



**MINUTES**

Richland City Council Workshop Meeting  
Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers  
625 Swift Boulevard

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**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 VanDyke	Present
Councilmember Holten	Present
Councilmember Jones	Present
Councilmember Maier	Present
Councilmember Samuel	Present
Councilmember Whitten	Present

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

**Agenda Items**

**1. Automated Traffic Enforcement**

Assistant City Manager Florence provided a high-level overview of automated traffic enforcement as an introductory discussion to outline recent changes in state law, explain how a program would operate, and gauge Council’s interest before bringing forward any formal action.

He described automated traffic enforcement as one component of the City’s broader traffic safety strategy, alongside education and engineering, and explained that it is intended to reduce speeding and improve safety. Assistant City Manager Florence provided a brief statistical analysis of existing local government programs, reviewed statutory requirements governing authorized locations, equity analysis, data privacy and ownership, transparency and reporting, acceptable uses of program revenue, how violations would be processed, and common misconceptions.

Assistant City Manager Florence concluded the presentation by providing an overview of potential next steps should Council wish to proceed with further evaluation and ordinance development.

Councilmembers engaged with staff throughout the presentation, asking clarifying questions and offering feedback regarding location selection, privacy safeguards, fiscal impacts, and overall implementation considerations.

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

## 2. 2027 Strategic Plan Preparation

City Manager Amundson introduced the topic and turned the floor over to Assistant City Manager Florence, who provided a high-level overview of the strategic planning process. He presented a summary of completed and ongoing initiatives within the five (5) established strategic priorities outlined in the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, as well as unanticipated projects and emerging issues that have required staff resources.

At the conclusion of Assistant City Manager Florence's presentation, City Manager Amundson presented next steps and sought direction from Council on how to approach the Strategic Plan update process moving forward.

Following the presentation, councilmembers asked questions and discussed next steps for the Strategic Plan. A majority of Council expressed support for refreshing and updating the existing framework rather than conducting a full redesign. Councilmembers emphasized incorporating ongoing projects, engaging new councilmembers in the process, evaluating accomplishments, and distinguishing between long-term priorities and shorter-term implementation actions. Council indicated general support for conducting a facilitated retreat to review and update the Strategic Plan.

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

## **Future Workshop Agenda Items**

City Manager Amundson requested Council's input regarding future workshop agenda items. Councilmembers identified several potential topics for future workshop discussion, including:

- Animal Control and Tri-Cities Animal Services Operations
- Benton County Emergency Services
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects
- City Facilities and Operations Tour
- Government Housing and Core Area Reinvestment
- Grant Processes and Strategy
- Land Use Easements for Reconveyed Parcels
- Local organization presentations

Regarding local organization presentations, City Manager Amundson suggested that requests for presentations could be scheduled upon confirmation of majority Council support, with established guidelines to ensure presentations remain concise and consistent with Council's expectations.

**Executive Session**

1. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b): Discuss Lease or Purchase of Real Estate if Disclosure Would Increase Price (30 minutes)

At 7:26 p.m., Mayor Richardson announced that Richland City Council would convene in executive session for 30 minutes to discuss lease or purchase of real estate pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). A ten (10) minute recess was taken, and the executive session commenced at 7:36 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, City Attorney Kintzley, and Chief of Police Pilcher.

At 8:06 p.m., Mayor Richardson extend the executive session by 15 minutes.

Council exited the executive session at 8:21 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 3, 2026

DATE PUBLISHED: March 4, 2026