



**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Monday, September 16, 2024
Richland City Hall - Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bricker called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Chair Bricker, Vice-Chair Morasch, Committee Members Spencer, Hall, Potts, and Griffin.

Also present were Economic Development Manager Wallner, Planner Arrasmith, Economic Development Specialist Follett and Administrative Assistant II Kirkpatrick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Bricker presented the agenda for approval. There were no changes or additions.

COMMITTEE MEMBER POTTS MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION PASSED 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Bricker opened the public comment period at 4:01 p.m. Having no one request time to address the committee, Chair Bricker closed the public comment period at 4:01.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Commercial Facade Improvement Program – 1314 Jadwin Avenue

Economic Specialist Follett presented the Commercial Facade Improvement Program staff report gave a description of what the building tenant would like to do with the awarded funds. These improvements have been approved by the owner and would improve the energy efficiency of the building. 1314 Jadwin Avenue is the current home of The Emerald of Siam Restaurant located in the Uptown Shopping Center.

At the conclusion of Economic Specialist Follett's presentation, members discussed the merits of the application and asked questions about the proposed project.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER FRENCH SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVE CFIP2024-104 APPLICATION IN FULL AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

2. Ordinance Amending Title 5.04.386: Organizations Qualified to use Business License Reserves

Economic Specialist Follett went over Richland Municipal Code (RMC) 5.04.386 that specifies the organizations eligible to utilize the Business License Reserve Fund (BLRF), and when it was last updated removed the Richland Chamber of Commerce because they were not in existence at that time. The Richland Chamber of Commerce has since reformed and would like to be added to the list of eligible organizations with the same vision as before.

Commission asked questions regarding the history of the Richland Chamber of Commerce and the Business License Reserves.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SPENCER MOVED AND COMMITTEE MEMBER GRIFFIN SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE ADDITION OF THE RICHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS A QUALIFIED ENTITY TO USE BUSINESS LICENSE RESERVE FUND. MOTION PASSED 6-0.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Economic Development Manager Wallner announced that she will be attending a Federal Funding Intensive: Aligning State Energy and Economic Goals conference in Denver this upcoming week, and will come back with some information to share. There were also questions regarding the Building License Reserve Fund (BLRF) earlier in the meeting, so she wanted to share that the entire code for the program is in the binder provided to them when the members started, and staff is happy to answer any questions they may have.

Economic Development Specialist Follett spoke about upcoming events happening around Richland. They included the Iron Man competition that is this Sunday, Visit Tri-Cities website has the map of the course, BLRF applications are due at the end of October, the committee will see them in November. This past week the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber held a small business resource fair and invited technical service providers so small businesses could come and interact.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Planner Arrasmith mentioned that the city has received a letter of intent from a clean energy company that we have granted an access agreement to evaluate the land at the Northwest Clean Energy Park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Wallner gave an update on the candidates for the upcoming opening on the committee. 4 applications have been received for the two open positions, and interviews will be set up shortly.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bricker adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Carly Kirkpatrick
Carly Kirkpatrick, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: Mandy Wallner
Mandy Wallner, Economic Development Manager

Approved by: Brad Bricker
Brad Bricker, Chairman