



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING / REGULAR WORKSHOP

Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

City Council Special Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (City Hall Council Chamber)

Mayor Thompson called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, Councilmembers Anderson, Kent, Lemley, Luzzo Gilmour, and Rose were present.

Also present were Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Energy Services Director Hammond, Business Services Manager Edgemon, Fire and Emergency Services Director Huntington, Community Development Director Jensen, Administrative Services Director Koch, Finance Director Allen, Public Works Director Rogalsky and City Clerk Hopkins.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Thompson led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Calendar: (Approved by single vote of Council)

Ms. Hopkins read the Consent Calendar.

1. Resolution No. 04-17, Purchasing Fire Services Enforcer Pumper from PNC Equipment Finance
- Cathleen Koch, Administrative Services Director
2. Resolution No. 12-17, Authorizing Agreements with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for Queensgate Drive Improvements
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
3. Resolution No. 15-17, Awarding of Bid to Prater Electric, Inc. for Snyder Substation Bank 2 Addition
- Bob Hammond, Energy Services Director
4. Authorize Travel for Councilmember Lemley
- Cindy Reents, City Manager

5. Expenditures from December 26, 2016 - January 6, 2017 for \$7,548,786.78 including Check Nos. 240945-241356, Wire Nos. 6323-6338, Payroll Check Nos. 114268-114764, and Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 9742-9751
- Cathleen Koch, Administrative Services Director

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Workshop Agenda Items:

1. Electric Vehicles - EVITA Status (10 minutes)
- Bob Hammond, Energy Services Director

Mr. Hammond said the objective of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Transportation Alliance (ETIVA) is to advocate for sustainable electric transportation infrastructure by promoting public/private partnerships in developing fast charging stations throughout the service areas of local utilities with Benton and Franklin Counties, as well as along the major highways leading into the Tri-Cities area. EVITA has an interlocal agreement with Benton and Franklin PUDs, Energy Northwest and the City of Richland to support this concept.

Energy Northwest is preparing a grant application to help enable private enterprise to own and operate the charging stations. The grant would seek funds for the expensive switch gear that goes between the high voltage transformers and the charging equipment. Covering this expense would help enable private enterprise to open and operate charging stations as part of a five-year startup plan. Utility providers would be responsible for the high voltage transformers, standardized interconnection specifications, and creating a specific rate classification for electric vehicles charging.

Mr. Hammond said as part of the grant application, a letter of support for EVITA from the Mayor was requested. He went on to explain the steps in the grant application and how Council approval would be involved.

Council had a question and answer period with Mr. Hammond.

2. Update on Electric Utility Cost of Service Analysis and Rates (20 minutes)
- Bob Hammond, Energy Services Director

Mr. Hammond said Richland Energy Services Department (RES) staff continue to work with rates consultant FCS regarding the electric utility cost of service analysis (COSA) update. Originally, based on forward financial projections at the end of 2015, RES staff believed an approximate 9.5% rate increase could be necessary, effective July 2017, in order to continue recovering operating expenses through retail rates.

Fortunately, the preliminary COSA work has shown the electric utility's financial status to be more positive than originally projected, and based on that preliminary analysis, RES staff does not intend at this time to recommend rate increases in 2017.

Mr. Hammond reviewed the current financial status of the utility compared to the latest published COSA and the latest conclusions on the COSA update work underway by RES and FCS staff. As part of the COSA update work, several COSA policy assumptions need to be revisited with the UAC, notably the level of rate-financed capital and revenue bonding levels.

RES staff and FCS will continue updating the COSA, and as a result, will refine the forward rate program analysis and present the results to the UAC at its March 2017 meeting. Assuming there is no recommendation for a 2017 rate increase, a specific recommendation for a 2018 rate increase is anticipated coming out of the May 2017 UAC meeting.

Council did not have any questions for Mr. Hammond.

3. Proposed Amendment - Nonconforming Zoning Standards (10 minutes)
- Kerwin Jensen, Community Development Director

Mr. Jensen said the nonconforming use provisions of the City zoning code provide standards for uses that were legally established but are no longer permitted under existing regulations. The current code language does not provide clear guidance and so staff has been working with the Planning Commission to improve this code chapter. The first reading of Ordinance No. 01-17 will be on the February 7, 2017, Council agenda for consideration.

Council did not have any questions for Mr. Jensen.

Other Business:

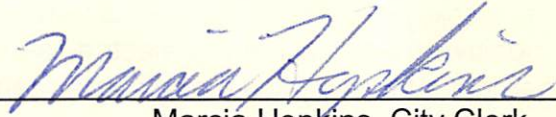
Mr. Amundson said there was a correction to a Tuesday Notes item; the Tri-Cities National Park Committee open house that was posted for January 16 and should have been posted for February 16. He also noted the Richland School District will be making a five-minute presentation on the upcoming bond issue at the February 7, 2017, Council meeting.

Mayor Thompson said he was recently contacted by Brad Fischer through email and wanted to discuss shoreline issues with him.

Adjournment:

Mayor Thompson adjourned the workshop at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

FORM APPROVED:



Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

DATE APPROVED:

2/7/17

DATE PUBLISHED:

2/14/17
