



**MINUTES**

Richland City Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026  
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers  
625 Swift Boulevard

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**City Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke welcomed those in the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

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

Also present were Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, Fire Chief Aust, Chief of Police Pilcher, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, Acting City Attorney Foltz, and City Clerk Rogers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Presentations**

None.

**Public Hearing**

None.

**Public Comments**

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedure.

The following individuals provided comments:

- Kelly Harnish, a Richland resident and representative of the Benton Franklin Health District, invited Council and community members to the upcoming Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) launch event to be held on April 29, 2026 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. at the Richland Public Library.
- Randy Slovic, a Richland resident, recommended that a portion of the \$70,000 in Lodging Tax funds allocated for Richland development be directed toward creating self-guided walking tours on an app named *GPSmyCity*.

### **Consent Calendar**

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

### **Minutes**

1. Approval of the April 7, 2026 City Council Special Workshop and Regular Meeting Minutes

### **Ordinances - First Reading**

2. Ordinance No. 2026-10, Amending Chapter 2.04 of the Richland Municipal Code related to the Administrative Code

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

3. Ordinance No. 2026-06, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 16.08.010 related to Stormwater Utility Rates
4. Ordinance No. 2026-07, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 17.56.010 and 17.56.020 related to Wastewater Utility Rates
5. Ordinance No. 2026-08, Amending the 2026 Budget in the Water, Sewer, and Streets Capital Funds
6. Ordinance No. 2026-09, Amending Chapter 10.02 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Violations and Procedures

### **Resolutions – Adoption**

7. Resolution No. 2026-45, Authorizing an Agreement with the Washington State Department of Corrections for Litter Services at the Horn Rapids Landfill  
**(PULLED BY COUNCILMEMBER MAIER AND RELOCATED UNDER ITEMS OF**

**BUSINESS)**

8. Resolution No. 2026-46, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Grit Works Rehabilitation Project
9. Resolution No. 2026-47, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Anaerobic Digester Improvements Project
10. Resolution No. 2026-48, Authorizing Award of Bid to Reyes Brothers Construction, LLC for the 2026 ADA Ramp Project
11. Resolution No. 2026-49, Authorizing Award of Bid to Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc. for the 2026 Microsurfacing Project
12. Resolution No. 2026-50, Authorizing a Purchase Order Contract with Northwest Playground Equipment, Inc. for Playground Equipment at West Village Park Playground
13. Resolution No. 2026-51, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Little Badger Mountain Trailhead & Connection Trails Project
14. Resolution No. 2026-52, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with GeoEngineers, Inc. for Columbia Point Marina Dredging Sampling and Analysis
15. Resolution No. 2026-53, Authorizing 2026 Park Partnership Grant Awards
16. Resolution No. 2026-54, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with Benton County and the City of Kennewick for Fiscal Year 2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Funds
17. Resolution No. 2026-55, Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Seattle Police Department for Funding to support Internet Crimes Against Children Investigations
18. Resolution No. 2026-56, Authorizing Award of Bid to Flextronics International USA, Inc. d/b/a Crown Technical Systems for the Dallas Substation Control Enclosure Construction Project
19. Resolution No. 2026-57, Retaining the March 3, 2026 Six-Month Moratorium on Siting Less Restrictive Alternative (LRA) Facilities Serving Sexually Violent Predators
20. Resolution No. 2026-58, Authorizing 2026 Lodging Tax Grant Funding Awards

**Items – Approval**

None.

### **Expenditures – Approval**

21. Expenditures from March 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 for \$38,547,272.71, including Travel Checks Nos. 20962-20990, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 344725-345730, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 10933-10968, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 15381-15442, Payroll Check Nos. 237683-237685, and Payroll Direct Deposit Nos. 26700018954-26890020569.

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

### **Items of Business**

22. Resolution No. 2026-59, Authorizing Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Directed Spending Submittals to the Office of Congressman Dan Newhouse

Development Services Director Rizzitiello provided a comprehensive overview of Resolution Nos. 2026-59, 2026-60, and 2026-61, related to Congressional Directed Spending (CDS). He explained its purpose, process, and the City's proposed project submissions.

He explained that the three (3) resolutions were brought forward to ensure timely Council support, as certain appropriations subcommittees may require formal resolutions of support on short notice. Failure to submit the required documentation within the allotted timeframe could result in removal from consideration.

Additional details are included in the PowerPoint presentation included with the agenda packet.

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

**COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-59, AUTHORIZING FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING SUBMITTALS TO THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAN NEWHOUSE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

23. Resolution No. 2026-60, Authorizing Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Directed Spending Submittals to the Office of Senator Maria Cantwell

**COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER MAIER SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-60, AUTHORIZING FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING SUBMITTALS TO THE OFFICE OF SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

24. Resolution No. 2026-61, Authorizing Fiscal Year 2027 Congressional Directed Spending Submittals to the Office of Senator Patty Murray

**COUNCILMEMBER MAIER MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER HOLTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-61, AUTHORIZING FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING SUBMITTALS TO THE OFFICE OF SENATOR PATTY MURRAY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR RICHARDSON, MAYOR PRO TEM VANDYKE, AND COUNCILMEMBERS HOLTEN, JONES, MAIER, SAMUEL, AND WHITTEN. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

25. Resolution No. 2026-45, Authorizing an Agreement with the Washington State Department of Corrections for Litter Services at the Horn Rapids Landfill  
**(FORMERLY ITEM NO. 7 UNDER THE CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Councilmember Maier explained that he pulled this agenda item from the consent calendar for two (2) primary concerns. First, he referenced a previous contract in which he questioned whether inmate participation in the Litter Services Program was voluntary. He noted that staff had confirmed that the program was voluntary at that time, but emphasized that the voluntary nature of participation is subject to the discretion of the Warden. Councilmember Maier requested confirmation that the program remains voluntary under the current agreement.

Second, Councilmember Maier requested clarification regarding the scope of the contract, specifically whether it represents an expansion of the existing labor arrangement and, if so, how many additional workers would be involved.

Public Works Director D'Alessandro clarified that the resolution represents a renewal of a contract that expired at the end of 2025, rather than an expansion of the existing labor agreement. He explained that the prior agreement was a two-year term, while the proposed contract would extend through 2030, constituting a five-year agreement. He further confirmed that the labor group would not be expanded.

Regarding the question of voluntariness, he stated that there was no indication the program had changed in that regard but stated he would follow up to provide definitive confirmation.

**COUNCILMEMBER WHITTEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER HOLTEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-45, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF**

**CORRECTIONS FOR LITTER SERVICES AT THE HORN RAPIDS LANDFILL. 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 was absent. Deputy City Manager Schiessl did not have comments.

### *City Council*

Councilmember Samuel reported receiving numerous emails from Richland residents expressing concern about the proposed data center, noting that several contained detailed potential issues and proposed solutions. He noted that such engagement and communication from the community are highly valued and appreciated.

He also reported that he attended a joint Economic Development Committee and Planning Commission meeting, during which an overview of the economic development element of the City's Comprehensive Plan update was presented. He noted that a key takeaway was the City's significant growth over the past decade. Richland experienced a 22.3% population increase; the highest growth rate among the Tri-Cities.

He also noted that, as part of the consultant's scope of work, they will conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of Richland's economic development.

Councilmember Holten reported on a range of community engagements and regional initiatives. She highlighted participation in a drought and water conservation discussion with the Kennewick Irrigation District (KID) regarding efforts to expand water storage capacity to improve drought resiliency.

She also described a meeting with Kelsey Kelmel of Heritage Gardens regarding environmentally sustainable landscaping practices. She then highlighted that Richland Fire & Emergency Services hosted a blood drive and set a new Washington State record for the most units collected in a single day.

Councilmember Holten then provided an update from the Parks and Recreation Commission, including ongoing discussions on the regulation of electric bicycles, and that the department facilitates approximately 130 events annually.

Councilmember Holten also reported on the sale of the Haynes Avenue property and her attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Columbia Basin Recovery Center. In closing, Councilmember Holten stated that she attended the Annual Employee

Breakfast event during which employees were recognized for service anniversaries and outstanding service and contributions to the community.

Councilmember Jones did not have comments.

Councilmember Whitten invited the community to attend the grand opening of a new solar system project at the REACH Museum. He noted that the installation is designed to illustrate the scale and distances of the solar system and provides an educational and visual representation of planetary spacing.

Councilmember Maier reported that the investigation into allegations regarding Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) leadership has been completed and resulted in a board-directed change in leadership. He noted that neither the investigation nor the leadership change had impacted transit operations, and that the service levels and ridership remain strong. He added that BFT will be offering free rides on Earth Day.

Councilmember Maier further announced upcoming community events, including the Friends of the Library book sale at the Richland Public Library, to be held over the upcoming weekend. He also encouraged the community to participate in the library's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, scheduled for May 1, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the library's lobby and on The Lawn.

Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke reported that he attended the Richland Chamber of Commerce meeting earlier in the day and noted strong engagement and community interest among its members. He stated that he continues to provide updates on City projects, issues, and areas of concern during the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke also reported attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Columbia Basin Recovery Center. He emphasized the importance of integrating behavioral health resources, including the facility, therapeutic courts, and the City's resource navigation efforts, and that these coordinated services present a significant opportunity to better support individuals in need within the community.

### *Mayor*

Mayor Richardson reported she is currently in Augusta, Georgia, representing the City of Richland at an Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) conference. She noted that the conference focused on topics including nuclear waste cleanup, the transition of legacy nuclear sites, and emerging nuclear development, as well as related discussions on data center growth. Mayor Richardson stated that the conference provided valuable national-level insights and opportunities to engage with key stakeholders, to promote interest in future investment and development in Richland.

## **Executive Session**

26. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation

with Legal Counsel (45 minutes)

At 7:00 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke 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 7:05 p.m.

Individuals present during the executive session were Mayor Richardson (Remote via Zoom), Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke, and Councilmembers Holten, Jones, Maier, Samuel, and Whitten. Also present were City Manager Amundson (Remote via Zoom), Deputy City Manager Schiessl, Assistant City Manager Florence, and Acting City Attorney Foltz.

At 7:45 p.m., Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke extended the executive session for an additional 15 minutes.

Council exited the executive session at 7:59 p.m. No action was taken.

### Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem VanDyke adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

APPROVED:

  
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Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:

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

DATE APPROVED: May 5, 2026

DATE PUBLISHED: May 6, 2026