



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Zoom - Public Telephone Access: 1-888-788-0099 or 1-833-548-0276

Meeting ID No. 931 6184 3157

Tuesday, June 2, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

City Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Lukson called the Council meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Lukson welcomed those attending the virtual meeting.

Attendance: The following Councilmembers were present and participated remotely: Mayor Lukson and Councilmembers Alvarez, Anderson, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson were present.

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

Also present (remotely) 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 City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lukson led the Council and remote attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR LUKSON ADDED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO THE MEETING AGENDA: JOINT MAYORS' PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT AND COVID-19 UPDATES.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. Joint Mayors' Public Service Announcement

A joint Mayors' Public Service Announcement video in response to COVID-19 was played.

2. COVID-19 Update

Fire Chief Huntington provided an update on staff performance and morale during the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when responding to calls, supplies on hand, and collaboration between local and state agencies to adapt in mobilizing fires during the wildland fire season.

Police Captain Lee provided an update on local protests and civil unrest, noting that community support for the police department has been incredible. He then provided a synopsis of the peaceful protest held on May 31, 2020 in John Dam Plaza. The Richland Police Department is working closely with law enforcement partners in the region and state for support. Regional law enforcement partners have been in constant communication to develop cohesive response plans.

Captain Lee further stated that groups of citizens have come forward wanting to assist in protecting property. Communication with these groups has been constructive and encouraging. Citizens have been cooperative, and appear to understand the parameters in which they are able to assist.

Lastly, Captain Lee noted that RPD intends to support the community in their right to hold peaceful protests, however, individuals who choose to threaten lives or destroy property will not be supported.

Captain Lee answered questions from Council regarding the issuance of a permit for the planned protest, businesses in violation of not following the Governor's closure of non-essential businesses, and reportable events since the onset of the *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* order.

Councilmembers Alvarez and Christensen voiced appreciation for the Richland Police Department.

City Attorney Kintzley provided Council with a status update on the Open Public Meetings Act under Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28. The existing OPMA provisions were extended by Governor Inslee to and through June 17, 2020. City Attorney Kintzley noted, however, that when the proclamation was extended, the restrictions on what agenda items legislative bodies could consider during virtual public meetings was lifted. The City is still required to hold remote meetings until at least June 17, 2020 or until the City is in a phase of the *Safe Start* plan that allows for in-person meetings. However, the previous restriction limiting Council action to only what is considered "necessary and routine" has been lifted.

City Manager Reents shared that she and other city managers have been working closely with Benton County to formulate a plan to move to the next phase. She also provided statistics on the number of positive COVID-19 cases reported in Benton and Franklin Counties. The Governor's Office released an updated plan which modified the metrics needed to apply for subsequent phases of Washington's *Safe Start* plan.

City Manager Reents outlined the four phases of the *Safe Start* plan and the data used by state leaders to determine whether a county is eligible to enter the next phase of the plan. She added that in order to advance to the next phase, Benton County will need to have fewer than 25 new cases per 100,000 residents over a 14-day timeframe. Benton County is currently reporting 89.2 per 100,000.

City Manager Reents shared that health district officials stated that Benton and Franklin Counties will not succeed in progressing to the next phase without the use of face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Benton County and Franklin County can submit separate applications to advance to the next phase since they are separate entities. Lastly, City Manager Reents announced that the Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) is seeking volunteers to assist with contact tracing efforts.

Mayor Lukson announced that he recently spoke to Governor Inslee and others who emphasized the need for our citizens to use face coverings to prevent the increased spread of COVID-19.

Councilmember Alvarez provided comments and had questions regarding the number of tests available and people wanting/needing to be tested for the virus.

Councilmember Thompson shared thoughts on the recommended need to use face coverings, the number of testing required, location of incident rates and the lack of information readily available to the public.

City Manager Reents responded to Council questions and comments. Further discussion ensued with councilmembers on the subject of COVID-19 and its effect on citizens and the community.

Public Hearing

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

City Attorney Kintzley provided an overview of the two ordinances requiring a public hearing and the process to grant the franchise agreements.

1. Authorizing a Franchise Agreement with ExteNet Systems, Inc., Ordinance No. 09-20

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Devendra Maharaj, a representative of Verizon Wireless from Bellevue, WA, joined the council meeting telephonically to thank Council and city staff for the months of work put into creating the franchise ordinance presented for Council consideration. He added that Verizon is looking forward to working with the City of Richland to provide better service to the residents and businesses in the city.

No other comments were received. Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

2. Authorizing a Franchise Agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Ordinance No. 12-20

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 7:07 p.m. No testimony was offered. Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read two public comments submitted by Randy Slovic and Danny Glenn.

Randy Slovic - 74 Newcomer, Richland, WA - Ms. Slovic stated her appreciation to staff for improving the usability of the City's virtual public comments process.

Danny Glenn - 1915 McMurray, Richland, WA - Mr. McMurray inquired what actions the City is taking to prevent a police department situation in Richland similar to what has transpired in Minneapolis.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS READ AND PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, ANDERSON, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

3. Approval of the May 5, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 20, 2020 City Council Special Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 09-20, Authorizing a Franchise Agreement with ExteNet Systems, Inc.
5. Ordinance No. 12-20, Authorizing a Franchise Agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

6. Ordinance No. 10-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the Community Development Block Grant Fund for Coronavirus Response

Resolutions - Adoption

7. Resolution No. 75-20, Authorizing an Award of Bid to Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc. for the 2020 Microsurfacing Project
8. Resolution No. 76-20, Authorizing a Third Amendment to the Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Columbia River Intake Screen Upgrade Project
10. Resolution No. 77-20, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. for Design of 1st Street
11. Resolution No. 78-20, Authorizing a Contract with Paymentus Corporation for Merchant Services and Payment Processing
12. Resolution No. 79-20, Authorizing an Increase to the Administrative Contract Change Order Threshold for the George Washington Way Pavement Preservation Project
13. Resolution No. 80-20, Authorizing a First Amendment to the 2018 Second Amended and Restated Interlocal Agreement for Benton County Emergency Services
14. Resolution No. 81-20, Authorizing an Agreement with Systems Design West, LLC for Ambulance Billing Services
15. Resolution No. 83-20, Authorizing a VHF Radio Antenna Colocation Sublease Agreement with Walla Walla County
16. Resolution No. 84-20, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Friends of Badger Mountain

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

None.

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents confirmed that she will submit a letter to BFHD in support of submitting an application to Washington State Department of Health to move to Phase II of the *Safe Start* plan.

She then stated that in the consent calendar, Council approved Resolution No. 83-20, an amendment to the Interlocal agreement with Benton County for the Red Mountain 911 communications tower. She thanked Benton County for its partnership, and provided financial information associated with the construction of the tower and other components.

Mayor Lukson suggested hosting a joint press release to inform the public on how public safety tax dollars are used. Ms. Reents replied that she will contact the county administrators and invite them to the press release.

City Council

Councilmember Anderson voiced frustrations regarding the repercussions of the extended *Stay Home – Stay Healthy* mandate, the destruction of property by rioters, and the negativity towards law enforcement.

Councilmember Thompson provided comments on the extension of the *Stay Home – Stay Healthy* mandate, damages caused by protestors and rioters, and the responsibilities that lie with elected officials.

Councilmember Christensen shared his thoughts on the extension of the *Stay Home – Stay Healthy* order and the mandates issued by Governor Inslee through his proclamations. He added that many businesses have been ruined as a result of the closure of businesses deemed non-essential.

Councilmember Alvarez added that he supports local small business in the Tri-Cities region. He continued by saying he supports peaceful protests, however, damage caused to local business during a riot will inflict further harm to struggling businesses. He supports re-opening the economy to support local businesses.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson shared that the BFHD health officer believes that Benton County can safely proceed to Phase II of the *Safe Start* plan without any measureable increase of risk. Mayor Lukson voiced frustrations with the metrics of the *Safe Start* plan and communicated his concerns to Governor Inslee.

Lastly, Mayor Lukson stated that he supports peaceful protests yet also support law enforcement and encouraged citizens to keep the protests peaceful.

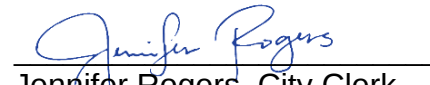
Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: June 16, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: June 17, 2020