



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING

Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

City Council Workshop - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen called the Council workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall.

Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, Councilmembers Lemley, Lukson and Kent were present.

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, Administrative Services Director Koch, Finance Director Allen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Public Works Project and Solid Waste Manager Marlow, Energy Service Director Whitney, Fire and Emergency Services Director Huntington, Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl and City Clerk Hopkins.

Agenda Items:

1. 2018 Financial Report (15 minutes)

Ms. Koch said the information in her presentation included comparisons of revenue and expenditure figures that were budgeted versus the actual results. She and Mr. Allen gave details on sales tax activity, general fund tax sources, property tax levy rate and assessed value comparisons, business and construction activity, local revitalization financing, utility revenue analysis and public safety sales tax.

Council had a question and answer period with Ms. Koch and Mr. Allen on the financial report.

2. Solid Waste Rates Update (20 Minutes)

Mr. Rogalsky said staff is seeking Council's direction on the Solid Waste Utility's response to rising costs of recyclable material processing. The City contracts for the processing and marketing of recycled materials and the costs of this processing have increased since 2017. Staff has completed an analysis of the Utility's financial position and determined that although it remains strong and a general rate increase can be deferred until 2020, the rising costs associated with the landfill expansion will drive a rate increase in 2020.

Staff used the 2017 rate model to evaluate the impact of material processing cost increases on the curbside recycling rate. The analysis indicated that the cost of service

is now approaching \$7.50 per month while the present rate is \$5.70. Since the current rate revenue does not cover the program costs, other revenues in the Solid Waste Utility are presently subsidizing the curbside recycling program.

On July 10 staff sought the Utility Advisory Committee's (UAC) recommendation regarding the service costs of recycling. The UAC did not make a formal recommendation to Council, but indicated its preference for implementing a recycling program rate increase in 2019 even though no general rate increase is needed in 2019.

Council had a question and answer period with Mr. Rogalsky and Mr. Marlow. Council was in favor of incremental increases to cover the rising costs of recycling material.

3. Columbia River Shoreline Reconveyance (20 minutes)

Mr. Schiessl provided a briefing to Council regarding TRIDEC's proposal to re-convey portions of lands owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Richland and other area local governments. He said TRIDEC is arranging three community meetings to receive public input on the topic and noted the last of the three meetings will be held in Richland on October 3, 2018. He said a list of questions from the affected cities has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to gather more information and understand of what the obligations will be if the re-conveyance takes place. Lastly, he said the first proposal included all of the shorelines of the Tri-Cities, but now the proposal is looking at just sections of the shoreline.

Council had a question and answer period with Mr. Schiessl on the topic.

4. Correspondence Update (10 minutes)

Ms. Reents updated Council on several topics including: meeting with the REACH staff to discuss the need to develop a strategic plan; encouraging the Council to attend the Queensgate roundabout grand opening celebration schedule on August 29, 2018; attending the ribbon cutting event for Kennewick School District's new Amon Creek Elementary School that is located in Richland; the City received a clean audit; and that Interim Police Chief Taylor was attending the Richland School Board meeting to observe the Board's decision on the School Resource Officers agreement; and lastly, the legislature passed the Washington Benton Voting Rights Act (Senate Bill 6002) during the 2018 Legislative Session which allows political subdivisions to change the electoral system used to select board members including the option of implementing a district-based election system.

Council had a brief question and answer period with Ms. Reents.

Councilmember Lukson was concerned with the method Council uses in regards to the Hearing Examiner decisions that are appealed. He believes the method confuses the public and said the Hearing Examiner's decision should stand as is, unless the Council

wants to appeal a decision. He suggested the City Attorney to rework the current process.

Ms. Reents said the interviews for the open seat on the Richland Public Facilities District Board are scheduled for September 4, 2018. She noted a candidate has accepted the Marketing Specialist position and the Planning Manager position has been re-advertised.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen adjourned the workshop at 7: 27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

FORM APPROVED:



Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

DATE APPROVED:

September 4, 2018

DATE PUBLISHED

September 5, 2018