



**MINUTES**

Richland City Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers  
625 Swift Boulevard

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**City Council Regular 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 the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

Attendance: Mayor Richardson	Present
Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke	Present (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember Holten	Present
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present (Remote via Zoom)
Councilmember Samuel	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire Chief Aust, Chief of Police Pilcher, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Development Services Director Rizzitiello, Public Works Director D'Alessandro and City Clerk Rogers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

**COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER HOLTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

**Presentations**

1. Tri-Cities Community Action for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) Update

Paul Krupin, Board Member of Tri-Cities CARES, presented an update on the Horse Haven Hills Wind Project. Mr. Krupin outlined the history and current status of the litigation

regarding the group's efforts to protect the community. Detailed information can be found in the agenda packet.

Following the presentation, Council offered comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Krupin.

### **Public Hearing**

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

#### **2. Proposed Amendments to the 2026 Budget, Ordinance No. 2026-04**

Mayor Richardson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. No testimony was offered.

#### **3. Proposed 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters, Local No. 839, Resolution No. 2026-25**

Mayor Richardson opened the public hearing at 6:23 p.m. and closed the public hearing at 6:24 p.m. No testimony was offered.

### **Public Comments**

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Scott Anderson, Benton City resident and representative of Reborn Eco Solutions, LLC, requested a meeting with staff to present an abatement plan for the waste-tire nuisance at 2990 Twin Bridges Road. Mr. Anderson provided a brief on Reborn Eco Solutions, LLC's abatement plan for Council's review.

### **Consent Calendar**

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

### **Minutes**

#### **4. Approval of the February 3, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **Ordinances - First Reading**

#### **5. Ordinance No. 2026-02, Amending Multiple Sections of Richland Municipal Code Title 14: Electricity, related to Standard Construction Allowance, Standard Construction, and Construction Payment Classifications**

#### **6. Ordinance No. 2026-03, Establishing and Dedicating Additional Right-of-Way for Trowbridge Boulevard and Southgate Way**

## **Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage**

None.

## **Resolutions – Adoption**

7. Resolution No. 2026-19, Establishing Council Assignments for Calendar Years 2026-2027
8. Resolution No. 2026-20, Authorizing a Third Amended and Restated Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Interlocal Agreement
9. Resolution No. 2026-21, Authorizing Award of Bid to Palouse Power, LLC for the 2026 Boring and Cable Replacement Project
10. Resolution No. 2026-22, Authorizing Award of Bid to Big D's Construction of Tri-Cities, Inc. for the Cityview Drive and Truman Avenue Buildout Project
11. Resolution No. 2026-23, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Department of Transportation's National Highway Freight Program
12. Resolution No. 2026-24, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board's Six-Year Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Program

## **Items - Approval**

13. April 7, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Start Time - 7:00 p.m.

## **Expenditures – Approval**

14. Expenditures from January 1, 2026 to January 31, 2026 for \$40,825,476.32 including Travel Checks Nos. 20935-20943, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 343172- 344015, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10858-10894, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 15254-15318, Payroll Check Nos. 237675-237679, and Payroll Direct Deposit Nos. 26140015776-26280016570

**COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

## **Items of Business**

15. Ordinance No. 2026-04, Amending the 2026 Budget in Various Funds

Finance Director Allen presented the proposed 2026 Budget amendments. Approval of Ordinance No. 2026-04 will increase overall appropriations by \$1,031,660 of which \$131,600 is from fund balance and \$900,000 is from new revenue. Finance Director Allen explained that the City is receiving the \$900,000 from a Washington State Department of Commerce Grant for master planning of the Horn Rapids Advanced Clean Energy Park.

**COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER HOLTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2026-04, AMENDING THE 2026 BUDGET IN VARIOUS FUNDS, FOR FIRST READING. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

15. Resolution No. 2026-25, Approving the 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters, Local No. 839

Human Resources Director Paulsen provided an overview of the key provisions of the proposed 2026-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters, Local No. 839. She confirmed that the proposed successor agreement is consistent with parameters set by the City Council.

**COUNCILMEMBER HOLTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-25, APPROVING THE 2026-2028 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH TEAMSTERS, LOCAL NO. 839. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

16. Resolution No 2026-26, Regarding the Reconveyance of Certain Shoreline Property owned by the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers

Deputy City Manager Schiessl presented an overview of the effort, led by the Tri-Cities Development Council (TRIDEC), to reconvey certain shoreline property owned by the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers to local city, county and port district governments, as well as federally recognized Indian tribes with treaty-ceded lands in the Tri-Cities area.

Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-26 will authorize the City Manager to execute two separate Memoranda of Agreement (MOA), one between the City of Richland and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), and another between the City of Richland and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, to ensure that treaty rights, cultural resources, and tribal access remain protected if the land is transferred out of federal ownership. The City Manager, or designee, will also be authorized to participate in the federal legislative process as necessary to request congressional direction and authority to implement the shoreline reconveyance.

Deputy City Manager Schiessl also explained that the proposed MOA is specific to the property detailed in the agreement and does not replace or modify the existing MOA between the City and CTUIR. Detailed information can be found in the agenda packet.

Following the presentation, Council offered comments and engaged in a question-and-answer session with staff.

**COUNCILMEMBER JONES MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-26, REGARDING THE RECONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

## **Reports and Comments**

### *City Manager*

City Manager Amundson stated that with the adoption of Resolution No. 2026-19, establishing Council assignments for calendar years 2026-2027, staff will notify external organizations and begin scheduling internal meetings. He advised that councilmembers should anticipate attending their respective meetings in the near future.

Next, City Manager Amundson reported that Deputy City Manager Schiessl and Development Services Director Rizzitiello will travel to Olympia the following morning to meet with state legislators and agency representatives. He explained that the meetings are part of the City's ongoing effort to advance the City's legislative platform during the current session and to support Council's adopted legislative priorities.

In conclusion, City Manager Amundson provided an overview of the February 24, 2026 City Council workshop agenda items.

### *City Council*

Councilmember Samuel reported that he attended a meeting at the Richland Community Center, hosted by the Exchange Club of Walla Walla, regarding potential interest in establishing a chapter in the City of Richland. He conveyed that several attendees spoke highly of the facility and described the Community Center as a significant asset to the community.

Next, Councilmember Samuel stated that the Planning Commission is actively reviewing updates to the City's Transportation System Plan. He expressed confidence in the Commission's careful assessment of transportation system conditions and related issues to inform its recommendations.

In conclusion, Councilmember Samuel reported attending the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments (BFCOG) community forum. He noted strong community participation and stated that attendees identified the region's primary transportation challenges as driver behavior, congestion, and highway safety. BFCOG identified safer intersections, road maintenance, and safer street crossings as the region's top priorities.

Councilmember Holten shared that she attended a Parks & Recreation Commission meeting where Dave Comstock, Friends of Badger Mountain (FOBM) Board Director, delivered a presentation regarding proposed connecting trail segment projects. She expressed enthusiasm for the project and anticipation for an upcoming FOBM presentation to City Council.

Councilmember Whitten expressed support for the development of a collaborative relationship with the Yakama Nation through the MOA associated with the adoption of Resolution No. 2026-26.

Councilmember Maier reported that Ben Franklin Transit ridership for the month of January exceeded 53,000 in the City of Richland, and that he was recently elected BFT Board Vice-Chair, which he stated gives Richland a stronger voice in regional transit matters.

Councilmember Jones and Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke had no comments.

### *Mayor*

Mayor Richardson thanked councilmembers for their active involvement in their assigned roles and responsibilities. She then reported attending a recent Port of Kennewick meeting and shared observations regarding jurisdictional differences in how meetings are conducted.

Next, Mayor Richardson stated that the recently identified per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination discovered at Vista Field appears to be localized, does not present a significant concern, and that construction is expected to resume shortly.

In conclusion, Mayor Richardson summarized a recent landfill tour and expressed appreciation for the behind-the-scenes operations that support the community's quality of life. She noted that improvements are planned to enhance the public's engagement.

### **Executive Session**

17. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Legal Counsel (45 minutes)

At 7:28 p.m., Mayor Richardson announced that Richland City Council would convene in executive session for 45 minutes to discuss current or potential litigation with legal counsel. A brief transition from the Council Chambers to the executive session room

occurred, with the executive session beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Individuals present during the executive session were Mayor Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke, and Councilmembers Holten, Jones, Maier, Samuel and Whitten. Also present were City Manager Amundson, Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, and City Attorney Kintzley.

At 8:15 p.m., Mayor Richardson extended the executive session an additional 30 minutes.

Council exited the executive session at 8:27 p.m. with no further action taken.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 3, 2026

DATE PUBLISHED: March 4, 2026