



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Kent welcomed those in the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

Attendance: Mayor Richardson	Absent
Mayor Pro Tem Kent	Present
Councilmember Jones	Present (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Absent

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN. 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 VanDyke led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

BASED ON STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT PULLED ITEM NOS. 3, 12, AND 13 FROM THE AGENDA.

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

Presentations

1. Attendance Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Pro Tem Kent read aloud a proclamation declaring the month of September to be Attendance Awareness Month in the City of Richland and presented the proclamation to Dr. LoAnn Ayers, President & CEO of United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties.

Dr. Ayers expressed appreciation for the Council's and the community's continued support to help keep children on track for graduation and a healthier future.

2. Hanford Communities Annual Update

David Reeploeg, Executive Director of Hanford Communities, provided an overview of the formation of Hanford Communities, the agency's objectives, and a summary and purpose of the organization's governing and administrative boards.

Mr. Reeploeg then presented the annual update of the organization's work and developments which included the 2023 Cleanup Review, 2024 Overview, 2025 Priorities, and the 2024 Issue Agenda. Mr. Reeploeg concluded by thanking Council for its continued support.

3. Richland Police Department Recruitment Video (PULLED FROM THE AGENDA)

4. New Hires and Retirements

A video featuring the new hires for August 2024 was played for the audience.

The City welcomed three (3) new employees in the month of August.

- Raymond Bennett - Truck Driver - Heavy, Solid Waste Collection Division
- Noe Vasquez, Jr. - Journey Lineworker, Power Operations Division
- Tracie Fox - Administrative Assistant I, Wastewater Maintenance Division

There were no retirements to recognize.

Public Hearing

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

5. Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of a Utility Easement at 1511 Wright Avenue, Resolution No. 2024-121

Mayor Pro Tem Kent opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. No testimony was offered.

6. Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of Utility Easements at 1903 Terminal Drive, Resolution No. 2024-122

Mayor Pro Tem Kent opened and closed the public hearing at 6:31 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Nancy Doran of Richland, WA, provided comments in support of renaming the Urban Greenbelt Trail to the G.A. Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail as outlined in Resolution No. 2024-123.
- Laila Krowiak of Richland, WA, provided comments in support of renaming the Urban Greenbelt Trail to the G.A. Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail as outlined in Resolution No. 2024-123.
- Randy Slovic of Richland, WA, thanked Nancy Doran and others who have contributed to creating the various walks along the urban trail and through the mid-century modern homes in Richland. Ms. Slovic provided comments in support of renaming the Urban Greenbelt Trail to the G.A. Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail as outlined in Resolution No. 2024-123.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar as amended.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

7. Approval of the August 20, 2024 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 27, 2024 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution No. 2024-112, Authorizing a Reimbursement Agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company for Preliminary Engineering Services
10. Resolution No. 2024-113, Authorizing a Water Service Agreement with the Richland School District for a Hanford High School Emergency Irrigation Connection
11. Resolution No. 2024-114, Authorizing Change Order No. 2 to the Construction Contract with Ellison Earthworks LLC for the Truman Avenue Reconstruction and Kennedy Road Water Main Improvements Project
12. Resolution No. 2024-115, Authorizing an Agreement for Design and Engineering Services with Atlas Agro North America Corporation to develop Water Supply Facilities to serve the Atlas Agro Fertilizer Manufacturing Facility **(PULLED FROM THE AGENDA)**
13. Resolution No. 2024-116, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Horn Rapids Water Intake Rescreening Project **(PULLED FROM THE AGENDA)**
14. Resolution No. 2024-117, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement in Support of the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements Project
15. Resolution No. 2024-118, Authorizing Grant Applications to the Washington State Department of Commerce for 2026 Comprehensive Plan Update Funding
16. Resolution No. 2024-119, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for Traffic Safety Law Enforcement Equipment Funding
17. Resolution No. 2024-120, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Tripepi Smith and Associates, Inc. for a City-wide Communications and Community Engagement Plan

Items - Approval

None.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS AMENDED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Items of Business

18. Resolution No. 2024-121, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of a Utility Easement at 1511 Wright Avenue

Public Works Director D'Alessandro stated that property owners of 1511 Wright Avenue have requested a partial relinquishment of a utility easement. The easement to be relinquished is no longer needed for municipal purposes as the utilities have been removed. Staff supports the relinquishment of the easement.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-121, DECLARING SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING RELINQUISHMENT OF A UTILITY EASEMENT AT 1511 WRIGHT AVENUE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

19. Resolution No. 2024-122, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of Utility Easements at 1903 Terminal Drive

Public Works Director D'Alessandro stated that the Port of Benton, property owner of the Richland Airport located at 1903 Terminal Drive, has requested relinquishment of three (3) utility easements. The easements to be relinquished are no longer needed for municipal purposes as the utilities have been removed from service. Staff supports the relinquishment of the easements.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-122, DECLARING SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING RELINQUISHMENT OF UTILITY EASEMENTS AT 1903 TERMINAL DRIVE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

20. Resolution No. 2024-123, Renaming the Urban Greenbelt Trail to the G. A. Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail

Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite provided background to the Urban Greenbelt Trail naming proposal and the adopted City policy for renaming greenways, parks and facilities. The Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend to Council the renaming of the Urban Greenbelt Trail to the G.A. Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail in recognition of the Spokane architect who shaped the early layout of the community in the 1940s during the Manhattan Project and Hanford site development. Additional information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation included in the agenda packet.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent commented that she was present during the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting where the renaming of the greenbelt was discussed and voted on.

She added how impressive it is to see a community-generated proposal successfully make its way through the process.

COUNCILMEMER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2024-123, RENAMING THE URBAN GREENBELT TRAIL TO THE G.A. PEHRSON URBAN GREENBELT TRAIL. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson reminded Council and residents that there will be a community reception and meet-and-greet for the three (3) Police Chief candidates the following evening at Richland City Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The first hour of the event will feature questions moderated by Jim Hall of Kadlec. The second half of the event will be an open meet-and-greet, allowing residents, staff members, and councilmembers to interact with the candidates. Prior to the event, the candidates will tour the City of Richland and visit the Richland Police Station. On Thursday, September 5, 2024, the candidates will participate in three (3) interview panels as part of the interview process.

City Council

Councilmember Maier announced that after a long national search, Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) recently selected Mr. Thomas Drozt as their new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Councilmember Jones had no comments.

Councilmember Lukson expressed support for City Manager Amundson's format change regarding the interview process for the new Chief of Police which would allow members of the public to hear directly from the candidates about their ideas and proposals.

Councilmember VanDyke had no comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent made the following announcements:

- Visit Tri-Cities recently announced that economic development numbers and revenues are up.
- Volunteers are still needed for the 2024 Ironman 70.3 Washington Tri-Cities event.
- Volunteers are needed to assist the Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels organization.
- Congratulated community members involved in the renaming process of the G.A. Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson was absent.

Adjournment

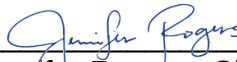
Mayor Pro Tem Kent adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 17, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: September 18, 2024