



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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

Meeting ID: 996 2449 3087

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 - 5:30 pm.

City Council Workshop - 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Lukson called the remote workshop to order at 5:30 p.m.

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

Also present (remotely) 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 City Clerk Rogers.

1. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation With Legal Counsel (30 minutes)

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:32 P.M. TO DISCUSS CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION WITH COUNSEL FOR 30 MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mayor Lukson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, and Councilmembers Alvarez, Anderson, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson were present at the executive session. City Manager Reents, City Attorney Kintzley, Public Works Director Rogalsky, and Attorney Ken Harper were also present.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:59 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

Mayor Lukson called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Lukson welcomed those attending the virtual meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

2. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Reents reported that Benton and Franklin Counties both submitted applications to proceed to Phase II of the *Safe Start* reopening plan. Both applications are on pause. She added that though Benton County may not qualify to move on to Phase II, it may be possible to move to a modified Phase 1 under the plan.

City Manager Reents provided information on how certain city services have been impacted by COVID-19, then outlined the plan of action moving forward. She also provided information on the number of confirmed positive COVID-19 cases, and where testing is being conducted. The Benton-Franklin Health Department is still in need of additional contact tracers.

Budget shortfalls and a decline in revenue is expected to continue. The City will receive funding through the federal CARES Act to assist with immediate needs of the community.

Lastly, City Manager Reents shared that information encouraging COVID-19 safety has been communicated to the public via public service announcements, utility bill inserts and the city website. She emphasized the need to wear face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to expedite the reopening of businesses.

Chief Bruce announced that he has not received any complaints from the Governor's Office since early May for businesses open in violation of state directives. Chief Bruce updated Council on protests held in the city, and commented that protesting is supported so long as it remains peaceful.

Chief Bruce reported that he met with protest organizers to provide information and rules to stay safe. Chief Bruce further shared that many programs currently implemented through the police department are focused on improving the community and quality of life. Chief Bruce stressed the importance of maintaining youth programs in order to continue to build positive relationships with law enforcement.

Chief Bruce then commented briefly on the Richland Police Department's use of force protocols, and responded to Mayor Lukson's inquiry regarding the Defend the Tri group.

Councilmember Thompson provided comments in response to City Manager Reents' COVID-19 update. Further discussion ensued and City Manager Reents answered questions from councilmembers.

Mayor Lukson shared COVID-19 information he received from a meeting with Governor Inslee and a lead epidemiologist.

City Manager Reents replied to Council comments regarding COVID-19 data and information provided by various agencies. She then listed some of the programs implemented through the Richland Police Department and funded in the Police Services budget.

Councilmembers Alvarez and Thompson provided commentary on the various police services provided to the community. Councilmember Thompson commended City Manager Reents, Police Chief Bruce and the Richland Police Department for their appropriate and professional interactions with citizens.

Mayor Lukson shared his thoughts on police services and the emails he received from citizens requesting to defund of the police department.

Council directed City Manager Reents and staff to review the City's welcoming proclamation for opportunities to reaffirm its contents in light of current events. Staff was asked to provide a draft on the next agenda.

3. 4th of July Message

Police Chief Bruce spoke to Richland's traditional safety campaign, *Be Safe, Not Sorry*, and emphasized the importance of being aware of fire hazards as the wildfire season begins.

Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington gave a brief overview of the City's 4th of July communications plan, adding that the annual regional festivities have been cancelled due to COVID-19. The *Be Safe, Not Sorry* safety campaign will be published on social media and the city website, and banners will be hung at all Richland fire stations.

A joint public service announcement including the local area fire chiefs was created to encourage and remind residents to be safe if using fireworks.

Mr. Huntington also provided an overview of the draft agreement with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, Resolution No. 82-20, and answered questions from councilmembers.

Public Hearing

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

4. 2021-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution No. 85-20

Public Works Director Rogalsky showed a presentation detailing the 2021-2026 Transportation Improvement Program for Council consideration and approval. The state requires local jurisdictions to prepare and adopt a perpetual six-year TIP. The TIP outlines the priority transportation improvements to which the City intends to apply for state and federal grant funding.

Public Works Director Rogalsky reported that the COVID-19 pandemic eliminated the usual public participation process associated with TIP adoption. Instead, to still allow for robust public participation, the draft TIP was posted to the city's website with an opportunity for the public to submit comments. The draft TIP was also provided to the Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission for comment. Both advisory bodies recommend approval of the 2021-2026 TIP.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

City Clerk Rogers read written comments submitted by the following individuals:

Dori Luzzo Gilmour - 2051 Howell Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Gilmour requested the TIP be tabled until citizens have an opportunity to become involved with the planning. She expressed concerns with the lack of safety measures in place for cyclists, citing that the streets are too narrow to add additional bike lanes, and drivers are not adhering to speed limits.

No other comments were received. Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

5. Proposed Vacation of a Portion of Brantingham Road, Ordinance No.14-20

Public Works Director Rogalsky showed a presentation detailing the proposed vacation of two segments of Brantingham Road, which are no longer necessary because the traffic network in the area has changed with development.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.

The following comments were provided telephonically:

Blaine Marlin - 159 Hills West Way, Richland, WA: Mr. Marlin stated that he is the owner of the eastside portion of the property proposed for vacation, and is in support of deeding the property back to adjacent owners. Mr. Marlin provided background information on the agreement established years ago, and thanked Council for following through with the agreement.

John Cadwell - 2001 Brantingham Road, Richland, WA: Mr. Cadwell expressed his support for this request and thanked the City for doing a great job supporting low-carbon transportation improvements for bike paths. Mr. Cadwell offered suggestions to improve the Brantingham/Melissa path.

Kimberly Williams Harper - 1721 Brantingham Road, Richland, WA: Ms. Harper stated that she is the only tenant residing in an abutting property to the proposed vacation, and added that she is in support of a bike path. Her only opposition is that the bike path would be abutting up to her property. She then provided recommended adjustments to the plan.

No other comments were received. Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Public Comments

The following comments were provided telephonically:

Susan Dobkins - 2059 Hudson Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Dobkins requested that Mayor Lukson and councilmembers take action against racism by renaming Lee Boulevard. Ms. Dobkins further recommended that the City consult the community of color to select a different individual to honor.

Randy Slovic - 74 Newcomer, Richland, WA: Ms. Slovic requested that the City immediately consider funding dash cams and body cameras for the Richland Police Department. Ms. Slovic also recommended that citizens take extra precautions and wear face coverings to help flatten the COVID-19 curve until a vaccination is available.

Erik Nicholson - 2059 Hudson Avenue, Richland, WA: Mr. Nicholson requested that Council immediately consider renaming both Lee Boulevard and Smith Avenue to honor individuals whose values are consistent with the residents of Richland. He then extended his gratitude to the City of Richland employees for keeping the city operational during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City Clerk Rogers read public comments submitted by the following individuals:

Dan Glenn - 1915 McMurray Avenue, Richland, WA: Mr. Glenn is in support of renaming Lee Boulevard.

Tracey Glenn - 1305 Hains Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Glenn is in support of renaming Lee Boulevard.

Drew Gale - 4 N. Newport Street, Kennewick, WA: Drew Gale opposes continued honoring of General Lee by continuing to have a street named for him.

Mr. Evett - W. Entiat Avenue, Kennewick, WA: Mr. Evett is in favor of renaming Lee Boulevard after an African-American engineer to maintain consistency with the street-naming theme used throughout Richland.

Richard Monlux - Kennewick, WA: Mr. Monlux encouraged Council to research General Lee before making a decision to rename Lee Boulevard.

Jerry Rosenthal - 570 Holly Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Rosenthal asked what steps the City Council will be taking to combat systemic racism in the community.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND

COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, ANDERSON, CHRISTENSEN AND LEMLEY. OPPOSED: NONE. ABSENT FOR THE VOTE: THOMPSON. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0. Note: Councilmember Thompson's internet connection to the virtual meeting was lost during the roll call vote. For this reason, he is marked as being absent for the vote.

Minutes- Approval

6. Approval of the June 2, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

7. Ordinance No. 13-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 21.01.020 related to Fence Permits

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions - Adoption

10. Resolution No. 82-20, Authorizing an Agreement with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife for Wildland Firefighting Services
11. Resolution No. 85-20, Adopting the 2021-2026 Transportation Improvement Program
12. Resolution No. 86-20, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Library for 2020 CARES Act Funding
13. Resolution No. 87-20, Authorizing an Agreement with the State of Washington Department of Commerce for Coronavirus Relief Funds for Local Governments

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

14. Expenditures from April 27, 2020 - May 31, 2020 for \$31,758,309.26 including Check Nos. 278954-280050, Travel Check Nos. 19924-19925, Wire Nos. 8117- 8160, Payroll Check Nos. 164368-165971, Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11486- 11543, and Pension Check Nos. 5450-5509.

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents did not make any comments during Reports and Comments.

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Kent stated that if Council is to pursue renaming Lee Boulevard, input from groups representing the community should be received. She also encouraged citizens, regardless of political affiliation, to use face coverings to protect against the coronavirus.

Councilmember Thompson rejoined the meeting and replied to statements made by Mayor Pro Tem Kent. Councilmember Thompson agreed with statements made by Randy Slovic to implement the use of dash cams and body cameras for law enforcement. He shared additional thoughts on the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects.

Councilmember Anderson voiced his support for receiving input from citizens on renaming Lee Boulevard. He also stated concerns regarding the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports on COVID-19 statistics. He shared additional beliefs and concerns relating to the COVID-19 mandates.

Councilmember Christensen provided commentary on the school district's plan to reopen in the fall, and expressed concern for students falling behind academically based on lost instructional time.

Councilmember Lemley encouraged citizens to follow rules set out by health officials, and to wear face coverings to aid in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Councilmember Lemley shared that he has lived in numerous cities, and believes that Richland is a safe place to live.

Councilmember Alvarez thanked those who provided public comments. He added that though he did not have any additional comments to make, he would consider the comments made by fellow councilmembers.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson stated that members of Council hold diverse opinions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Inslee's mandates. He agreed that additional tests and contact tracing is needed since the number of positive cases are increasing in the community. Mayor Lukson promoted the use of face coverings to assist in advancing to

the next phase of Washington's *Safe Start* reopening plan.

With respect to Lee Boulevard, Mayor Lukson stated that he is in support of receiving public input on renaming Lee Boulevard. Lastly, Mayor Lukson announced that he met with Richland school board members to discuss the plan to reopen schools this fall.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 7, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: July 8, 2020