



MINUTES
Richland City Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 21, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Regular Meeting - 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	Absent
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmember Lukson	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember VanDyke	Present
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, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, Development Services Director Rizzitiello, and Acting Deputy City Clerk Follett.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Whitten led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

None.

Public Hearing

Acting Deputy Clerk Follett read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

1. Proposed 2026 Revenue Sources Including Property Tax, Ordinance Nos. 2025-31 and 2025-32

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. No testimony was offered.

2. Proposed Amendment to the 2025 Budget in Various City Funds, Ordinance No. 2025-35

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. No testimony was offered.

3. Proposed Surplus of Property and Equipment, Resolution No. 2025-134

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:06 p.m. No testimony was offered.

4. Proposed 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052 - Battalion Chiefs, Resolution No. 2025-135

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy Clerk Follett read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes

5. Approval of the October 7, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

6. Ordinance No. 2025-29, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 3.27.010 and 3.29.030 related to Utility Billing

7. Ordinance No. 2025-30, Amending Chapter 7.02 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Animal Control

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

8. Ordinance No. 2025-27, Establishing and Dedication Right-of-Way for Morningside Parkway
9. Ordinance No. 2025-28, Amending Chapter 3.26 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Utility Deposit System

Resolutions - Adoption

10. Resolution No. 2025-130, Authorizing a Grant Agreement with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to Support High Visibility Enforcement Actions
11. Resolution No. 2025-131, Supporting Adoption of Amendments to Benton County's Countywide Planning Policies
12. Resolution No. 2025-132, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Benton County and the Cities of Benton City, Kennewick, Prosser and West Richland regarding Solid Waste Management
13. Resolution No. 2025-133, Authorizing Change Order No. 2 to the Construction Contract with Vincent Brothers LLP for the Richland Public Library's Outdoor Children's Area Project

Items - Approval

14. Appointment to the Personnel Committee: Patrick Fair

Expenditures - Approval

15. Expenditures from September 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025 for \$48,398,077.00 including Travel Checks Nos. 20853-20883, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 339543-340364, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10699-10735, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 14977-15043, Payroll Check Nos. 237634-237641, and Payroll Direct Deposits Nos. 252530009418-252720010308.

COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Items of Business

16. Ordinance No. 2025-31, Approving a Change to the 2026 Ad Valorem Tax over the Prior Year (First Reading)

Finance Director Allen gave a joint presentation for Ordinance Nos. 2025-31 and 2025-32.

Related to Ordinance No. 2025-31, Finance Director Allen presented anticipated 2026 General Fund revenue, taxes, service fees and transfers. He noted that the recent opening of Costco is expected to account for a significant increase in sales tax revenue, and the overall projected decrease in the General Fund revenue is related to one-time revenue, such as federal and state grants, that are not expected in 2026.

Finance Director Allen then provided more details on current and expected individual tax revenues. He highlighted the higher sales tax rate for 2026 and increased property tax valuations. Finance Director Allen noted that sales tax revenue for 2026 is expected to surpass property tax revenue for the first time. Finally, Finance Director Allen stressed moderate growth expectations.

Related to Ordinance No. 2025-32, Finance Director Allen detailed the assessed valuation history for the last ten (10) years and noted that valuations have more than doubled during that time period. Finance Director Allen also showed property tax levy rate comparisons to neighboring cities.

Finally, Finance Director Allen reviewed the ad valorem tax options for Council's consideration and discussed the reasons for staff's recommendation of Option 2, which reflects no increase for 2026.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Finance Director Allen answered questions from councilmembers. Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-31, APPROVING A CHANGE TO THE 2026 AD VALOREM TAX OVER THE PRIOR YEAR, FOR FIRST READING. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

17. Ordinance No. 2025-32, Approving the 2026 Ad Valorem Tax and Property Tax Levies (First Reading)

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-32, APPROVING THE 2026 AD VALOREM TAX AND PROPERTY TAX LEVIES, FOR FIRST

READING. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

18. Ordinance No. 2025-35, Amending the 2025 Budget in Various City Funds (First Reading)

Finance Director Allen provided a detailed presentation on the budget adjustment requests by fund. Budget adjustments include appropriations for the following funds: Fire & Emergency Services for equipment replacement, Public Works for additional costs related to the Thayer Drive Streetlight project, Administrative Services for multi-year software projects, and General Fund related to the National Opioid Settlement. Finance Director Allen also detailed several transfers between funds that were needed. Transfers from other funds include allocations to the Golf Course Fund related to golf course projects, and the City Streets and Fire Station Construction Funds for projects.

Detailed information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-35, AMENDING THE 2025 BUDGET IN VARIOUS CITY FUNDS, FOR FIRST READING. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

19. Resolution No. 2025-134, Declaring Certain Vehicles and Equipment Surplus to the City's Needs and Authorizing Disposition

Purchasing Manager Kirschner reviewed equipment that has been deemed end-of-life, obsolete, and surplus to the City's needs. He outlined the process for surplus of city property valued in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per RMC 3.08.050.

Purchasing Manager Kirschner further explained that once surplus approval is given, the vehicles remain in service until replacements are received and placed in service.

Detailed information and a list of surplus property can be found in the PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

COUNCILMEMBER VANDYKE MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-134, DECLARING CERTAIN VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT SURPLUS TO THE CITY'S NEEDS AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

20. Resolution No. 2025-135, Approving the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052 - Battalion Chiefs

Human Resources Director Paulsen detailed the outcome of a recent interest arbitration between the City of Richland and the International Association of Firefighters Union Local 1052 - Battalion Chiefs, including a history of negotiations, mediation and arbitration. She provided details about deal points and arbitration outcomes and noted that the full Interest Arbitration Award was included in the agenda packet for Council's review. Human Resources Director Paulsen noted that the proposed edits to the successor collective bargaining agreement for 2023-2025 reflected the Arbitrator's award.

Councilmembers engaged in a question-and-answer session with Human Resources Director Paulsen at the conclusion of the presentation.

COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-135, APPROVING THE 2023-2025 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 1052-BATTALION CHIEFS. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LUKSON, MAIER, VANDYKE AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson advised Council of upcoming police station visits at three (3) of the local stations and in the Portland area. He also highlighted an event hosted by the Richland Rotary, honoring several Richland businesses with 2025 Entrepreneurial Awards.

City Manager Amundson reminded Council of the utility billing software upgrade and stressed the benefits for Richland residents.

Lastly, City Manager Amundson stated that repeal of the \$20 car tab fee and implementation of the new sales tax for the TBD were potentially on pause, and that more would be known after a response is received from the Washington Department of Licensing.

City Council

Councilmember Lukson commented on Finance Director Allen's financial presentations and Councilmember Jones' comments about the potential for increasing sales tax revenue to lighten the property tax burden on residents. He also encouraged councilmembers to consider ways in which the City could capitalize on its investments in

economic development and infrastructure to bring people into the downtown area and increase sales tax revenue.

Councilmember VanDyke commented on the successful start-up of Hanford's vitrification plant. He also recognized Finance Director Allen and City Manager Amundson for another positive state audit. Lastly, Councilmember VanDyke thanked the Richland Police Department for its work with Benton County to reduce domestic violence in the community.

Councilmember Jones gave a shout-out and thanked the Richland Police Department's traffic unit for the increased enforcement and reduction in street racing. Additionally, Councilmember Jones commented on Amazon's recent announcement related to construction of small modular reactors in cooperation with Energy Northwest and its positive contribution to the community.

Councilmember Whitten echoed Councilmember VanDyke's appreciation for the Finance Department.

Councilmember Maier also echoed Councilmember VanDyke's thanks for the Finance Department's efforts. He also provided an update on Ben Franklin Transit news and ridership.

Mayor

Mayor Richardson thanked Councilmember Lukson for his service and focus on economic development.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor



Lynne Follett, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: November 4, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: November 5, 2025