



MINUTES
Richland City Council Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 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
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were Deputy City Manager Schiessl, City Attorney Kintzley, Deputy Fire Chief Aust, Chief of Police Pilcher, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Development Services Director Rizzitiello, and Acting Deputy City Clerk Follett.

Agenda Items

1. Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite introduced Jon Pheanis, Principal, and Lauren Scott, Planning Project Manager, with MIG. Mr. Pheanis began the presentation by providing an update on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS) work to date. He used a PowerPoint presentation to share key findings on strengths and opportunities. Ms. Scott's presentation also provided information on public engagement and feedback gathered to date, system needs, future vision, goals and objectives, and finally, recommendations on projects and funding tools.

In closing, Mr. Pheanis invited Council to provide feedback on the draft vision, plan building blocks, and key themes in the outreach effort.

Council engaged in a discussion with staff and the consultant team. Council discussion focused on survey results and the draft vision statement, including what makes Richland unique.

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

2. Vacant Buildings

Development Services Director Rizzitiello utilized a PowerPoint presentation as a starting point for discussion on addressing vacant building regulations. His presentation included data on the negative impact of long-term vacant buildings and included several examples of codes used by other Washington municipalities. Director Rizzitiello emphasized the need for a strong correlation to public health, safety and welfare to substantiate the regulations.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Director Rizzitiello. Discussion centered on the pros and cons of regulation, code enforcement, and fines related to vacant buildings. Councilmembers also sought clarification on the fees associated with the registry and processes for gaining compliance.

Councilmembers shared suggestions for staff to consider for any proposed regulations.

3. Code Enforcement - Process Overview

City Attorney Kintzley shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the legal basis for nuisance code, the typical code enforcement model, and data on code enforcement actions in the City for 2024. She also presented examples of extreme violators and the steps the City is required to follow for abatement.

Councilmember discussion centered on potential changes to the Richland Municipal Code and fines for extreme violators. More than one councilmember voiced support for increased fines for non-compliance, and expressed a desire for more immediate corrective action in certain circumstances. There was also support for considering budget planning for abatement activities.

4. Draft 2026 Legislative Priorities

Deputy City Manager Schiessl provided Councilmembers with a draft document detailing the City's 2026 legislative priorities for review and discussion. He also provided a copy of the Association of Washington Cities' (AWC) legislative priorities. Deputy City Manager Schiessl highlighted key priorities, including a discussion of the impacts of shrub-steppe regulations that hinder local growth, ALPR data legislation, securing legislative support for the acquisition of additional Hanford lands in support of the Northwest Advanced Clean Energy Park, and the SR-240/Aaron Drive and Island View capital projects.

Councilmembers debated the merits of several priorities and provided feedback and suggestions. There was general consensus supporting the priorities discussed.

Future Workshop Agenda Items

None.

Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Lynne Follett, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: November 4, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: November 5, 2025