



Minutes

City Council Workshop Meeting
Tuesday, July 28, 2026
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Richardson called the Council workshop meeting 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, City Attorney Kintzley, Development Services Director Rizzitiello, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Fire Chief Aust, Information Technology Director Goodhue, Chief of Police Pilcher, Public Works Director D'Alessandro, and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Items

1. Hydro and Industry Upgrade – Northwest RiverPartners

Energy Services Director Whitney introduced Clark Mather, Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners, who presented an update on regional hydropower issues.

Mr. Mather reviewed public opinion regarding hydropower, energy affordability and reliability, recent litigation and operational challenges affecting the federal hydropower system, fish return data, public education and advocacy efforts, and ongoing work with tribal governments and other regional partners.

Council engaged in a question-and-answer session with Mr. Mather throughout the presentation.

Additional information can be found in the presentation saved with the agenda packet.

2. Multi-Family Housing Tax Exemption

Development Services Director Rizzitiello presented information regarding the Multi-Family Housing Tax Exemption (MFTE) program authorized by state law, including program benefits and drawbacks, the 8, 12 and 20 year exemption options, eligibility

and affordability requirements, examples from other Washington jurisdictions, potential target areas, administrative requirements, and the process for establishing a local MFTE program.

Additional information can be found in the presentation saved with the agenda packet.

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

3. Kratom: Background, Federal and State Regulations, and Local Policy Options

City Manager Amundson presented an overview of kratom and concentrated 7-hydroxymitragynine products, health and safety concerns, federal and state regulations, local incident data, actions taken by other Washington jurisdictions, and local policy options.

Council discussed a total prohibition on the sale and distribution of kratom products, an age-based restriction, regulation limited to concentrated 7-hydroxymitragynine products, enforcement limitations, and the potential effect of future state or federal regulations.

Additional information can be found in the presentation saved with the agenda packet.

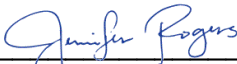
Adjournment

Mayor Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED:


Theresa Richardson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: August 5, 2026

DATE PUBLISHED: August 6, 2026