



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Pre-Meeting:

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen called the pre-meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Manager's Conference Room in the City Hall Annex building.

Attendance:

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

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Hammond, Communication and Marketing Manager Logan and City Clerk Hopkins.

Agenda Items:

1. Electrical Substation Projects Update (10 minutes)

- Bob Hammond, Energy Services Director

Mr. Hammond gave a brief update on the Snyder Street substation expansion project; the new substation on Leslie Road and the new substation on Dallas Road.

2. Discussion of Council Meeting Agenda Items

Council and staff briefly reviewed the proposed agenda scheduled for the regular meeting.

Regular Meeting:

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen called the Council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

Welcome and Roll Call:

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

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

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire and Emergency Services Director Huntington, Community Development Director Jensen, Administrative Services Director Koch, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Police Services Director Skinner and City Clerk Hopkins.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUZZO GILMOUR SECONDED A MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR THOMPSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS KENT AND ROSE. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen introduced Boy Scout Troop No. 201 that were attending the meeting and also led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUZZO GILMOUR SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Presentations:

1. 2016 Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report (10 minutes)
 - Tom Huntington, Fire and Emergency Services Director

Chief Huntington gave the 2016 Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report beginning with complimenting his staff members. He reported on: call volume and 5-year trends; EMS call volume breakdown; trauma call volume; 2016 station call volume; and future benchmarking reports.

Councilmembers had a general question and answer period.

Public Hearing:

City Clerk Hopkins read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

1. Formation of Transportation Benefit District - Ordinance No. 02-17
 - Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director

Mr. Rogalsky gave a presentation on the formation of the transportation benefit district including the definition of a Transportation Benefit District (TBD); the purpose of a TBD; the general powers of the District; what the Richland's TBD will accomplish; 2017 street budget; the Duportail Bridge funding sources; the Duportail Bridge schedule; revenue collected spending for the City's Pavement Preservation Program and the Duportail Bridge bond payment; next steps to form the TBD; and what the public input has been to date.

Councilmembers had a general question and answer period.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen opened the public hearing at 8:03 p.m.

James Vance, 1400 Marshall Avenue, Richland, WA, thanked the Police and Fire Departments for the great work they do for the community. He asked what happened to the street maintenance funds that are not used during past mild winters. He said license tabs have gone up already to support projects on the westside of the state and believes the eastside of the state does not receive its fair share of the taxes for its projects and he does not want to pay more taxes if the eastside of the state does not benefit.

Carol Fellows, 1584 Cimarron Avenue, Richland, WA, said she is not against the Duportail Bridge, but she has concerns that citizens on fixed or low incomes will have a hardship to pay a \$20 car tab. She is concerned the car tab fee will increase over time and believes \$20 is too high of a fee. She asked if the City of West Richland is contributing to bridge as they will benefit from it as well and asked if other funding sources have been explored.

Francis Kulman, 1205 Wright Avenue, Richland, WA, is not against the bridge, but believes citizens are not getting enough benefits from the taxes they pay and she does not want to pay more. She believes the cost of living in Richland is high and believes people on fixed incomes as well as the elderly and handicapped, cannot afford to live in Richland.

Lloyd Becker, 2120 Duportail Street, Richland, WA, said he was concerned with the management of the City and believes the money spent on the bridge will negatively impact the budgets of the Police and Fire Departments. He is concerned the car tab fee will increase over time.

Eric Greenwell, 222 Thayer Drive, Richland, WA, said he is in favor of the bridge that will improve the traffic problems and believed the \$20 dollar car tab fee that will help fund the projects, is a reasonable cost. He does not want to jeopardize the federal and state funding that is in place now.

Jean Roblyer, 721 Snyder Street, Richland, WA, supports the bridge and wants it to be built as soon as possible. She believes the 20-year, \$20 car tab fee is a reasonable amount to help fund the bridge.

Barbara Chen, 2528 Harris Avenue, Richland, WA, supports the bridge and asked if a sliding scale can be used to determine the car tab cost.

Armin Ward, 611 Cascade, Richland, WA, supports the bridge, but does not support the \$20 car tab and is concerned that it will increased over time.

Eddie Crippen, 254 Cottonwood Drive, Richland, WA, does not support the bridge and believes other alternative exists to solve the traffic problems.

Art Kelly, 1214 Putman, Richland, WA, believes the cost is not equitable, as people will use the bridge that are not Richland residents. He questioned if the City has investigated alternative methods to reduce traffic along George Washington Way.

Jane Frasier, 2405 Richmond Blvd, Richland, WA, believes the \$20 car tab is too high for a person on a fixed income and suggests a lower fee. She is concerned that the fee would be increased over time.

Doug Wartz, 2913 Troon Court, Richland, WA, believes Council should reserve the right to impose a tax for a crisis situation and does not believe the bridge is a crisis. He believes the amount of a tax for the bridge and maintaining infrastructure should be a vote of the people.

Cheryl Scott, 3065 Bluffs Drive, Richland, WA, said her property taxes have continue to rise and believes the businesses that will benefit from the bridge, should pay for it.

Roberta Sanker, 2124 Briarwood Court, Richland, WA, asked if the traffic routes in the Queensgate area have been studied to determine if traffic problems can be fixed in that area.

John Fox, 2614 Harris Avenue, Richland, WA, said he is troubled by the citizen's distrust of the City of Richland taxes. He pointed out that the City has only taken the allowable 1% property tax once in over 10 years and said the fears expressed by the citizens are not justifiable. He pointed out that the state funding for the bridge should not be jeopardized and citizens need to support the car tab fee to get the bridge built.

Kelly Hoover, 401 Birch, Richland, WA, said she can't get out of her driveway between 4:00-6:00 p.m. due to traffic and believes the bridge will cause more traffic in her area. She does not support the bridge and does not believe it is needed or that it will fix the traffic problems. She stated that other local communities should help pay for the bridge.

Cory Franklin, 2200 Dover Street, Richland, WA, believes that once the tax is set, it will not end and that the amount will continue to go up.

Mike Duncan, 1835 Birch, Richland, WA, asked if other vehicles types are subject to the \$20 car tab fee or was it for motor vehicles only. He believes the portion of the tax for street maintenance should list what it will be used for and he would like to have access to the traffic studies that outlines the problems and proposed solutions to traffic.

Dean Meyers, 300 Columbia Point Drive, Richland, WA, said he is concerned the \$20 car tab fee would be raised over time and he believes the City should guarantee the fee will not be raised or last more than 20 years.

Steve Scritchfield, 2112 Lee Blvd. Richland, WA, asked who has oversight of the Transportation Benefit District (TBD). Mayor Pro Tem Christensen said the citizens have oversight of the TBD.

Martin Newberry, 618 Muriel Street, Richland, WA, believes there is a better location for the bridge other than Duportail that would address traffic problems. He said the City needs to explain the traffic studies better and how they will affect and benefit the citizens.

Carol Larkin, 711 Clement Drive, Richland, WA, said she supports the bridge and it is needed for current and future growth needs. She does not want to jeopardize the federal and state funding and believes the car tab fee is better than a property tax increase.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen closed the public hearing at 8:51 p.m.

2. Amending the 2017 Budget for the Industrial Development Fund - Ordinance No. 03-17

- Kerwin Jensen, Community Development Director

Mr. Jensen said Ordinance No. 03-17 proposes to increase appropriations in the Industrial Development fund to provide for fiber optic infrastructure construction in the area of SR 240 and Hagen Road. This is to serve the expansion to the Lamb Weston processing facility primarily, but will also provide enough extra fiber optic to serve additional users and future industrial development in the area. He said Washington State law requires that any increase to appropriations in a fund budget be adopted by ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen opened the public hearing at 8:54 p.m. and closed the hearing at 8:54:15 p.m. as there were no comments.

Public Comments:

Robert Winter, 1915 Orchard Way, Richland, WA, asked if the City could negotiate a payment plan for the winter utility payments and suspend associated late fees to help people who have incurred large utility bills, due to the severe winter weather.

Barbara Chinn, 2528 Harris Avenue, Richland, WA, asked if the City was going to write a statement of inclusion and support more events highlighting different cultures and faiths.

Carl Baker, 4501 W. Latin Court, West Richland, WA, asked if the City plans to develop a statement of inclusion and form a diversity council. He noted that the video shown at the last Council meeting showing the quality of life in Richland, did not feature any people of color.

James Vance, 1400 Marshall Avenue, Richland, WA, thanked the Mayor Pro Tem and Councilmembers for running a good meeting and public hearing session.

Nancy Washton, 405 Sierra Street, Richland, WA, said the foreign nationals she works with have expressed growing fears about the current political happenings and have been

verbally assaulted in the community. She said a statement of inclusion is symbolic of what the Councilmembers believe in and stand for and it is important for them to state that publically. She also stated she is helping to organize the Appreciation for Science event that promotes better living through science and invited the Councilmembers and community to attend.

Consent Calendar:

City Clerk Hopkins read the Consent Calendar.

Minutes:

1. Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on February 7, 2017
 - Heather Kintzley, City Attorney

Ordinances - First Reading:

2. Ordinance No. 03-17, Amending the 2017 Budget for the Industrial Development Fund to provide appropriations for a Fiber Build in the Horn Rapids Industrial Area
 - Kerwin Jensen, Community Development Director

Resolutions – Adoption:

3. Resolution No. 19-17, Awarding Contract to Clayton-Ward Co. for Recycling Services
 - Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
4. Resolution No. 20-17, Authorizing Execution of a Purchase and Sale Agreement with HF Pasco, LLC for the Duportail Bridge Project
 - Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
5. Resolution No. 29-17, Awarding Distribution of 2017 Business License Reserve Funds (BLRF)
 - Kerwin Jensen, Community Development Director
6. Resolution No. 30-17, Awarding Distribution of Commercial Improvement Fund (CIP)
 - Kerwin Jensen, Community Development Director
7. Resolution No. 33-17, Authorizing Execution of Interlocal Agreement with Port of Benton for 2017 Slurry Seal Project
 - Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director
8. Resolution No. 35-17, Awarding Bid to Big D's Construction for Duportail Street Water Transmission Main Project
 - Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director

Items for Approval:

9. Authorize Travel for Mayor Thompson to Attend the Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix, Arizona, March 5-7, 2017
 - Cindy Reents, City Manager

Expenditures - Approval:

10. Expenditures from January 30, 2017 - February 10, 2017 for \$4,778,885.07 including Check Nos. 241949-242412, Wire Nos. 6354-6364, Payroll Check Nos. 115284-116294, and Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 9791-9812
 - Cathleen Koch, Administrative Services Director

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUZZO GILMOUR SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Reports and Comments:

1. City Manager Reents said the \$20 car tab fee would be set in place by Council's approval of an ordinance, which then becomes City law and cannot be changed, unless a future Council changes it. The car tab fee will end in 20 years, when the bond is paid off. The revenue from the car tab fee can only be used for two projects: the Duportail Bridge; and the City's Pavement Preservation Program.

2. Council:

Councilmember Anderson said he ran for Council to be a good steward of the city government and of the citizen's tax dollars. He said the excellent quality of life that Richland citizens enjoy comes at a cost and Councilmembers continually work to control those costs. He said he supports the Duportail Bridge and has gone to every legislative session regarding funding for the bridge and noted that \$34 million dollars of state funds have been allocated for the Duportail Bridge. He spoke on the difficulties of funding street maintenance and concluded with correcting misinformation on a recent flyer he received from the public regarding the car tab fees and the two projects it will help fund.

Councilmember Luzzo Gilmour said she appreciated the people who spoke at the meeting and noted she ran for Council to serve the public. She congratulated the new Library Board members and stated her support of inclusivity.

Councilmember Lemley said there has been a lot of incorrect information about the funding for the Duportail Bridge and street maintenance. He said the State Legislation transportation package, paid through a gas tax, underfunded the Duportail Bridge project and two other projects on the eastside of the state. He encouraged citizens to contact their legislators on this topic. He said the bridge and the street maintenance is a necessity and he fully supports the projects and funding them with a car tab fee. He concluded by saying he fully supports the inclusivity ideas.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen said City Manager Reents met with the Tri-City Herald to share the Duportail Bridge and street maintenance information and that many mistakes were made in the report published by the Tri City Herald. He said he was disappointed that the public mistrusts their City Council and that communication about the Duportail Bridge has been going on for over 10 years.

Adjournment:

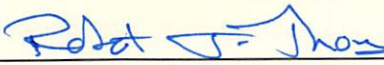
Mayor Pro Tem Christensen adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

FORM APPROVED:



Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

DATE APPROVED:

MARCH 7, 2017

DATE PUBLISHED:

MARCH 8, 2017