



**MINUTES**

Richland City Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 3, 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
Councilmember Holten	Present
Councilmember Jones	Absent
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, Fire Chief Aust, 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.

**MAYOR RICHARDSON MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER JONES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

**COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER HOLTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

**Presentations**

1. New Hires and Retirements

A video featuring six (6) new hires for the month of February was played for the audience.

- Jay Aoyama – Police Officer, Police Services Division
- Jim Bridges – Deputy Public Works Director, Public Works Admin. & Engineering Division
- Lizbeth Cardenas – Police Records Specialist, Police Services Division
- Ethan Cowan – Journey Lineworker, Energy Services Division
- Mason Martinell – Police Officer, Police Services Division
- Donald Wieber – Parks & Public Facilities Project Manager, Parks & Facilities Division

There were no retirements to recognize.

### **Public Hearing**

None.

### **Public Comments**

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedures.

The following individuals provided public comments:

- Kyle Sullivan, Benton County Human Services Director, stated that Benton County is currently updating its required Five-Year Homeless Housing Plan to submit to the Washington State Department of Commerce. Work on the Plan has been underway for approximately one year, with the deadline extended to the end of April to allow an opportunity to address administrative matters.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the planning process included a steering committee with representation from local jurisdictions, and thanked Toni Lehman, Richland's CDBG/HOME Administrator, for serving as the City's representative, and for her contributions to the Continuum of Care Task Force. The Plan is currently in draft form and is open for public comment. He encouraged Councilmembers and staff to review the document and provide any feedback, questions, or concerns.

- Shelly Little, a Richland resident who serves as a public health nurse with Benton-Franklin Health District's Overdose Prevention and Response Program, addressed Council regarding ongoing overdose concerns in Benton County. She requested consideration of establishing a naloxone (Narcan) distribution site in Richland, similar to those in Kennewick and Pasco. Ms. Little suggested potential locations such as the Richland Public Library or Community Center and encouraged the City to participate in the Overdose Detection Mapping Allocation Program, a national system that tracks overdose incidents and naloxone use to help communities identify incidents and allocate resources more effectively.

## **Consent Calendar**

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

## **Minutes**

2. Approval of the February 17, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 24, 2026 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

## **Ordinances - First Reading**

None.

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

3. 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
4. Ordinance No. 2026-03, Establishing and Dedicating Additional Right-of-Way for Trowbridge Boulevard and Southgate Way
5. Ordinance No. 2026-04, Amending the 2026 Budget in Various Funds

## **Resolutions - Adoption**

6. Resolution No. 2026-27, Authorizing a Three-Year Agreement with Insight Public Sector for Microsoft Volume Licensing
7. Resolution No. 2026-28, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Continuum of Care and Youth Demonstration Program

## **Items - Approval**

None.

## **Expenditures – Approval**

None.

**COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

## Items of Business

8. Resolution No. 2026-29, Authorizing a Special Election on the November 2026 Ballot for Council Position No. 4

City Attorney Kintzley presented Resolution No. 2026-29 and explained that the City of Richland is a first-class city operating under a home rule charter that grants the City broad authority to govern its municipal affairs so long as its actions do not conflict with state law.

She noted that during the 2025 General Election, candidate Donald Landsman was elected to City Council Position No. 4, but was unable to qualify for office because he passed away, thereby creating a vacancy. In accordance with the Richland City Charter, City Council initiated the recruitment process and appointed Todd Samuel to temporarily fill the vacancy until a successor is elected to complete the remainder of the unexpired term.

City Attorney Kintzley further explained that although state law generally limits municipal elections to odd-numbered years, the Richland City Charter contemplates electing a successor to fill the current Council vacancy in November 2026, an even-numbered year. In consultation with the Benton County Auditor's Office, staff confirmed through a Washington State Attorney General's Opinion that a first-class charter city may hold a special election in conjunction with a general election for the purpose of fulfilling a partial term when doing so is consistent with that city's charter. This action is not considered inconsistent with state law because a full municipal term is not up for election. Under state law, all full municipal terms must be elected in odd-numbered years.

Resolution No. 2026-29 formally requests the Benton County Auditor to call a special election and place Position No. 4 on the 2026 General Election Ballot for the purpose of electing a successor candidate to serve the remainder of Donald Landman's term through December 31, 2029.

**COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-29, REQUESTING THE BENTON COUNTY AUDITOR TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION NO. 4 ON THE RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL, TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION, CONSISTENT WITH THE RICHLAND CITY CHARTER AND RCW 29A.04.330. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

9. Resolution No. 2026-30, Declaring a Six-Month Moratorium on Siting Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) Facilities Serving Sexually Violent Predators

Deputy City Manager Schiessl presented Resolution No. 2026-30, declaring a six-month moratorium on the siting of Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) facilities serving sexually violent predators within the City of Richland.

He explained that under Washington's Growth Management Act, Richland is required to accommodate essential public facilities, which include community transition facilities used to house individuals civilly committed as sexually violent predators who have been conditionally released from total confinement to a supervised, less restrictive facility.

Deputy City Manager Schiessl stated that adoption of the proposed moratorium would align Richland with other local jurisdictions and provide time to study the issue, engage the community, and determine whether additional development regulations are needed to address land use compatibility and public safety considerations. The moratorium would take effect immediately upon adoption, and a public hearing would be held on April 7, 2026 at or after 7:00 p.m. in Richland City Hall.

Additional detailed information is available in a PowerPoint presentation included in the agenda packet.

**MAYOR RICHARDSON MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-30, DECLARING A SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM ON SITING LESS RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVE (LRA) FACILITIES SERVING SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, MAIER, SAMUEL AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

## Reports and Comments

### *City Manager*

City Manager Amundson expressed best wishes to the Richland High School varsity boys' basketball team competing in the state tournament on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

City Manager Amundson also highlighted recognition events within the City's public safety departments, including the Richland Fire & Emergency Services promotion and retirement ceremony, which celebrated multiple promotions and honored several retirees for their years of service to the community. He also noted attending the Richland Police Department's annual awards banquet, where employees were recognized for outstanding service, leadership, and community engagement.

In closing, City Manager Amundson reported that the Ironman 70.3 Washington Tri-Cities event held the previous September received two (2) notable recognitions for

event quality. The event was ranked No. 1 for best-run Ironman event in North America, and also received the highest global ranking for the run segment among more than 100 Ironman events worldwide. He congratulated city staff, Visit Tri-Cities, and regional partners for their collaboration in delivering a successful event. He concluded by extending birthday wishes to Councilmember Holten.

### *City Council*

Councilmember Samuel stated he attended the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce meeting, where the Chamber shared that it maintains a membership of more than 900 businesses and that the hospitality industry in the Tri-Cities region employs more than 5,900 individuals.

Councilmember Samuel also reported on attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of phase 1 of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Pasco. He stated that the event was well attended, and that projects such as this community center, along with other regional amenities, enhance the quality of life for residents and strengthen the region's appeal.

Councilmember Holten reported attending the recent Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau meeting and the Parks & Recreation Commission workshop. She stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission discussed the use of e-bikes and motorized scooters in city parks.

Councilmember Whitten expressed appreciation to all individuals who applied to serve on the Richland Arts Commission. He reported that interviews to fill upcoming vacancies have been scheduled. He also commented on the overall success of the recent Ironman event and described it as an outstanding community event.

Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke reported that the Ironman event was voted first in the run course, third for the swim course, and third overall in participant satisfaction out of 114 host locations worldwide.

He emphasized that the recognition reflects the strong coordination across the Tri-Cities region and highlighted the substantial support provided by the City of Richland. He expressed appreciation to city staff for prioritizing the event, and for the extensive planning and coordination efforts undertaken in advance of the event on multiple occasions. He thanked staff for their continued work and encouraged them to maintain those efforts in the future.

### *Mayor*

Mayor Richardson reported that she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU). She stated that the credit union has demonstrated a strong commitment to community involvement, including participation in local events such as Cool Desert Nights, and she welcomed their continued engagement in

Richland.

Mayor Richardson then encouraged councilmembers and members of the public to attend Benton County Therapeutic Court graduation ceremonies. She explained that the program provides individuals involved in the criminal justice system, many of whom have experienced homelessness and addiction, an opportunity to participate in an intensive treatment-focused program designed to develop life skills and support long-term recovery. She described the ceremonies as meaningful occasions that highlight personal recovery and the restoration of family relationships.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Theresa Richardson, Mayor



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 17, 2026

DATE PUBLISHED: March 18, 2026