



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

**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
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, Chief of Police Pilcher, and Acting Deputy Clerk Follett.

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 7-0

Presentations

1. Richland Kiwanis Club Proclamation

Mayor Richardson read the proclamation and presented it to representatives from the Richland Kiwanis Club.

Public Hearing

Acting Deputy Clerk Follett read the Public Hearing and Public Comment procedures.

2. Proposed Surplus and Relinquishment of a Portion of Two Easements lying within the Plat of Veneto Villagio, Resolution No. 2025-43

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:08 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided comments:

Representing Atomic Bowl, Max Faulkner spoke in opposition to the Colville Tribe's planned casino in Pasco and asked councilmembers to consider writing a letter to the Governor and the U.S. Department of Interior opposing the project. Mr. Faulkner provided a letter to the Council summarizing his position.

Brian Peek, a Richland resident, rebutted public comments made at the March 4, 2025 City Council meeting regarding the unhoused population. He cited several reasons that lead to homelessness and urged Council to set an example and show empathy for the unhoused community.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy Clerk Follett read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

3. Approval of the March 4, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

4. Resolution No. 2025-35, Authorizing an Internet Crimes Against Children Memorandum of Understanding with the Seattle Police Department
5. Resolution No. 2025-36, Authorizing an Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Cross Reiter, Inc. for the Columbia River Shoreline Stabilization Study

6. Resolution No. 2025-37, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Dickey Foundation for Electric Vehicle Fire Suppression Blankets
7. Resolution No. 2025-38, Authorizing Grant Applications to the Wildhorse Foundation and Yakama Cares for Emergency Response Rescue Tools
8. Resolution No. 2025-39, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Transpo Group USA, Inc. for the City-Wide Transportation System Plan in support of the City's 10-Year Comprehensive Plan Update
9. Resolution No. 2025-41, Authorizing an Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with H.W. Lochner, Inc. for the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements Project
10. Resolution No. 2025-42, Authorizing a Local Programs State Funding Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the SR- 240/Aaron Interchange Improvements Project
11. Resolution No. 2025-44, Amending the Port of Benton Property Exchange Agreement by Extending the Phase II Feasibility Period

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

12. Expenditures from February 1, 2025, to February 28, 2025, for \$26,138,067.61, including Travel Checks Nos. 20694-20705, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 332060-333076, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10433-10480, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 14530-14583, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 235279-236440, and Pension Check Nos. 6947-6967

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. 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

13. Tabled Item from February 18, 2025 Meeting: Ordinance No. 2025-06, Vacating a Portion of Gay Road Right-of-Way (Second Reading)

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Councilmembers Whitten and Maier sought and received clarification that staff had resolved easement discussions with the purchaser. There was no other discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06, VACATING A PORTION OF GAY ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

14. Ordinance No. 2025-07, Amending Chapter 3.06 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Sale or Lease of City Real Property (First Reading)

City Attorney Kintzley explained that Chapter 3.06 of the Richland Municipal Code had not been updated since its adoption in 1984. She provided an overview of proposed changes, including the additional options to exchange or auction surplus real property. She further explained that additional parameters around the Request for Proposals (RFP) and Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process were added for additional protection of the City, and shared that the code edits also allow Council to invite relevant input from any board or commission, not just the Economic Development Committee.

Councilmember Whitten expressed gratitude for the City Attorney's proactive effort to update this section of the code and bring this item to the Council's attention.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-07, AMENDING CHAPTER 3.06 OF THE RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO SALE OR LEASE OF CITY REAL PROPERTY FOR FIRST READING. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

15. Resolution No. 2025-43, Declaring Surplus and Authorizing Relinquishment of a Portion of Two Easements Lying within the Plat of Veneto Villagio

Public Works Director D'Alessandro described the location of the easement, adjacent to Aya Way and Gateway Street, within the Plat of Veneto Villagio and stated that the easements were initially placed to ensure future properties would have access to utilities. However, utilities for which the easements were set aside have since been located elsewhere. He reiterated that the easements under consideration were no longer needed.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-43, DECLARING SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING RELINQUISHMENT OF A PORTION OF TWO EASEMENTS LYING WITHIN THE PLAT OF VENETO VILLAGIO. 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 recognized and welcomed members of the Boy Scouts in the audience. He also highlighted two (2) grant items listed on the consent agenda as excellent examples of community partnerships. City Manager Amundson also previewed the agenda for the upcoming Council workshop.

City Council

Councilmember Maier provided an update from the recent Ben Franklin Transit Board meeting highlighting the recovery in ridership. He also commented on the challenges faced by Richland's unhoused community and the importance of the Richland Fire Department's Resource Navigator to help connect those experiencing homelessness to services.

Councilmember Whitten provided an update on Arts Commission interviews and indicated a recommendation to fill upcoming vacancies would be forthcoming for Council consideration. Councilmember Whitten also voiced his support for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Seattle Police Department for Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and the Electric Vehicle (EV) Fire Suppression Blankets grant.

Councilmember Jones stated that street racing along several city streets appears to be on the rise again. She noted that she has been receiving complaints about this issue and asked City Manager Amundson to investigate options for addressing the issue.

Councilmember VanDyke recognized members of the Boy Scouts in the audience, and provided an update on recent interviews to fill the vacant position on the Planning Commission. He thanked Deputy City Manager Schiessl for his work on the legislative front and mentioned the annual Employee Breakfast held on March 7, 2025. In conclusion, he praised staff for the updates provided at the recent Council retreat, especially the progress made on strategic plan initiatives.

Councilmember Lukson highlighted several takeaways from the Council retreat, including the discussions on succession planning, parking reform, and strategic planning. He voiced his appreciation for the diverse thoughts and discussion from other councilmembers.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent shared her takeaways from the recent Council retreat, including her appreciation of Finance Director Allen's discussion on revenue generation, and his

tax and expense forecasting presentation. She also highlighted the Parks & Recreation Commission's work to fill vacancies and agreed with Councilmember Maier's comments on strategies to support the unhoused. Mayor Pro Tem Kent closed her comments by encouraging staff to look at ways to make engagement with the Council welcoming and less stressful for the public.

Mayor

Referencing the March 14, 2025 City Council Annual Retreat, Mayor Richardson thanked fellow councilmembers for their engagement and staff for their work during the retreat. Mayor Richardson mentioned the 250th anniversary of the Constitution next year and the planning that is currently underway to recognize the anniversary. She invited interested members of the public to connect with her for more information.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

APPROVED:


Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: April 1, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: April 2, 2025