



MINUTES
Richland City Council Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Special 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 attendance and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

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

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire Chief Huntington, Finance Director Allen, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, Development Services Director Rizzitiello, Police Chief Pilcher, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, and Acting Deputy Clerk Follett.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember VanDyke led the Council an audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. Richland National Little League Proclamation

Mayor Richardson invited players, coaches and board members to join her at the front of

the dais as she read the Richland National Little League proclamation. She then presented the proclamation to Don Robbins, President of Richland National Little League.

2. New Hires and Retirements

A video featuring the City's new hires and retirements for July was played for the audience.

New Hires:

- Gustavo Espiritu - Maintenance Worker I, Solid Waste Division
- Shameka Garcia - Police Officer, Police Department

Retirement:

- Brian Santos - Electrician Lead, 31 years of dedicated service to the City.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

Acting Deputy Clerk Follett read the Public Comments procedures.

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Ralph Curran, a Richland resident and representative of Richland Kiwanis, urged Councilmembers to recognize SIGN Fracture Care International during its upcoming annual conference in September. He spoke about the partnership between Kiwanis and SIGN Fracture Care, the organization's history, and its contributions to the medical community. Finally, Mr. Curran requested that a representative from the Council or City attend the conference to welcome the attendees and to recognize SIGN Fracture Care's impact.
- Marie Noorani, a Richland resident, thanked Council for being an example of responsive government by recently adopting a process for handling requests that seeks the Mayor's signature on letters of support. She applauded the Council's quick action to address citizen concerns and feedback related to the issue.

Ms. Noorani also thanked the City for its proliferation of pedestrian signals and bike and pedestrian safety-focused investments in the community, and encouraged Council to continue prioritizing alternative transportation options in future planning. Ms. Noorani concluded by urging Council to explore solutions to address fireworks-related safety concerns before the next 4th of July.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy Clerk Follett read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

3. Approval of the July 15, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 22, 2025 City Council Special Meeting and Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 2025-19, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 5.04.245 related to Business License Exemptions
5. Ordinance No. 2025-20, Ratifying a Grant Agreement with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and Amending the 2025 Budget to Provide for Additional Appropriations in the City's General Fund

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

6. Ordinance No. 2025-09, Establishing Chapter 20.10 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Alarm Systems for Law Enforcement Response

Resolutions - Adoption

7. Resolution No. 2025-106, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Electric Power Systems, Inc. for Engineering and Design Services for the Dallas Road Substation
8. Resolution No. 2025-107, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. for Sanitary Sewer and Storm Lift Station Rehabilitation and Replacement
9. Resolution No. 2025-108, Authorizing Applications to the Washington State Department of Commerce Public Works Board for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Anaerobic Digester Improvements and Grit Works Rehabilitation Projects

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

None.

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, AND VANDYKE. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers for attending the previous evening's National Night Out (NNO) event. He also expressed his appreciation to staff for their efforts in organizing displays for the public. The event, held at Howard Amon Park, drew a large crowd. He noted that forty-three (43) bicycles, sponsored by Fred Meyer, various community partners, and several employee groups, were given away this year.

City Manager Amundson then invited councilmembers to attend the grand opening ceremony for the new Costco on Friday, August 8, 2025 at 7:30 a.m., located at 3125 Queensgate Drive.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson congratulated the Richland National Little League on their accomplishments and expressed enthusiasm for the opening of the newest Costco.

Councilmember Maier added to Ms. Nurani's comments related to pedestrian and bike safety, noting that he has also received similar feedback from citizens expressing appreciation for these improvements across the City. He voiced his support for the City's continued focus on pedestrian and bicycle safety. He then provided a liaison report on Ben Franklin Transit (BFT), noting their recent passage of a six (6) year Capital Improvement Plan. Due to past underinvestment and overall growth of Tri-Cities commerce, BFT was able to add several million dollars in projects without raising taxes or making significant cuts. These projects include a first-class training facility for operators.

Finally, Councilmember Maier congratulated the Richland National Little League and recognized the commitment and sacrifice of the parents, noting the significant time and effort involved.

Councilmember Jones reported meeting the new director of the Columbia Basin Badger Club, a non-profit organization that promotes civil discourse and hosts public forums on important community issues. She requested that the organization be invited to present to the Council at an upcoming meeting to share information about their work and how they may assist in navigating challenging topics.

She also shared that she met with residents from the Westcliffe, Applewood, and Cherrywood neighborhoods, who expressed appreciation for recent traffic improvements and enforcement efforts to reduce street racing. She conveyed a request from the

residents for Council to consider increasing the budget for the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program to allow more neighborhoods to participate. Residents also suggested exploring a tax measure that would allow neighborhoods to contribute towards such improvements through their annual property taxes over time. Councilmember Jones

suggested these proposals be placed on a future agenda for Council consideration.

City Manager Amundson replied that direction from the entire Council is needed to invite the Columbia Basin Badger Club to present during an upcoming City Council meeting. In response to her comments regarding increased funding for the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program, he stated that a funding package addressing that concern is being prepared and is expected to be brought forward within the next month to six weeks.

Councilmember VanDyke congratulated the baseball players and families for their success. He then expressed appreciation for the effort that went into making the NNO event a success. He also thanked Finance Director Allen for completing the City's second quarter financials. In conclusion, Councilmember VanDyke praised Chief Pilcher and the entire Richland Police Department for recent traffic safety improvements, and for the department's responsiveness to neighborhoods seeking additional safety measures.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked all the parents and volunteers who make Little League happen, expressed excitement for the grand opening of the new Costco, and thanked staff for a successful NNO event.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent also thanked staff for organizing the recent City Shops tour, which she described as highly educational for both Council and members of the public. In conclusion, Mayor Pro Tem Kent reported that she and Mayor Richardson attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Hanford Reach National Monument where U.S. Senator Patty Murray and Vice-Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, attended as the keynote speaker.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson opened dialogue on Councilmember Jones' request to invite Columbia Basin Badger Club to present at a future meeting. Councilmember Maier pointed out the organization's longstanding presence in the community and its role in fostering civil, respectful, and educational discussions on various issues. Mayor Richardson, Pro Tem Kent and, Councilmember VanDyke also voiced support for a presentation from the Columbia Basin Badger Club.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynne Follett, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: August 19, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: August 20, 2025