



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Richland City Hall ~ 625 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, February 18, 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, Lemley and Thompson were present. Mayor Pro Tem Kent was 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, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Item

1. Regulating Electric Scooters and Bikes

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl provided Council with information relating to the use of electric bikes and electric scooters. Lime, a transportation company that provides electric scooters and bikes through a sharing application, has expressed an interest in operating a rental program in the Tri-Cities. There was discussion regarding the statistics provided, storage issues and regulations. City Manager Reents suggested that more information, specifically with regulations, should be gathered and provided for a future discussion.

2. Hanford Communities Operating Jurisdiction Agreement Update

City Manager Reents announced that Pam Brown-Larson will retire in May. A subcommittee of the Hanford Communities Administrative Board has formulated a recommendation on how to best fill the vacant position, but in order to pursue the recommendation, the current Operating Agreement designating Richland as the Operating Jurisdiction for Hanford Communities needs to terminate. City Manager Reents shared a termination notice directed to the Participating Agencies of Hanford Communities that provides the required ninety-day written notice. City Manager Reents advised that the notice would be sent immediately to allow for timely resolution of the vacancy coinciding with Ms. Larson-Brown's departure.

3. Discuss Meeting Agenda Items

Council was provided the opportunity to identify any comments or concerns with the evening's 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, Lemley and Thompson were present. Mayor Pro Tem Kent was absent.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM KENT. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

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, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl 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 6-0.

Presentations**1. The REACH Annual Update**

Rosanna Sharpe, Executive Director for The REACH, provided Council with the annual regional update which included details of the strategic plan, upcoming events and membership. Ms. Sharpe thanked the City of Richland for being a partner in addressing the museum's long-term needs.

Dan Boyd, President of the Richland Public Facilities District, announced that the REACH Museum has been open for five and a half years. He shared that the 2020 budget was approved in November for \$803,000. He stated that the community is supporting the museum. Lastly, he shared that he is serving his third term and has two and a half years remaining. He intends to step down as President in July to allow another member to move up; he'll remain on the Board to assist with the leadership succession plan.

2. Internet Crimes Against Children Seizure Award

Chief of Police Bruce announced that Bill Hyslop, U.S. Attorney for Eastern Washington State, presented the Richland Police Department with a Seizure Award in the amount of \$96,667.63 for collaborative work with the City of Kennewick and the FBI in the Southeast Regional Internet Crimes Against Children (SERICAC). Sgt. Darryl Judge, who investigates ICAC cases, was also present.

Mayor Lukson stated that he attended a meeting about the Public Safety Sales Tax and discussed the ICAC program. He added that this program is one of the crown jewels of the funding, and would not be possible without Public Safety Sales Tax funds. Mayor Lukson reminded the community that, in four years, voters will decide if this tax should be renewed. Mayor Lukson thanked Chief Bruce and his staff for doing a great job.

Councilmember Lemley thanked the Richland Police Department, Sgt. Judge and those involved in SERICAC for their great work.

3. 2019 Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report

Fire & Emergency Services Director Tom Huntington presented the 2019 Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report update to Council. The report recapped 2019 events, achievements, celebrations, service call statistics, emergency response times, budget (general fund and fire), and future goals.

Chief Huntington added that RFD hosted its first Cardiac Survivors Celebration, which made it possible for survivors to meet their 911 responders and, in some cases, the community bystander who initiated CPR to save them. The event was a profound experience for the survivors, and Chief Huntington anticipates hosting this celebration every year moving forward.

Chief Huntington also shared that Firefighter Josh Smith was recognized as a 40-Under-40 Cardiac Resuscitation Champion recipient at the Cardiac Arrest Survival Summit.

Public Hearing

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

4. Proposed Amendment to the 2020 Budget regarding the Water Fund, Ordinance No. 02-20

Public Works Director Rogalsky stated that the proposed amendment to the 2020 Budget contained in Ordinance No. 02-20 will add \$80,500 to the water fund budget to fund a oversizing agreement with a developer to install water pipes. The new water pipes will serve the City's needs for future expansion of the water system. The oversizing agreement with the developer will be presented at a future meeting for Council consideration.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 8:05 p.m. No public testimony was received. Mayor Thompson closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

5. Proposed Relinquishment of an Easement lying within 1609 Van Giesen Street, Resolution No. 32-20

Public Works Director Rogalsky stated that the easement to be relinquished was originally established to support the original city water system. The pipe has since been moved out to the street, and the City no longer has need for the easement. State law requires a public hearing to solicit testimony before the relinquishment can be executed.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 8:06 p.m. No public testimony was received. Mayor Thompson closed the public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Public Comments

Nancy Doran – 1516 Johnston, Richland WA – Ms. Doran voiced concerns regarding statements made in a recent workshop meeting regarding the water treatment plant façade update design. She stated that the current design fits in with the neighborhood, and was displeased with Council's analysis regarding its replacement.

Alexis Ryan – 526 S. 40th Avenue, West Richland, WA – Ms. Ryan requested that Council build a functional shelter with an adequate number of kennels for intakes. She stated that euthanasia is not an acceptable solution for pet over-population, and encourages spay/neuter clinics instead. Ms. Ryan advised that Washington is moving toward becoming a No-Kill state, and with a smaller floor plan design, the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter will soon become one of the only kill shelters in the state. She urged Council to design a shelter that will not fail.

Teagan Fletcher – 5501 Roosevelt Drive, West Pasco, WA – Mr. Fletcher shared that he and his mother volunteer at the animal shelter. He stated that he is concerned about the poor conditions and safety issues at the shelter. He then requested that Council build a functional shelter with additional kennels.

Veronica Hanson-Pitkoff – 5310 W. 8th Avenue, Kennewick, WA – Ms. Hanson-Pitkoff expressed frustration with Council for its lack of vision for the Tri-Cities Animal Shelter. As a long-time resident of Richland, Ms. Hanson-Pitkoff stated that Richland has been the most progressive of the three cities. She asks that Council provide a shelter that is large enough for future population.

Stephanie Hoys – 1914 M Loop, Richland, WA – Ms. Hoys asked Council to imagine the wear and tear the animal shelter has had in its over fifty years of use. She urged councilmembers who have not visited the shelter to visit to experience the issues. Ms. Hoys stated that the Tri-Cities need to work together to come to an agreement on a facility.

Tim Taylor – 462 Palm Drive, Richland, WA – Mr. Taylor stated that the new animal shelter is not a need, it is a necessity. The need was identified over ten years ago, and the construction cost will increase the longer construction is delayed. He added that other projects have been funded over the last ten years, and the time to fund the facility has come. Mr. Taylor stated that the condition of the facility has been unacceptable for years now, and encouraged councilmembers to fulfil campaign promises.

Meg Mercer – 75 Willis St. Richland, WA - Ms. Mercer stated that Richland needs to be proactive and build a shelter large enough to accommodate the growing population so euthanasia will not be an option.

Kristin Engbrecht – 3510 Reserve Lane, Pasco, WA – Ms. Engbrecht announced that she attended all three workshops regarding the new animal shelter. She believes that there is still no clear path moving forward. She would like to see a timeline on the new shelter project.

Ashley Schvenwald – 2300 Carriage Avenue, Richland, WA – Ms. Schvenwald stated that final design plans for the animal shelter are being re-evaluated. She expressed disappointment in Council's attitude towards the condition of the animal shelter in comparison to the attitudes of councilmembers in Pasco and Kennewick when all were presented an animal shelter update from the City of Pasco. She urged Council to make the animal shelter a priority.

Julie Webb – 4972 McEwan Drive, Richland, WA – Ms. Webb spoke of the shelter costs, average stay for animals, spay/neuter services and the number of kennels needed for the new shelter.

Elizabeth Norman – 1508 Torthary Place, Richland, WA – Ms. Norman encouraged Council to consider other options to align with a no-kill facility.

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, LEMLEY, THOMPSON AND LUKSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

6. Approval of the February 4, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

7. Ordinance No. 02-20, Amending the 2020 Budget to Increase Appropriations in the Water Fund

8. Ordinance No. 03-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 2.04.125 related to the Selection Process for Council Appointments

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution No. 25-20, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Electric Power Systems, Inc. for Engineering Design of the Oscar Substation
10. Resolution No. 26-20, Approving 2020 Business License Reserve Fund Grants
11. Resolution No. 27-20, Approving the Final Plat of Jolianna Heights Phase 2
12. Resolution No. 28-20, Authorizing a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant for Radio and Communication Equipment
13. Resolution No. 29-20, Approving an Alteration to the Final Plat of The Dwellings Subdivision
14. Resolution No. 30-20, Authorizing a Third Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with Port of Kennewick related to the Columbia Park Trail Improvements
15. Resolution No. 31-20, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Murraysmith, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin No. 2 Retrofit Project
16. Resolution No. 32-20, Authorizing Relinquishment of a Utility Easement at 1609 Van Giesen Street
17. Resolution No. 33-20, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Back-up Generator Replacement
18. Resolution No. 34-20, Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Western States for a Dozer and Articulated Truck
19. Resolution No. 35-20, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Parametrix, Inc. for 2020 Environmental Monitoring at the Horn Rapids Landfill

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

20. Expenditures from January 27, 2020 - February 7, 2020 for \$14,428,883.76 including Check Nos. 276285-276682, Travel Check Nos. 19901-19905, Wire Nos. 8001-8015, Payroll Check Nos. 161144-161679, Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11360-11383 and Pension Check Nos. 5357-5387.

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

None.

City Council

Councilmember Alvarez thanked his family for their support in allowing him to serve. He then addressed some of the concerns relating to the animal shelter that were expressed during the public comment period. He shared that, during his monthly meeting with City Manager Reents, they spent most of their time discussing the animal shelter. He ended by saying the City is continuing to work with the other cities on this issue.

Councilmember Thompson shared his thoughts about the animal shelter issue, recognizing that when culture changes, the politics follow. Years ago, euthanasia was culturally acceptable, but currently, people are more empathetic. Best made plans at the time may not be the best made plans of today. He agreed that the size of the shelter needs to be modified. The needs of the community have changed, and euthanasia may no longer be an option if the state is moving to regulate against it. Councilmember Thompson closed by acknowledging the message from those present, which is that the Tri-Cities needs a shelter that will do what the current culture requires.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson shared that he attended a ribbon cutting at the Yakima Federal Savings and Loan's Grand Opening earlier in the day in the Queensgate area. He commended the Council of years past for the vision they had to encourage expansion and development in that area of Richland.

Mayor Lukson further stated that Council is working on solutions to the issues with the animal shelter. He then listed possible solutions to consider. The City of Pasco, as the Operating Jurisdiction for the animal shelter, will return in the next 90-120 days with a recommendation for the three cities to consider.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 3, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: March 4, 2020