



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Richardson called the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Mayor Richardson	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Kent	Present
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were City Manager Amundson (remote), Deputy City Manager Schiessl (remote), 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, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, Interim Chief of Police Meidl, and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Items

1. Washington State Veterans Cemetery (30 minutes)

David Puente, Jr., Director of Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) and Rudy Lopez, Cemetery Director for the Medical Lake Cemetery, jointly presented on the WDVA strategic plan, veteran population in the Tri-Cities, burial cost comparison, primary requirements for a state veterans cemetery, future project milestones and considerations, and proposed site selection for the cemetery.

The property being considered for the proposed cemetery development is a city-owned parcel located at Snively Road and Horn Rapids. WDVA is looking to acquire at least 100-acres for the proposed cemetery. Mr. Puente, Jr. stated the Tri-Cities has been identified by the Federal Veterans Affairs as a location where there is a need to serve veterans. The property in Richland became a focus after a tip from Benton County Commissioner Alvarez was received, prompting further investigation of the land.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation included in the agenda packet. After the presentation, Mr. Puente, Jr. and Mr. Lopez engaged in a question-and-answer question with Council regarding the proposed location, estimated market value of the property, next steps for the cemetery development after property is acquired, and

other parcels in consideration for the cemetery.

City Manager Amundson stated that a latecomer agreement had been discussed, which would ensure that the WDVA would be reimbursed by future developers for extending utilities to their property; this could be facilitated through state funding or other sources.

City Manager Amundson then gauged Council interest in proceeding with appraising the property to determine its value. There was consensus from Council to proceed with the land appraisal, and to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

2. 2025 Budget Presentation (90 minutes)

Finance Director Allen provided a comprehensive overview of the preliminary 2025 Budget. Department Directors provided a high-level overview of their department's current projects, programs, developments, and major initiatives for 2025. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint Presentation included in the agenda packet.

In conclusion, Finance Director Allen reviewed the timeline for the 2025 Budget adoption and City Manager Amundson described the budget proposal process and an overview of certain expenditure items.

Staff responded to Council inquiries throughout the presentation.

Future Workshop Agenda Items

None.

Adjournment

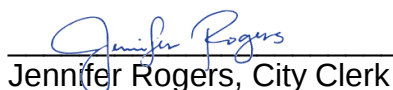
Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: October 1, 2024

DATE PUBLISHED: October 2, 2024