



MINUTES
RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Agenda Items

1. Fire & Emergency Services Comprehensive Plan Service Levels

Fire Chief Huntington introduced the topic, noting that the discussion builds upon the *Future in Focus* presentation shared during the April workshop meeting. He then turned the presentation over to Deputy Fire Chief Aust.

Deputy Fire Chief Aust presented provided an overview of the current Comprehensive Plan service-level trigger points based upon the Standards of Cover recommendations. He outlined the basis for updating the Plan, summarized the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan update, and described the next steps for Council consideration.

Deputy Fire Chief Aust concluded by stating staff will return with a comprehensive Standards of Cover document and resolution for Council consideration in the coming months.

Detailed information is available in the accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

Following the presentation, Council participated in a question-and-answer session with staff.

2. False Alarms

City Attorney Kintzley provided an overview of key considerations for Council regarding the proposed False Alarm ordinance. Council feedback on these policy options will help guide the development of the draft ordinance for future consideration.

City Attorney Kintzley presented several policy options, including whether to implement a separate licensing fee, whether to differentiate between commercial and residential properties, and whether the ordinance should focus on cost recovery or adopt a more punitive approach. City Attorney Kintzley noted that, under many existing models, the monitoring agency is responsible for paying penalties unless the alarm is unmonitored.

She further explained that the ordinance would allow the City to stop responding to repeat false alarms while still responding to verified emergencies. The proposed framework would reduce unnecessary service calls, preserve police resources for verified emergencies, and establish clear accountability for alarm system users and monitoring companies.

City Attorney Kintzley also noted that the draft ordinance would place an education obligation on monitoring companies to inform subscribers about proper alarm use and the City's False Alarm policy.

Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with City Attorney Kintzley and Chief of Police Pilcher throughout the presentation.

Closing Comments

None.

Future Workshop Agenda Items

City Manager Amundson reviewed upcoming workshop agenda items, which includes a discussion on a proposed policy on signing letters of support, speed cameras, red light cameras, and a blight ordinance. These topics will be scheduled as time allows, while balancing the 2026 Budget discussions.

City Manager Amundson then inquired whether there was Council interest in adding two (2) topics to future workshop agendas:

- Consideration of a Sit-Lie ordinance, similar to those adopted by the Cities of Kennewick and Pasco.
- A tour of the City Shops facility to provide Council a better understanding of operational facilities and staffing.

Councilmembers expressed a range of perspectives on the proposed Sit-Lie ordinance. There was sufficient interest in proceeding with a workshop discussion on the topic.

There was general consensus among Councilmembers to participate in the City Shops facility tour.

Councilmember Jones requested Council discussion regarding the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter services and associated funding. She expressed concern over limited response services available to Richland residents despite significant City funding contributions. She requested a workshop discussion to evaluate service received under the current agreement.

City Manager Amundson responded that he could provide Council with the current service level agreement and a breakdown of the 2025 expenditure summaries via email for initial review. He noted that Richland has the lowest utilization rate and cost among the three (3) partner cities. There was general consensus among Councilmembers that receiving the information via email would be sufficient for now, with the option for future discussion if necessary.

Executive Session

Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(I)(i): To Discuss Current or Potential Litigation (30 minutes)

At 7:18, Richland City Council convened in executive session for thirty (30) minutes to discuss current or potential litigation with legal counsel. A brief transition from the council chambers to the executive session room occurred, with the executive session beginning at 7:20 p.m.

Individuals present for the executive session included Mayor Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, and Councilmembers Jones, Maier, VanDyke, and Whitten. Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, and City Attorney Kintzley.

Council exited the executive session at 7:50 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 1, 2025

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