



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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

Meeting ID No. 952 4480 7475

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

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.

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

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Also remotely 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, Planning Manager Stevens, 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 audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Reents announced that the Washington State Department of Commerce will distribute approximately one hundred million dollars in state Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economy Security (CARES) Act funding. City Manager Reents elaborated on what services will be covered with the funds. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are also available to assist rural areas struggling with the pandemic.

President Trump released a memorandum on the extension of the use of the National Guard to respond to COVID-19. This memorandum came at an opportune time as the

Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) announced that National Guard personnel stationed at the Toyota Center and HAPO Center would not be available beyond the end of the year.

City Manager Reents reported that 613 customers are on the pending disconnection list for utilities, totaling four hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$443,000). Governor Inslee extended the proclamation for no shut-offs until October 15, 2020. CARES Act funding cannot be used to offset the costs. The City is actively pursuing the additional funding not received due to a calculation error made Commerce, who is reviewing the miscalculation.

Governor Inslee announced that through the signing of a proclamation, personal identifiable information (PII) collected as part of the COVID-19 tracking process will be exempt from disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act.

City Manager Reents provided a comprehensive update on local COVID-19-related matters, which included activities now permitted with limitations for extracurricular activities and businesses under Governor Inslee's recent guidelines. City Manager Reents shared information on the number of confirmed positive cases provided by the BFHD, and added that numbers will have to continue to decrease in order to reevaluate the opening of public schools.

The Department of Health will collaborate with local health districts to deploy a pilot program for a mail-in test.

The Benton-Franklin Health District requested that a statement of clarification be made to inform citizens and businesses that the District is not visiting businesses to enforce the use of masks. Labor & Industries (L&I) is the only agency with enforcement authority over businesses.

Child-sized masks will be distributed through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and other low to moderately low income programs. The Kennewick Housing Authority will also distribute 90,000 cloth masks.

BFHD has requested additional support from the cities in preventing large gatherings, specifically in parks. Some actions the BFHD asks for include closing down certain areas within parks and parking areas, and removing seating. The number of citizens visiting local parks has increased significantly during the pandemic. City Manager Reents reported that the City staffs 1.25 FTE Park Rangers, which makes it impossible to patrol all the parks. City Manager Reents also provided an overview of the process for addressing complaints of large gatherings. She encouraged citizens to enjoy the outdoors while being mindful of large gatherings.

City Manager Reents provided updates on the reopening of certain activities in the Tri-Cities, the reopening of wineries and breweries to 50% capacity, swimming lessons, drive-in movies, retail stores and outdoor church services.

The Benton-Franklin Health District is planning to host a press conference to provide information on different aspects of the virus. Benton and Franklin Counties will use a portion of the CARES Act funding to hire Visit-Tri Cities for additional public relations and marketing.

The local city managers have petitioned the Benton-Franklin Health District to create a team, funded by CARES Act funding, to serve as point-of-contact to respond to reports of large gatherings. To date, the Benton-Franklin Health District has not responded to this request.

Councilmember Lemley provided comments regarding the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. City Manager Reents replied that the information varies from website to website. Councilmember Lemley stated that additional information needs to be conveyed to the public, and requested that reader boards be placed at the entrance to some of the main parks to discourage large gatherings.

City Manager Reents replied that reader boards have been placed throughout the city to remind people to wear masks and practice social distancing, but additional reader boards can be rented. She added that it can be difficult to differentiate between family members and non-family members in large gatherings. City Manager Reents committed that staff will continue to educate, but discouraging large crowds can be challenging.

Councilmember Christensen announced that he does not want the City to remove anything else from the parks, or to be the agency to enforce the mandates. Councilmember Christensen also opposed the idea of renting additional reader boards as people are already informed of the crowd and social distancing mandates.

City Manager Reents reiterated that the City has an obligation to respond to complaints of large gatherings and touched again on the process involved when responding to calls regarding large gatherings.

Councilmember Thompson shared his observations on the COVID-19 policies and mandates Governor Inslee is imposing. Councilmember Thompson also shared his comments regarding the decision to close schools for the upcoming year.

Mayor Lukson spoke of his participation in three weekly commission meetings to receive information and updates relating to COVID-19. Mayor Lukson added that there is a pending possibility of providing curbside services at the library. Mayor Lukson shared that the State will order 25,000 in-home COVID-19 testing kits per week, which will be made available to the public. Mayor Lukson stated that schools will create a hybrid model to accommodate grades K-3 rather than the initial plan to accommodate full in-person student attendance.

Mayor Lukson further shared that the State will also hold a press conference to discuss long-term neurological and cardiac complications caused by COVID-19.

Public Hearing

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

2. Amending the 2020 Budget in the Parks Capital Construction Fund, Ordinance No. 24-20

Parks & Public Facilities Director Joe Schiessl provided a brief overview of the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:45 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

Public comments were received via telephone from the following individuals:

Michael Grimes - 1061 Allenwhite Drive, Richland, WA - Mr. Grimes voiced concerns regarding the conditions associated with the proposed annexation of residences as provided in Resolution No. 110-20. Mr. Grimes also spoke about an existing agreement affecting his property, and his disagreement with the City Attorney's position on the matter. Mr. Grimes questioned whether he will be permitted to annex his property should the other property owners decide not to follow suit with the annexation, and questioned the need to construct a fire hydrant as a condition of annexation.

Thomas Hoffman - 604 Carner Ct. E, Richland, WA - Mr. Hoffman stated concerns with the new utility payment processing system and disconnection letters mailed to those who cannot pay their bill.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

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

Minutes

3. Approval of the July 21, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 17-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 20: Life Safety

5. Ordinance No. 18-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 21: Buildings and Construction
6. Ordinance No. 23-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 19.20.010 and 23.50.040 related to Procedures for Processing Planned Unit Developments
7. Ordinance No. 24-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the Parks Capital Construction Fund

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

8. Ordinance No. 11-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the Industrial Development Fund, Park Reserve Fund and Broadband Fund
9. Ordinance No. 15-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 14.24.060 related to Retail Electric Rates
10. Ordinance No. 20-20, Amending the 2020 Budget to Include the 2019 Budget Carryovers
11. Ordinance No. 22-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 23.42.210(D) related to Parking for Recreational Clubs

Resolutions - Adoption

12. Resolution No. 103-20, Adopting the City's 2020 Integrated Resource Plan
13. Resolution No. 108-20, Authorizing Acquisition of Real Property Interests from the Tri-City Railroad Company, LLC for the Steptoe Street/Tapteal Drive Intersection Improvements Project
14. Resolution No. 109-20, Authorizing a Purchase Agreement with Virginia Transformer Corporation for Procurement of the Gateway Substation Power Transformer
15. Resolution No. 110-20, Accepting a Request for Annexation (Allenwhite)
16. Resolution No. 111-20, Accepting a Request for Annexation (Tiegs)
17. Resolution No. 112-20, Approving an Agreement with TRIDEC for 2020 Marketing and Business Recruitment Services
18. Resolution No. 113-20, Authorizing the Award of Bid to Premier Excavation for the Clubhouse Lane Roundabout and Road Extension Project
19. Resolution No. 114-20, Authorizing a Cost Sharing Agreement with Falcon Video Communications, Inc. related to Infrastructure Construction for Duportail Bridge

Phase 2

20. Resolution No. 115-20, Authorizing a Cost Sharing Agreement with LightSpeed Networks, Inc. related to Infrastructure Construction for the Duportail Bridge - Phase 2
21. Resolution No. 116-20, Authorizing a Cost Sharing Agreement with Ziply Fiber related to Infrastructure Construction for Duportail Bridge - Phase 2
22. Resolution No. 118-20, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Transportation Improvement Board supporting the Downtown Connectivity Project
23. Resolution No. 119-20, Authorizing Interagency Agreement IAA93-101180 with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources
24. Resolution No. 120-20, Authorizing Grant Agreements with the Washington State Library related to COVID-19-related Impacts

Items - Approval

25. Appointment to the Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission: Andrew Lucero-Montano

Expenditures - Approval

None.

Items of Business

26. Resolution No. 110-20, Accepting a Request for Annexation (Allenwhite)

Planning Manager Stevens provided background to the proposed request for annexation submitted by petitioner Mike Grimes and several other property owners in the area of Allenwhite Drive. Fire and Police supports staff's recommendation to include the other two properties in the annexation request, and to ensure that the proper infrastructure is in place to support delivery of city services. Council's approval of the resolution will allow the annexation process to move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent asked staff to provide a response to the comments provided by Michael Grimes during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, and to clarify cost sharing expenses associated with the required fire hydrant. Planning Manager Stevens provided responses to both inquiries.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 110-20. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

27. Resolution No. 111-20, Accepting a Request for Annexation (Tiegs)

Planning Manager Stevens stated that property owner and petitioner Mr. Frank Tiegs is requesting annexation of 76.54 acres of property into the city. Council approval of the resolution will allow the annexation process to begin.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 111-20. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents had no comments. Mayor Lukson asked City Manager Reents to address concerns raised by Mr. Thomas Hoffman during the public comment portion of the meeting by describing the utility payment process. City Manager Reents provided an overview of the utility payment system and disconnection process, and noted that disconnections are currently suspended based on Governor Inslee's proclamation. Citizens are not contacted and questioned if payment assistance is needed when a payment is missed. If the City is successful in obtaining additional funds through the CARES Act, those funds will be made available to those who in need of assistance.

City Council

Councilmember Lemley asked City Manager Reents if updated sales tax revenue information has been received, to which City Manager Reents replied that the information should be received in the upcoming week.

Councilmember Christensen inquired if there is an end date to the pause on advancing to the next phase under the *Safe Start* plan. Mayor Lukson replied that community leaders have worked diligently to safely reopen certain businesses and activities. City Manager Reents replied that the Governor's pause on all applications officially expired on July 28, 2020, but that updated information was not able to be located. Both Mayor Lukson and City Manager Reents stated that the City will continue to work toward reopening of additional businesses and activities in a safe manner. Mayor Lukson added that Governor Inslee has extended the pause indefinitely.

Councilmember Thompson sang a song to express his thoughts on COVID-19.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent announced that City Manager Reents was recognized by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for her twenty-five years of governmental service and leadership. City Manager Reents shared that she has been a member of ICMA for twenty-five (25) years, and spent three years elsewhere, for a total of twenty-eight (28) years. Seventeen of the twenty-eight years have been with the City of Richland. City Manager Reents added that it has been a privilege to run this

organization, and praised the department heads and staff as experts and professionals in their field who make it possible to successfully run the city. Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked City Manager Reents and congratulated her on her recognition.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson stated that as a community, the City is moving in the right direction and making progress toward safely reopening businesses.

Executive Session

Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(g) and RCW 42.30.110(i).

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:18 P.M. FOR 60 MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Present for the executive session was Mayor Lukson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, and Councilmembers Alvarez, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson. City Attorney Kintzley was also present.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:58 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: August 18, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: August 19, 2020