



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT MEETING

Friday, March 14, 2025

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Retreat - 8:30 a.m.

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

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, 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, Economic Development Manager Wallner, and Executive Assistant Siefken

Agenda Items

1. Introduction

City Manager Amundson presented the proposed agenda items brought forward by the Executive Leadership Team then facilitated introductions.

2. Strategic Plan Update

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Assistant City Manager Florence provided a status update on progress achieved on current strategic initiatives, then led a discussion on specific work in progress and future strategic planning.

3. Major Project Updates

City Manager Amundson kicked off the project updates presentation and introduced Deputy City Manager Schiessl, who presented information on the North Horn Rapids Rail Expansion project and status of the planning for a new Police Station.

Economic Development Manager Wallner provided an update on projects located at Columbia Point Tracts D & E, in the Queensgate vicinity, at 200 Jadwin, and 1900 Jadwin. Economic Development Manager Wallner also introduced the concept of developing a vacant building program.

Following the presentations, Council and staff engaged in a discussion about planned development throughout the city.

4. Break

COUNCIL RECESSED FOR 15 MINUTES

5. Parking Reform Discussion

Deputy City Manager Schiessl introduced Robert Ferrin, representing Kinley-Horn and Associates, Inc., a consultant retained to assist the City in reviewing the City's parking code, researching best practices and industry reforms, and facilitating public engagement on the topic of parking minimums.

Mr. Ferrin guided Council through a PowerPoint presentation on parking reform, including project scope, policy review, and parking trends. At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Ferrin solicited feedback from the Council and provided an update on the next steps.

****Working Lunch****

6. Budget Status and Forecasting

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Finance Director Allen provided Council with an overview of tax revenue growth, inflation data, and expenditure growth trends. Finance Director Allen also provided handouts depicting fund balances, general fund and revenue forecasts, then reviewed the draft 2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He noted that the 2026 CIP list is still in a very preliminary stage, and the final project list will be refined.

At the end of the presentation, Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff related to the City's finances.

7. Draft 2026 Capital Improvement Project List

Public Works Director Carlo Dalessandro, Energy Services Director Clint Whitney, and Parks & Public Facilities Director Chris Waite all presented briefly on their respective department's 2026 CIP, which remains in early draft form. Council questions were asked and answered.

8. Legislative Update

Deputy City Manager Schiessl reviewed legislative priorities and ongoing work with the City's lobbyist. During his presentation, Deputy City Manager Schiessl discussed house and senate bills under consideration during the current legislative session, and addressed how passage may affect City initiatives and projects. Lastly, Deputy City

Manager Schiessl provided Council with information about recent federal executive orders.

Additional information can be found in the agenda packet. Following the presentation, Council provided comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

9. Succession Planning

City Manager Amundson announced that Fire Chief Huntington will retire at the end of 2025 after thirty (30) years of service with the City. City Manager Amundson reviewed the succession plan for the Richland Fire Department, which includes a development plan structure and final assessment timeline. City-wide leadership development initiatives, including an update on the 2025 Impact Academy, were also discussed.

At the end of his presentation, City Manager Amundson noted that the Energy Community Alliance (ECA) will host a workshop on October 15, 2025 at the Port of Benton to discuss New Nuclear with ECA Executive Director Seth Kirshenberg.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

APPROVED:


Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: April 1, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: April 2, 2025