



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

City Council Workshop – 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, Councilmembers Anderson, Luzzo Gilmour, and Rose were present. Councilmember Lemley arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Energy Services Director Hammond, Fire and Emergency Services Director Huntington, Community Development Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Transportation and Development Manager Peters and City Clerk Hopkins.

Agenda Items:

1. Rachel Road Alignment Study (30 minutes)
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director

Mr. Rogalsky said the purpose of the workshop session was twofold: 1) Provide Council with an advanced review of staff's recommended approach to completing the planned alignment study for Rachel Road; and 2) Solicit Council guidance on this process.

Rachel Road, from Steptoe Street on the east to Leslie Road on the west, has been a planned segment of the City and region's transportation plan for many years. This planned road segment has generated heightened public interest beginning in 2007 with the effort to acquire the Amon Creek Preserve. To complete its connection to Leslie Road this road segment will cross the Preserve property. Public interest in this road segment was elevated again in 2014 with the review and approval of the Clearwater Creek preliminary plat over the property between the Preserve and Steptoe Street.

The preliminary plat and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process in 2014 included vigorous public input regarding the need and design of the Rachel Road crossing of the Preserve. Approval of the TIP included a stated commitment to conduct an open public process for setting the final alignment for this street segment. The 2016 - 2030 Capital Improvement Plan includes \$150,000 to complete the alignment study

contemplated by the 2014 TIP approval commitments and the Clearwater Creek preliminary plat approval conditions.

Mr. Rogalsky proposed to hire a consultant to complete the alignment study. Adhering to City and State professional services purchasing procedures, staff is preparing a Request for Statements of Qualifications to solicit consultant interest in this project. He discussed key features of the intended Request for Statements of Qualifications with Council and requested their input.

Council had questions for discussion on the topic. Council encouraged continued public involvement and education with the process.

2. Duportail Bridge TIGER Grant Application (15 Minutes)
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director

Mr. Rogalsky said the purpose of this workshop was two-fold: 1) To solicit Council input on the funding plan to present in the TIGER grant application; and 2) To solicit Council member advocacy toward community support for the application.

The Duportail Bridge project received a significant boost to delivery with the \$20 million investment from Washington State during last year's legislative session. These funds become available in the second half of 2017. The 2016 - 2030 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) included a preliminary funding plan and stated that additional funds would be sought through grants.

The federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program is one such grant program that has been offered on nearly an annual basis since 2009. The 2016 edition of the TIGER program will distribute \$500 million to eligible transportation projects. The minimum grant award will be \$5,000,000 for urban projects. Staff recommends applying for this grant and has retained FCS Group as its consultant to prepare materials fulfilling the specialized analysis required for the application and to assist the City in polishing its grant application.

Applications are due on April 29. This year's TIGER program emphasizes establishment and retention of family wage jobs. To bolster the City's application the City should seek letters of support from significant employers with family wage jobs. Staff is seeking Councilmember advocacy with these employers. He presented the recommended project funding plan that includes a TIGER grant and requested Council's concurrence with that recommendation.

Council had questions for discussion, including the amount of the fund request.

3. 2016 Electric Utility Capital Program Status (20 minutes)
- Bob Hammond, Energy Services Director

Mr. Hammond said the City's 2016 Capital Improvement Program estimates approximately \$10 million of projects to design and construct infrastructure improvements related to the City's electric utility. These improvements are funded primarily by revenue bonds the City secured in the fall of 2015 and by rate revenues dedicated to capital and some developer contributions (or Facility Fees). Mr. Hammond provided Council the status of the electric utility 2016 capital program.

Council had questions for discussion including the pros and cons of doing construction projects in-house vs contracting.

Other Business:

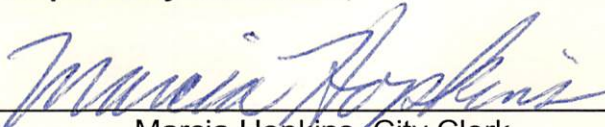
Ms. Reents met with the Council sub-committee to set the 2016 City Manager's Goals based on the projects that are in the budgets and gave details on each of the goals. She reviewed the agenda for the Waterfront Vision special meeting/workshop on March 24 and Council's team building event on March 28 5:30-7:30 p.m. She said the department heads will be unavailable on March 23 as they will be in a retreat working on 2016 work plans and a team building event. Ms. Reents also mentioned that the construction project under way at the REACH is a shade cover for the outdoor event area.

Councilmember Lemley said he had a discussion with the National Guard who are interested in building facilities in Richland.

Adjournment:

Mayor Thompson adjourned the workshop at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

FORM APPROVED:



Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

DATE APPROVED:

APRIL 5, 2016

DATE PUBLISHED:

APRIL 6, 2016