



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Richland City Hall ~ 625 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

City Council Workshop - 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Lukson called the workshop to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

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, Finance Director Allen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Business Manager Edgemon and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Item

1. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Legal Counsel

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) MINUTES TO DISCUSS CURRENT LITIGATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). MOTION CARRIED 5-0. COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:25 P.M. THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ROOM WAS VACATED.

Those present during executive session included Mayor Lukson and Councilmembers Anderson, Alvarez, Christensen and Thompson. City Manager Reents, City Attorney Kintzley and Attorney Ken Harper were also present for the 25-minute executive session.

2. Discuss Meeting Agenda Items

Council was provided the opportunity to identify any comments or concerns with the agenda.

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

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

Welcome and Roll Call

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

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

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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 Business Manager Edgemon and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Presentations

3. Hanford Communities Annual Update

Ms. Pam Brown-Larsen announced that this would be her last presentation for Hanford Communities as she will retire in May, 2020. Ms. Brown-Larsen expressed her thanks to Councilmember Thompson for his many years of service as Chairman to the Hanford Communities Governing Board and as a member on the Energy Community Alliance Board of Directors. She also thanked City Manager Reents for her years of service as Chair to the Administrative Board of the Hanford Communities.

Ms. Brown-Larson then provided Council with an overview of her written report and welcomed any questions.

Mayor Lukson thank Ms. Brown-Larsen for her many years of service.

4. Annual Arts Commission Work Plan Presentation

Arts Commission Chair Dr. Jeff Kissel presented Council with highlights of the Commission's accomplishments in 2019, then focused on upcoming projects in 2020.

Councilmember Alvarez recognized and thanked the Arts Commission members for their contributions to the City.

Public Hearing

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

5. Proposed Relinquishment of Easements lying within 1318 and 1320 Stevens Drive, Resolution No. 16-20

Public Works Director Rogalsky explained that a hearing is required by state law when considering disposal of utility-related property interests such as easements. Staff has evaluated a specific request for relinquishment and determined that the easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 8:01 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

Emily Downing, volunteer at the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter – Ms. Downing advocated for a functional animal shelter for the homeless and lost animals of the Tri-Cities. Ms. Downing encouraged Council to consider allocating additional funds, working with community members to raise funds, consider other locations for possible expansion of the new shelter, and consider a new plan which includes adequate space for the current animal population and for future expansion. Ms. Downing provided the City Clerk with a copy of building plans for council review.

Drew Proctor, 717 N. Irby Street, Kennewick, WA – Ms. Proctor spoke of the poor conditions the volunteer staff endure at the animal shelter. Ms. Proctor believes that the volunteers' jobs have been made difficult not only by the poor conditions of the building, but also by the people they interact with at the animal shelter. Ms. Proctor encouraged Council to keep in mind the volunteers who work at the shelter.

Alexis Kyan, 526 S. 40th Avenue, West Richland, WA – Ms. Kyan stated that the animal shelter is located in an unsafe location. Ms. Kyan believes that there have been multiple physical assaults in and out of the shelter because of its location. Ms. Kyan also added that there was one sexual assault at the shelter. Lastly, she stated that people antagonize the dogs in the kennel. Ms. Kyan urged Council to find a safe location for the new shelter.

Dawn Hansen, 225 Rachel Road, Richland, WA – Ms. Hansen agreed with statements made by previous speakers about the animal shelter. She encouraged Richland to show itself as a compassionate city by assuming its share of responsibility related to finances and other responsibilities equal to those assumed by Pasco and Kennewick.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: ALVAREZ, ANDERSON, CHRISTENSEN, LUKSON, THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

6. Approval of the January 7, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

7. Ordinance No. 01-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 2.31.030 related to Fingerprinting for Nonmunicipally Related Matters

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

8. Resolution No. 10-20, Approving the Final Plat of Westcliffe Heights - Phase 2
9. Resolution No. 14-20, Authorizing a Purchase Order Contract with Boyd's Tree Service, LLC for Tree Pruning and Vegetation Management

After Council approved this resolution, staff discovered that incorrect supporting documentation had been included with the staff report in the agenda packet. The details provided in the staff report and resolution are accurate, and the inaccurate supporting documentation does not affect the validity of Council's approval of this action. The correct supporting documentation is on file with the City Clerk's office and is available for public inspection upon request.

10. Resolution No. 16-20, Authorizing Relinquishment of Easements lying within 1318 and 1320 Stevens Drive

Items for Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

11. Expenditures from December 30, 2019 - January 10, 2020 for \$8,916,165.92 including Check Nos. 275323-275854, Travel Check Nos. 19895-19898, Wire Nos.

7960-7974, Payroll Check Nos. 160074-160601, Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11319-11342, and Pension Check Nos. 5324-5356.

Items of Business

12. Resolution No. 15-20, Accepting a Request for Annexation of 8.52 Acres of Land located at 771 Shockley Road

Community Development Director Jensen provided Council with an update on the proposed annexation of property located at 771 Shockley Road. Mr. Jensen stated that the applicant, Robert Zinsli, submitted a letter of interest to annex his 8.52 acres of land into the City. Approval of Resolution No. 15-20 authorizes the property owner to formally submit a petition/application to the Development Services Department to begin the annexation process. The resolution also directs the Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing to determine the appropriate zoning classification for the site prior to returning the item back to Council for further review and processing.

Mr. Zinsli was in the audience and available to answer questions. Council had none. Staff recommended adoption of Resolution No. 15-20 to allow Mr. Zinsli to proceed with the formal annexation process for 8.52 acres at 771 Shockley Road.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 15-20. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents introduced Ms. Jeannette Gonzales, a contract specialist with the Department of Energy. Ms. Gonzales is part of the Executive Leadership Program with Graduate School USA. Ms. Gonzales spent three days with City staff and several department heads learning about city operations and local government.

City Manager Reents then stated that the City set aside \$1,500,000 for a new animal shelter several years ago. This funding is included in the Capital Improvement Plan and is designated as Animal Control Shelter. The City of Richland contributed equally one-third of the cost to construct the new shelter. At the time, it was estimated that the cost of the new shelter would be \$4,500,000. The funding set aside is still available, and the City of Pasco has not requested additional funding.

Lastly, City Manager Reents stated that she is very concerned to hear about the alleged sexual assault at the shelter; this information has never been relayed to her before. She assured Council that she would promptly contact the Pasco City Manager for more information.

City Council

Councilmember Alvarez thanked the animal control advocates for their persistence in attending council meetings. He encouraged them to listen, learn, help and lead as demonstrated by the Council. Councilmember Alvarez also thanked the Arts Commission for their work.

Councilmember Christensen thanked Pam Brown-Larsen for her work for Hanford Communities. He added that she has been invaluable to the City and the area, and will be greatly missed when she retires.

Councilmember Thompson stated that the City continues to lose institutional knowledge and relationships built over time with retirements like Ms. Brown-Larsen. Councilmember Thompson predicted that it will be challenging for Hanford Communities to find Ms. Brown-Larsen's successor.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson thanked the animal shelter advocates for attending the meeting. Mayor Lukson further stated that the new animal shelter project is moving forward, and the Tri-Cities will continue to search for a solution to the concerns voiced.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: February 4, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: February 5, 2020