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MINUTES
RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 15, 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 (Remote via Zoom)
	Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were Acting City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire Chief Huntington, Chief of Police Pilcher, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Human Resources Director Paulsen, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members from Richland Troops 5351, 5347, and 2136 of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

1. Richland Public Library Foundation Donation

As Council Liaison to the Richland Library Board of Trustees, Mayor Pro Tem Kent expressed City Council's appreciation for the Richland Public Library Foundation's support

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and generous donation of $100,000.

The Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Richland Public Library's capital needs, donated $100,000 to assist with the construction of a new outdoor space as part of the Library's 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. The donation will be used to construct a new outdoor program space, including an amphitheater, located at the library's northwest exterior corner.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent also acknowledged Foundation members in attendance, including Chair Alan Rither and member Kassandra Stanford. Mr. Rither provided a brief history of the Foundation, highlighting its origins rooted in the legacy of early Hanford community members. He recognized the contributions of both past and present Foundation leaders and expressed appreciation for the City's continued partnership in bringing this project to fruition.

The donation was formally accepted upon adoption of Resolution No. 2025-53 on the Consent Calendar.

2. Richland Public Library Board Annual Presentation

Karen Buxton, Chair of the Richland Library Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation to members of the Richland Public Library Foundation for their continued support. Vice-Chair Cara Hernandez introduced the *Go Team Therapy Dog Program* and highlighted its role in supporting library events and providing a welcoming environment for children.

Ms. Buxton then shared a PowerPoint presentation and provided a high-level overview of the Library Board's 2024 Annual Report. The report outlined the Library's accomplishments in community engagement, technical services, and user experience. She noted that financially, the Library operated within its $2.8 million general fund budget, ending the year with a positive balance. The value of services provided to the community was estimated at over $10 million.

The Library's 2025 Action Plan includes preparations for its 75th Anniversary celebration, development of reciprocal borrowing partnerships, completion of a new outdoor space, exploration of expanded services in south Richland, and strengthened outreach efforts targeting the teen community.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet. Following the presentation, councilmembers engaged in a question-and-answer session with Ms. Buxton.

3. Benton-Franklin Council of Governments Regional Traffic Count Analysis BFCOG

Tanner Martin, Regional Planner for Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG), presented the 2024 Regional Traffic Count Program Analysis. Mr. Martin explained that the Regional Traffic Count Program, launched in 2016 and conducted by BFCOG, is the

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largest tube count program on the West Coast. The program utilizes bi-directional pneumatic tube counters to systematically collect traffic data, including vehicle volume, classification, and speed during mid-week periods in the spring and fall.

In 2024, data was collected at 718 locations across the Benton-Franklin region, with 158 of the sites located in Richland. The analysis identified the 25 locations with the highest average daily traffic volumes, 11 of which are located in Richland, including six (6) along George Washington Way.

Mr. Martin reviewed historical traffic trends from 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2024, providing comparisons that reflect evolving travel patterns, percentages of heavy vehicle traffic, and year-over-year volume changes. The data supports transportation planning, informs future infrastructure investments, and assists in identifying priority areas for congestion mitigation efforts.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet. Following the presentation, the councilmembers engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Martin.

Public Hearing

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

4. Adding 2025 Classifications & Wages to the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052 - Rank and File, Resolution No. 2025-59

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:48 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:49 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Kyle Saltz, a Richland resident, presented proposed cost-saving measures related to animal control enforcement by amending Chapter 7.03 of the Richland Municipal Code to extend citation authority to animal control officers. He also suggested the City increase fines to serve as a stronger deterrent and promote responsible pet ownership.

- Edward Muñoz, a Richland resident, requested City Council consider extending the public comment period from two (2) minutes to three (3) minutes.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

Docusign Envelope ID: 61DF0F05-1692-4C65-B481-5F7AAA64A265

Minutes

5. Approval of the April 1, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

6. Ordinance No. 2025-10, Establishing and Dedicating a Portion of Dallas Road Right-of-Way

7. Ordinance No. 2025-11, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 11.30.020, 11.40.020, 11.40.030 and 11.04.040 related to Entering and Parking on Designated Streets

8. Ordinance No. 2025-12, Authorizing Issuance of 2025 Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds

9. Ordinance No. 2025-13, Amending Chapter 9.12 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Miscellaneous Crimes

10. Ordinance No. 2025-14, Repealing Chapter 5.15 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Teenage Dance Halls and Rollerskating Rinks

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

11. Ordinance No. 2025-08, Amending the 2025 Budget in Various City Funds

Resolutions - Adoption

12. Resolution No. 2025-53, Accepting a $100,000 Donation from the Richland Public Library Foundation for the 2025 Library Capital Improvement Plan Project

13. Resolution No. 2025-54, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Property located at 585 and 609 Gage Boulevard

14. Resolution No. 2025-56, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with JJA Properties, LLC for Property located at 2574 Henderson Loop

15. Resolution No. 2025-57, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with JJA Properties, LLC for Property located at 2558 Henderson Loop

16. Resolution No. 2025-58, Authorizing 2025 Park Partnership Program Grant Awards

17. Resolution No. 2025-60, Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Bonds

Docusign Envelope ID: 61DF0F05-1692-4C65-B481-5F7AAA64A265

Items - Approval

18. Appointment to the Arts Commission: Mary Jecha and Boston Breitkreitz

19. Appointment to the Personnel Committee: Emma Chambers

Expenditures - Approval

20. Expenditures from March 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025 for $24,296,473.62 including Travel Checks Nos. 20706-20731, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 333077-333929, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10473-10516, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 14584-14637, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 236441-237590, and Pension Check Nos. 6968-6988

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. 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

21. Resolution No. 2025-59, Adding 2025 Classifications & Wages to the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052 - Rank and File

Human Resources Director Paulsen provided context to Resolution No. 2025-59, which would add 2025 classifications and wages to Appendix A of the existing 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052- Rank and File (IAFF-R&F).

She noted that the current CBA includes a wage opener provision for 2025. Following initial negotiations, the City and the IAFF participated in a joint mediation session through the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), where an agreement was reached. The IAFF membership approved the proposed 2025 wages by majority vote.

The negotiated wages for 2025 include a 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) effective January 1, 2025, and an additional 2% market adjustment effective July 1, 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-59, ADDING 2025 CLASSIFICATIONS & WAGES TO THE 2023-2025 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 1052 - RANK AND FILE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Docusign Envelope ID: 61DF0F05-1692-4C65-B481-5F7AAA64A265

22. Richland Police Department Annual Report

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Chief Pilcher presented the 2024 Richland Police Department (RPD) Annual Report. The report included a high-level overview of the department's operations, including staffing composition, community engagement efforts, call volumes, use-of-force statistics, and traffic enforcement activity. Chief Pilcher also highlighted the work of specialized units, including the Tri-Cities Regional SWAT, the Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones), the Bomb Squad, Criminal Investigations, Street Crimes Unit, and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Additional updates included information on professional training initiatives and administrative improvements. Chief Pilcher noted that the reinstatement of the Traffic Unit contributed to improved traffic safety, and emphasized that community outreach remains a top priority, with continued support from the Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) program and the Richland Police Foundation.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation attached to the agenda. Following the presentation, Council offered comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with Chief Pilcher.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson was absent. Acting City Manager Schiessl had no comments.

City Council

Councilmember VanDyke thanked staff for incorporating updates to the hazard zones as outlined in Ordinance No. 2025-11. He also expressed a general concern, encouraging Council to be cautious when considering future decisions that could discourage or limit citizens' use of personal vehicles.

Councilmember Maier reported that Ben Franklin Transit is currently working on its Long-Range Transit Plan (LRTP) and encouraged residents to visit the Ben Franklin Transit website and social media platforms to stay informed. He also announced that two (2) new members have been appointed to the Richland Code Enforcement Board and will be participating in an upcoming meeting.

Councilmember Maier went on to thank city staff for their efforts in removing outdated ordinances and clarifying parking regulations. In conclusion, he encouraged residents to review the published City Council agenda packet for more details.

Councilmember Whitten welcomed newly appointed Richland Arts Commission members Mary Jecha and Boston Breitkreitz and expressed appreciation to city staff for the effort made to revise certain sections of the city code.

Docusign Envelope ID: 61DF0F05-1692-4C65-B481-5F7AAA64A265

Councilmember Whitten concluded by commenting on the general obligation bond ordinance approved for first reading on the Consent Calendar, recognizing that the matter had been previously discussed and was anticipated by City Council. He also thanked city staff for their efforts in updating the RMC related to entering and parking on designated streets (Ordinance No. 2025-11).

Councilmember Jones had no comments.

Councilmember Lukson commented on the range of topics covered on the agenda, noting the contrast between past regulations and future-oriented planning, including a long-term vision for a potential North Richland Bridge in 2075. He noted that the discussion prompted him to consider Council's role in balancing historical context with future planning, while also addressing present-day priorities such as library and police services. He expressed appreciation for the agenda items, which offered an opportunity to contemplate the past, present and future.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent reiterated her appreciation to the Richland Public Library Foundation and thanked Friends of the Library for their continued support and contributions. She then congratulated the four (4) recipients of this year's Park Partnership Program grant funding and extended her thanks to all applicants, including those not selected in this round. She also thanked those involved in reviewing and selecting grant recipients.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson delivered a tribute to her late mother, who recently passed away, and expressed gratitude to the City's emergency responders for their professionalism and compassion during her mother's passing. Mayor Richardson concluded with one of her mother's favorite humorous stories and encouraged everyone to treat others as treasures, to be grateful, and to spread joy wherever possible.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Theresa A Richardson
Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Rogers
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: May 6, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: May 7, 2025