



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Richland City Hall ~ 625 Swift Boulevard
Tuesday, November 19, 2019

City Council Workshop - 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen called the workshop to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Councilmembers Alvarez, Anderson and Kent were present. Mayor Thompson and Councilmembers Lukson and Lemley were absent.

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Police Captain Lee, Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington, Development Services Director Jensen, Administrative Services Director Koch, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney and Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton.

Agenda Item

1. Legislative Priorities

Assistant City Manager Jon Amundson briefly discussed the City's proposed 2020 legislative priorities and provided Council with a draft document capturing those priorities. A question and answer session followed.

2. Visit Tri-Cities Sports Tourism

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl introduced Michael Novakavich from Visit Tri-Cities and Brandin Dowling and Collin Carrane from Johnson Consulting. Novakavich described Visit Tri-Cities' effort to study sports tourism across the Tri-Cities region. Dowling summarized a draft Sports Facilities Market Analysis & Feasibility Study. The Study recommends Hanford Legacy Park as Richland's potential investment in regional sports tourism facilities. Discussion ensued regarding the market analysis, projected profits and losses, and the consultant's recommended potential investments in Pasco and Kennewick.

3. Discuss Meeting Agenda Items

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

City Council Regular Meeting - 7:30 p.m.

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

Welcome and Roll Call

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

Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Councilmembers Alvarez, Anderson and Kent were present. Mayor Thompson and Councilmembers Lukson and Lemley were absent.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR THOMPSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS LEMLEY AND LUKSON. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Police Captain Lee, Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington, Development Services Director Jensen, Administrative Services Director Koch, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney and Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMEMER KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Presentations**4. Special Olympics Washington: Fall State Games**

Parks & Public Facilities Director Joe Schiessl introduced Donna Tracy, Arc of the Tri-Cities, who spoke about Special Olympics of Washington. Ms. Tracy advised that the Special Olympics Washington Fall Games were to be held in Richland on November 22-24, 2019. Ms. Tracy thanked the City for its support of Special Olympics Washington, which allowed children with disabilities to participate in sports. Ms. Tracy shared a PowerPoint presentation further depicting and describing how Richland's support of Special Olympics Washington has allowed the program to grow and thrive.

Public Hearing

Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

5. Proposed Amendments to the 2019 Budget - Ordinance No. 58-19

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen opened and closed the public hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Randy Slovic, 74 Newcomer, Richland WA, questioned whether the City continues to pay for medical insurance after employees retire based on her observation of the post-retirement medical fund in the proposed budget adjustment. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen notified Ms. Slovic that public hearings are not the opportunity for question and answer, and that if she has a question about a city function or issue, she should call the City Manager's Office to obtain information or understanding.

No other public testimony was received on the topic of the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen closed the public hearing at 7:45.

Public Comments

Julie Webb, 5918 W. 14th Court, Kennewick, WA advised that she is present to be the voice of the animal shelter community, and will continue to attend council meetings until a new shelter is constructed.

Veronika Pitkuff – 5310 W. 8th Avenue, Kennewick, WA spoke on behalf of construction of a new animal shelter. Ms. Pitkuff said the shelter has been the same since the 1950s, and is in desperate need of repair/remodel. Ms. Pitkuff asked Council to make the animal shelter a top priority in 2020.

Suzanne Tosten, 5918 W. 14th Court, Kennewick, WA spoke in favor of building a new animal shelter. Comments echoed the statements of the previous speaker.

Drew Proctor, 717 N. Irby Street, Kennewick, WA spoke in favor of building a new animal shelter. Comments echoed the statements of the previous speaker.

Robert Benedetti, 400 Broadmoor, Richland WA, congratulated Terry Christensen on being reelected to City Council. Mr. Benedetti also stated that the City will have a mess on its hands if it does not figure out how to solve the transportation problem created by passage of Initiative 976.

Isiah Chong, 48 Argon Lane, Richland WA, recently moved to the City of Richland, and stated that he is a disabled rights advocate speaking on behalf of disabled individuals attempting to use wheelchairs and motorized assistance devices in the snow. Mr. Chong encouraged the City Council to ensure that sidewalks are cleared for disabled citizens and children in strollers if Richland experiences another significant snow event.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER KENT MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR: CHRISTENSEN, ANDERSON, KENT, ALVAREZ. ALL THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Minutes - Approval

6. Approval of the November 5, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

7. Ordinance No. 57-19, Amending Chapter 12.10 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Installation of Street Improvements
8. Ordinance No. 58-19, Approving Amendments to the 2019 Budget
9. Ordinance No. 59-19, Repealing Chapter 23.34 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Floodplain Combining District and Adopting Chapter 22.16 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Floodplain Damage Prevention
10. Ordinance No. 60-19, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 23.26.030 related to Industrial Use Districts Permitted Land Uses
11. Ordinance No. 61-19, Amending Chapter 3.24 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Miscellaneous Accounting Funds

Ordinances - Second Reading/Passage

12. Ordinance No. 55-19, Approving the 2020 Budget and the 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Plan
13. Ordinance No. 56-19, Amending the 2019 Budget in the Industrial Development Fund

Resolutions – Adoption

14. Resolution No. 148-19, Amending Exhibit A of the Compensation Plan for Unaffiliated Employees – 2015 and Continuing.
15. Resolution No. 149-19, Authorizing a Grant Agreement with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for High Visibility Enforcement Funding

Items for Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

None. November 19, 2019 items will appear on the December 3, 2019 Council meeting agenda.

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents commented on the passage of I-976 and AWC's developing approach to the loss of Richland's Transportation Benefit District (TBD). City Manager Reents also commented on the fact that the animal control facility is a priority, and has been for some time. City Manager Reents clarified that the city of Pasco is the host agency for animal control, so it is responsible for the physical structure used as the animal control shelter. Further, City Manager Reents shared that the approved budget for the new facility has been far exceeded by the proposal put forward for a new structure.

City Manager Reents also commented briefly on the responsibility of clearing sidewalks, and the actions the City takes to mitigate impacts from weather events.

City Council

Councilmember Anderson echoed many of the statements made by City Manager Reents. Councilmember Anderson also thanked Ms. Tracy for presenting on the Special Olympics Washington Fall Games. Councilmember Anderson then commented that there are a lot of competing priorities for Council to focus on (TBD, sidewalks, animal shelter, etc.), and they all cost money. Councilmember Anderson reassured the community that Council hears their concerns, and is doing its best to balance the priorities.

Councilmember Kent agreed Councilmember Anderson's comments, and spoke favorably about the benefit of providing public comment while reiterating that council meetings are not intended to be a dialogue with citizens. Councilmember Kent also spoke favorably about Ms. Tracy's presentation on the Special Olympics Washington Fall Games. Councilmember Kent briefly addressed the animal shelter advocates and indicated that she owes them a visit to the shelter. Finally, Councilmember Kent wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving, and encouraged everyone to be aware during the holiday season of those in our community who are less fortunate.

Councilmember Alvarez thanked those in the audience for participating in the meeting, and spoke about being pro-youth. Councilmember Alvarez stated his belief that elected officials need to promote ethics, morals and professionalism to be better role models for the community's youth.

Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen reiterated Councilmember Kent's comments about the public comment section of the meeting not being structured for dialogue, and encouraged citizens to communicate through other channels (emails, call the City Manager's Office, etc.).

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen also commented on how I-976 is not resolved, and that court action will likely keep the law in limbo for the foreseeable future. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen shared that Council is concerned, and is studying the issue. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen also made reference to the city of Spokane's recent action to amend its charter to impose open bargaining and prohibiting an income tax. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen stated that perhaps Council should discuss taking similar action. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen also shared his recent experience at the ribbon cutting for Best Western Plus Columbia River Hotel & Conference Center (formerly the M Hotel), and complimented the owners on a tremendous remodel effort.

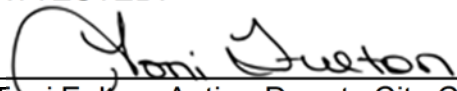
Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8.23 p.m.

APPROVED:


Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Toni Fulton, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: December 3, 2019

DATE PUBLISHED: December 4, 2019