



MINUTES
RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Richland City Hall ~ 625 Swift Boulevard
Tuesday, December 17, 2019

City Council Workshop - 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Thompson called the workshop to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, 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.

1. Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) Performance Review of Public Employee

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR FORTY-FIVE (45) MINUTES TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF THE CITY MANAGER PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED A MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:15 P.M. THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ROOM WAS VACATED.

Those present during executive session include Mayor Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Councilmembers Alvarez, Anderson, Kent, Lemley and Lukson. City Manager Reents was present for 15 minutes of the executive session.

2. Discuss Meeting Agenda Items

Council and staff briefly reviewed the proposed agenda scheduled for the regular meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen commented on the Item of Business related to confirming the new City Clerk. City Manager Reents described the process for choosing the City Clerk.

Energy Services Director Clint Whitney gave a brief overview of the meeting he attended on December 16, 2019 related to several Columbia River issues. A more in-depth presentation of the same information was provided to Council during Energy Service Director Whitney's presentation on the regular agenda.

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

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

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Thompson welcomed those in the audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

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

Also present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, 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 Thompson led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. Status and Potential Impacts of the Columbia and Snake River Issues

Energy Services Director Clint Whitney provided a summary of three river issues that are currently being discussed: 1) The Orca Task Force; 2) Columbia River Systems Operations EIS; and 3) the Columbia River Treaty between the State of Washington and Canada. Energy Services Director Whitney presented a PowerPoint and video which provided detail about the issues.

Public Hearing

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

2. Proposed 2019-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Southeast Washington Telecommunicators Guild - Resolution No. 163-19

Administrative Services Director Cathleen Koch presented on the proposed Southeast Washington Telecommunicators Guild Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2019-2020. Ms. Koch advised that the terms of the CBA fall within the parameters established by City Council. Ms. Koch advised that although wages are not retroactive, a stipend of \$1,800 plus \$1.00/hour for every hour of overtime worked would be provided to employees employed on January 1, 2019 and still employed as of date of ratification of the agreement. The proposed effective date of the agreement dates back to December 24, 2018. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Thompson opened and closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

Lailia Krowiak, 1523 Hains Avenue, Richland WA, stated that she has lived in Richland for 30 years. She added that she often has near misses while walking her baby in a pram in Richland and is worried that she's be hit by a car. Ms. K stated that she appreciates the professionalism shown by the Richland Police Department in handling her calls. Lastly, Ms. K encouraged people to think about pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Lisa Barthowmew, 1520 Hains Avenue, Richland WA, addressed bicycle safety in Richland. Ms. Bartholomew. is a bicycle commuter who claims the bicycle lanes are not safe because they are not separated. The only safe way to bicycle is to have a separated lane. Ms. B. stated that her two adult children were both hit by cars when they were in junior high school. Ms. B. said there are concerns with traffic safety in Richland.

Jennifer Haler, 1860 McMurray Avenue, Richland WA, concurred with the previous comments made. She then provided council with copies of the article published from the Tri-Cities Herald regarding the hiking trails in the Tri-Cities. She spoke about the Urban Greenbelt Trail, and commented that the segment of the UGT through Columbia Playfield is needing attention from the City because it is tagged and not well-kept. Ms. Haler suggested assigning the segment to a church group or another entity for maintenance.

Larry Haler, 1860 McMurray Avenue, Richland WA, stated that there is very little police patrol monitoring his street on McMurray. Mr. Haler suggested more police involvement is necessary on all City streets to enforce traffic rules to prevent speeding and other dangerous driving behavior.

Molly Peterson of Stevens Drive, Richland WA, read quotes to the City Council from social media about pedestrian safety, then asked council if it had a plan to make the streets safer for pedestrians.

Lexi Painter, 81 Newcomber St., Richland WA, spoke about bicycle safety.

Ann Burchardt, 1405 Keller, Richland WA, grew up in Richland also stated that there is a problem with traffic safety in Richland. Ms. Burchardt acknowledged that there are other issues aside from traffic that restrict freedom of the youth, but states that there are many things that can be done to make traffic more safe. Ms. Burchardt recommended traffic enhancements to mitigate traffic safety issues.

Ginger Wireman, 2435 Michael Avenue, Richland WA, spoke about traffic safety.

An anonymous man spoke in favor of getting a new animal shelter built.

Lisa Nelson of McMurray Avenue in Richland WA showed a picture of a girl hit by a car the previous Monday. Ms. Nelson asked the City to lower the speed limit.

Alysia Victorine, 1103 Roberdeau Street, Richland, WA, advocated for the creation of a pedestrian and bicyclist advisory committee. Ms. Victorine promoted the creation of said committee and said there are citizens who would love to participate.

Randy Slovic, 74 Newcomer, Richland WA, says the biggest complaint citizens shared with her during her walks is the speed of drivers in the neighborhoods. Ms. Slovic was horrified by the child who was struck by a vehicle, and stated that the City should have made a better statement in response to the collision. Ms. Slovic was critical of the police department for not issuing more tickets.

Cindy Anderson, 3127 Redhawk Drive, Richland WA, sought support for a new animal shelter because the Pet Over-Population grant expires in July 2020. Ms. Anderson stated that she has no confidence in the City Council to bring about a new animal control shelter.

Julie Webb, 4972 McEwan Drive, Richland WA, spoke in favor of a new animal shelter despite the lack of support from the City.

Kristin Engbrecht, 3510 Reserve Lane, Pasco WA, spoke in favor of building a new animal shelter.

Sherry Kowalski, 73518 N. Pederson Road, West Richland WA, spoke in favor of building a new animal shelter. Ms. Kowalski stated that there is an overpopulation of pets in the area, and pointed out the need to provide spay and neuter services.

Joel Rogo, 21 Aaron Drive, Richland WA, stated that he supports bicycle safety, pedestrian safety and the building of a new animal shelter. Mr. Rogo then reported that the Mid-Columbia Ballet just completed its 44th season of the Nutcracker. In total, over nine thousand Tri-City residents attended the Nutcracker this year.

John Gould, a citizen who lives northwest of Richland High School, reported that he was hit by a car in a parking lot. The car was not going faster than 20 miles per hour at the time of the accident. Mr. Gould suggested that holding neighborhood meetings to allow

people to get to know each other would help prevent these types of accidents.

April Klaus, a Volunteer in Police Services (VIPs) member, stated that the police department does care about traffic enforcement in Richland.

Consent Calendar

Acting Deputy City Clerk Fulton read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: CHRISTENSEN, ALVAREZ, ANDERSON, KENT, LEMLEY, AND LUKSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Minutes - Approval

3. Approval of the December 3, 2019 Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 63-19, Amending the Richland Municipal Code related to Fees

Ordinances - Second Reading/Passage

5. Ordinance No. 62-19, Approving the 2023 Council Compensation Plan

Resolutions – Adoption

6. Resolution No. 147-19, Adopting the 2020 Fee Schedule
7. Resolution No. 157-19, Authorizing an Agreement with UtiliWorks Consulting, LLC for Advanced Metering Infrastructure Phase Three Program Management and Consulting Services
8. Resolution No. 158-19, Authorizing a Change Order to Contract No. 89-18 with Paramount Communications, Inc. for the 2018 Horizontal-Directional Boring and Drilling Project
9. Resolution No. 159-19, Authorizing a First Amendment to the Funding Agreement with Battelle Memorial Institute for Crossing Improvements on George Washington Way
10. Resolution No. 160-19, Authorizing a First Amendment to the Agreement for Hearing Examiner Services
11. Resolution No. 161-19, Authorizing Amendments to Consulting Agreements with RGW Enterprises

12. Resolution No. 162-19, Authorizing Phase II 2019 Park Partnership Grant Agreements with Sagebrush Elementary School and Friends of Badger Mountain
13. Resolution No. 163-19, Approving the 2019-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Southeast Washington Telecommunicators Guild

Items for Approval

14. Authorize a Salary Adjustment for the City Manager (1.8% and \$8,000)

Council approved a 1.8% salary increase and an \$8,000 performance award effective December 24, 2019.

15. Confirm Jennifer Rogers as City Clerk Per Article IV, Section 4.06 of the Richland City Charter

Expenditures - Approval

16. Expenditures from November 25, 2019 - December 6, 2019 for \$21,388,939.57 including Check Nos. 274195-274609, Travel Check Nos. 19889-19894, Wire Nos. 7894-7918, Payroll Check Nos. 158404-158971, Pension Check Nos. 5291-5323, and Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11257-11273

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

None.

City Council

In response to comments about snow removal, Councilmember Anderson stated that the City has a snow removal plan in place. Councilmember Anderson pointed out that certain events can be planned for, but you cannot plan for a 100-year storm. Agencies do their best, but some situations cannot be helped. Councilmember Anderson also stated that he takes the traffic safety issues very seriously. Councilmember Anderson added that distracted drivers cause accidents, and that pedestrians who use earbuds and phones are also not paying attention, thereby adding to the likelihood of an accident. Throwing money at the problem and creating restrictions will not stop accidents if people are not paying attention.

Councilmember Kent said she looks forward to working toward a resolution on the issues brought forward tonight. Councilmember Kent also reminded the community to reach out to those who may be alone during the holiday season and make them feel included.

Councilmember Alvarez spoke to efforts that are going on behind the scenes on the animal control issue, and reminded the community that although they cannot see it, they should not assume that action is not being taken and that discussions are not taking place. Councilmember Alvarez also spoke to the traffic issue, stating that he is not an expert on policing or traffic engineering, so perhaps a workshop is necessary. Councilmember Alvarez also stated that he, along with his colleagues on City Council, is an independent thinker, in contradiction to the social media post about Council being “a bunch of potted plants.”

Councilmember Lemley stated that Council cannot legislate its way out of traffic safety issues. Councilmember Lemley also added that he is not a puppet to anybody, in contradiction to the social media post about Council being “a bunch of potted plants.”

Councilmember Lukson stated that, although Council cannot solve every problem, it should make changes when needed. Councilmember Lukson added that he visited the animal shelter and has met with the City Manager on the issue, and is working on finding a solution.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen also addressed concerns relating to the traffic issues and the animal shelter.

Mayor

Mayor Thompson thanked Council, staff and citizens for the constructive dialogue on the important topics presented during the meeting. Mayor Thompson then thanked everyone for their time and wished everyone a great holiday.

Adjournment

Mayor Thompson adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:



Toni Fulton, Acting Deputy City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January 7, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: January 8, 2020