.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

2. Approval of the August 7, 2024 City Council Special Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

3. Ordinance No. 2024-28, Establishing and Dedicating the Right-of-Way for a Portion of George Washington Way

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

4. Ordinance No. 2024-25, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 3.24.560 and eliminating the 1-Year Grace Period for Downtown Business Improvement District Assessments

5. Ordinance No. 2024-26, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 5.04.170 and 5.04.290 related to Business License Information and Enforcement
6. Ordinance No. 2024-27, Amending Chapter 8.10 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Public Camping

Resolutions - Adoption

7. Resolution No. 2024-100, Authorizing an Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the State Route 240 and Village Parkway Intersection
8. Resolution No. 2024-101, Authorizing a Funding Agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the 2024-2026 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
9. Resolution No. 2024-102, Authorizing Purchase and Sale Agreements in Support of the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements Project
10. Resolution No. 2024-103, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Electric Power Systems Inc. for Engineering Design of Sandhill Crane Substation Expansion Project
11. Resolution No. 2024-104, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Benton Conservation District for the Salmon Power Educational Program
12. Resolution No. 2024-105, Approving Commercial Façade Improvement Program Agreements
13. Resolution No. 2024-106, Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Matson Holdings, LLC for Property located at 2621 Robertson Drive
14. Resolution No. 2024-107, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife for Wildland Fire Suppression
15. Resolution No. 2024-108, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for Wildland Firefighting Aircraft Resources
16. Resolution No. 2024-109, Authorizing an Interagency Agreement with the Washington State Department of Corrections for Mutual Aid on behalf of the Coyote Ridge Corrections Center
17. Resolution No. 2024-110, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Remy Corporation for Project Management Services related to the Workday Inc. Enterprise HRIS Implementation Project

Items - Approval

18. Appointment to the Richland Public Facilities District Board: Michael Wiemers and Doug McMakin
19. Appointment to the Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission: Yesenia Galvez

Expenditures – Approval

20. Expenditures from July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2024 for \$32,866,968.04 including Travel Checks Nos. 20578-20592, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 324796-325935, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10145-10191, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 14114-14167, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 225691-226975, and Pension Check Nos. 6792-6813.

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

Items of Business

21. Resolution 2024-111, Authorizing a Land Exchange Agreement with the Port of Benton

Deputy City Manager Schiessl provided an overview of the proposed land exchange with the Port of Benton. He emphasized the longstanding, mutually beneficial relationship between the City and the Port which has contributed to regional economic development. He explained that the idea for the land exchange emerged last year as both parties explored ways to better align their property inventories with their respective missions.

In December 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was authorized by the Port of Benton Commission and the Richland City Council to express their mutual intent to engage in a land exchange.

Deputy City Manager Schiessl outlined that the next steps, which include executing the proposed land exchange agreement and initiating a due diligence period that is intended to run through the end of the year. He utilized a map to show the properties involved in the exchange, highlighting that of the twenty-five (25) properties in play, twenty-three (23) are owned by Port of Benton and two (2) are owned by City of Richland. The land subject to the agreement totals 527 combined acres and is valued at \$36M.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation included with the agenda packet. Following, the presentation, staff engaged in a question-and-answer session with Council.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-111, AUTHORIZING A LAND EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT OF BENTON. 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 announced that the Richland Police Department Foundation will sponsor an event at the Queensgate Target to distribute school supplies on Thursday, August 22, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. City Manager Amundson thanked the Foundation for its generous donation of items.

City Manager Amundson then provided an overview of the agenda items on the August 27, 2024 workshop meeting agenda, and recommended introducing a new practice at the next scheduled workshop to provide councilmembers with an opportunity to propose topics for future workshop discussions. The new process is intended to allow staff to gauge support and determine whether to pursue further research and development on the topics proposed.

City Council

Councilmember Whitten had no comments.

Councilmember Jones expressed support for removing parking requirements from the Richland Municipal Code, following the example set by the City of Spokane, which eliminated its parking requirements in July. Councilmember Jones emphasized that certain parking regulations hinder development and create difficulties for property owners to utilize their land effectively. Councilmember Jones acknowledged Councilmember Maier for his advocacy on this issue and called for a collaborative discussion among councilmembers, developers, and residents to address the need for updating the RMC to facilitate a conversation on how to develop additional housing.

Councilmember VanDyke reported that the Planning Commission met last week to discuss proposed Land Use and Development Regulations (LUDR) amendments aimed at establishing an agreement between the City, its citizens, and developers. The proposed agreement has been in the works for quite some time, and Council will have an opportunity to review the proposed agreement in the near future. Councilmember VanDyke thanked Planning Manager Stevens and his team for their efforts in developing the proposed agreement.

Councilmember Lukson urged the community to be mindful of the increased traffic and the presence of children crossing streets as the back-to school season begins. He emphasized the importance of being vigilant, adhering to speed limits, and driving safely.

in school zones. Councilmember Lukson also highlighted the City's ongoing efforts to enhance street safety, and called for continued focus on enhancing safety measures to ensure that everyone can travel safely during this busy time.

Councilmember Maier reported that earlier in the day, the Ben Franklin Transit Agency held a special meeting where they extended an offer to a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who is expected to begin his employment with BFT on Monday. Councilmember Maier also thanked Councilmember Jones for raising the parking issue and mentioned having many thoughts on the matter. He suggested that the upcoming City Council workshop could be a good opportunity to discuss parking, particularly in areas like the Central Business District.

Mayor

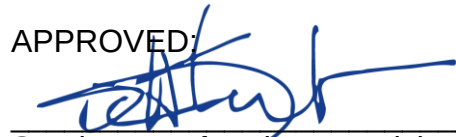
Mayor Richardson made the following comments:

- Noted consensus among councilmembers to have input on future Council workshop agenda items.
- Participated in the interview process to fill two (2) vacant Richland Public Facilities District Board vacancies.
- Attended a ribbon-cutting event for the grand opening of FiiZ at Queensgate.
- Attended a ribbon-cutting event for the grand opening of Pacific Northwest National Laboratories' (PNNL) Grid Storage Launch-Pad (GSL) facility.
- Reminded Council of the upcoming Ironman 70.3 Washington Tri-Cities triathlon event to be held on Sunday, September 22, 2024.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

APPROVED:



Sandra Kent for Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 3, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: September 4, 2024