



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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

Meeting ID No. 924 4976 9867

Tuesday, August 18, 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 Christensen and Lemley were present. Councilmembers Alvarez and Thompson were absent.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ AND THOMPSON. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

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.

Mayor Lukson announced that Council received a resignation notice from Councilmember Anderson that was effective immediately. Mayor Lukson read the letter into the record. Mayor Lukson expressed gratitude to Mr. Anderson for his years of service and wished him well.

Councilmember Lemley wished Mr. Anderson and his family well.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked Mr. Anderson for his service and stated that she hopes he will be able to continue some level of involvement in the community. Mayor Pro Tem Kent added that it was a privilege to serve with Mr. Anderson, even in times of disagreement.

Councilmember Christensen shared that he served with Mr. Anderson for five years on the Parks & Recreation Commission, and nine years on the Richland City Council. Councilmember Christensen praised Mr. Anderson for his representation and wished him well.

City Manager Reents stated that Mr. Anderson has been a great source of support to her and the staff through the years and will be missed. She thanked Mr. Anderson for his dependability as a councilmember and willingness to travel in his representation of the City. City Manager Reents wished Mr. Anderson and his family well.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

PRIOR TO MAKING A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, MAYOR LUKSON PULLED ITEM NO. 4, ORDINANCE NO. 21-20 RELATING TO PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS. ITEM NO. 4 WAS MOVED TO ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 1 ON THE AGENDA. MAYOR LUKSON ALSO PULLED ITEM NO. 7, ORDINANCE NO. 07-20, RELATING TO TERM LIMITS FOR BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES. ITEM NO. 7 WAS MOVED TO ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 2 ON THE AGENDA.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Presentations

1. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Reents announced that she has been working with the Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) and Department of Health to advocate for the opening of additional businesses and activities. Benton County's R-naught number remains just below 1.0, which aligns with the Department of Health's recommended number.

With the continued decline of confirmed positive cases, BFHD Health Officer Dr. Person stated that Benton County is in sight of the metric for opening schools sometime this fall.

City Manager Reents provided statistics relating to COVID-19 patients in hospitals. The BFHD is continuing to urge citizens to wear masks, maintain social distancing and practice good hygiene. BFHD has hired twenty-four (24) temporary staff dedicated to contact tracing, which should result in more accurate information used for analysis.

The Toyota Center community testing site, operated by the National Guard, has been closed. The HAPO Center community testing in Pasco remains open, and up to five hundred (500) tests can be administered each day.

City Manager Reents reiterated that the City continues its collaboration with BFHD and the Department of Health in advocating for additional allowable activities such as recreation, fitness, outdoor gatherings, building capacity of indoor services, indoor capacity for professional services, photography, in-home/domestic services, indoor dining, travel and card rooms.

The Richland Public Library's curbside service has proven successful, and families lined up to received "Bored in a Box" activity boxes from Richland's recreation staff.

City Manager Reents stated that several businesses have applied for outdoor use waivers, and further clarified that the waivers are available for all Richland businesses, regardless of the business type.

City Manager Reents invited Development Services Director Jensen to provide an economic development update. Mayor Lukson also asked Director Jensen to provide information regarding the outdoor seating concept for businesses.

Development Services Director Jensen provided the following overview on available federal funding assistance:

- CDBG Program: \$179,543 received from Housing and Urban Development (HUD);
- HOME Funds: \$700,000 received for emergency short-term tenant-based rental assistance;
- 2020 CDBG Grant: \$160,000 reallocated to small business loans.

Development Services Director Jensen reported that staff is reaching out to struggling businesses to offer resources and support. Sixteen (16) small businesses have qualified for the City's stabilization loan grant program, and thirteen (13) outdoor use waivers have been issued. Development Services Director Jensen clarified that the outdoor use waivers are not limited to restaurants, and can be used for other services such as retail sidewalk sales.

In response to questions from Mayor Lukson regarding activities in Kennewick, Development Services Director Jensen explained that Kennewick's Downtown Development Authority is responsible for authorizing certain outdoor uses on Kennewick Avenue. Director Jensen offered to explore similar programs for Richland if Council so desires.

A question and answer period ensued with Council and Director Jensen regarding the closure of certain parking sections of The Parkway business area to allow for outdoor business expansion. Mayor Pro Tem Kent and Councilmember Christensen shared concerns with the parking challenges this might cause, especially in light of the fact that not every business in The Parkway is a retail business. Council asked staff to contact businesses in The Parkway to solicit their opinions on the matter.

Mayor Lukson provided information relating to the reopening of certain businesses, possible school opening in the fall, and the availability of at-home testing kits for long-term care facilities.

2. Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Development Services Director Jensen provided an overview of the City's construction activity for the months of January through July, 2020. Director Jensen then announced that the City is offering virtual inspections for various projects such as water heater

replacements, furnace replacements, window installments, and heat pump/mini split inspections. Lastly, he provided information on notable commercial projects.

Department Services Director Jensen presented on the proposed 2020 Docket of Comprehensive Plan policies, maps and zoning code amendments. Two (2) items will be presented for Council's consideration for placement on the 2020 Docket at a meeting in September. The purpose of tonight's presentation was to introduce the items to Council and give brief background on each.

Public Hearings

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedures.

The following individuals submitted comments to be read aloud:

Mr. Christopher Krowiak - 1523 Hains Ave., Richland, WA: Mr. Krowiak submitted comments relating to concerns with parking on Hains Avenue.

Ms. Francesca Maier - 2146 Hudson Ave., Richland, WA: Ms. Maier submitted comments opposing Ordinance No. 21-20 regarding parking on Hains Avenue, and requested the implementation of traffic calming to encourage slower speed limits if parking will be prohibited on both sides of the street.

Lora Rathbone - 538 Fuller Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Rathbone submitted comments opposing Ordinance No. 07-20 regarding waiver of term limits, and suggested that term limits be reduced.

Lauren Wanamaker - 1309 Hains Ave., Richland, WA: Ms. Wanamaker wrote in support of Ordinance No. 21-20 regarding parking on Hains Avenue, citing that visibility is often an issue when vehicles and large boats are parked on both sides of the street. Additionally, Ms. Wanamaker proposed that signage be placed on the street to assist with enforcement of the current 25 mph speed limit.

The following individuals provided comments via telephone:

Dori Luzzo-Gilmour - 2051 Howell Ave. Richland, WA: Ms. Luzzo-Gilmour expressed gratitude for the recently implemented library curbside service. Ms. Luzzo-Gilmour then provided comments opposing the adoption of Ordinance No. 07-20 related to waiver of term limits. Ms. Luzzo-Gilmour thanked Brad Anderson for his service, and added that he will be greatly missed.

Molly Petersen - 1420 Stevens Drive, Richland, WA: Ms. Peterson provided comments opposing Ordinance No. 21-20 related to parking on Hains Avenue.

Ms. Randy Slovic - 74 Newcomer Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Slovic thanked Mayor Lukson for pulling the two agenda items from the consent calendar, and agreed with statements made by Ms. Dori Luzzo-Gilmour regarding eliminating the term limits for boards, commission and committee members. Ms. Slovic urged Council to consider safe routes for traffic on residential streets. Ms. Slovic also commented on a staff member's spouse being allowed to serve on a City board for twenty years.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND MAYOR LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS CHRISTENSEN AND LEMLEY. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

Minutes

3. Approval of the August 4, 2020 City Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 21-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 11.40.030 related to Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets **(PULLED AND RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS ITEM NO. 1)**
5. Ordinance No. 25-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 27: Signs
6. Ordinance No. 26-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the General Fund

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

7. Ordinance No. 07-20, Amending Section 2.04.110 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Term Limits for Boards, Commissions and Committees **(PULLED AND RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS ITEM NO. 2)**
8. Ordinance No. 17-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 20: Life Safety
9. Ordinance No. 18-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 21: Buildings and Construction

10. Ordinance No. 23-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 19.20.010 and 23.50.040 related to Procedures for Processing Planned Unit Developments
11. Ordinance No. 24-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the Parks Capital Construction Fund

Resolutions - Adoption

12. Resolution No. 45-20, Authorizing a Repurchase Agreement with Energy Northwest
13. Resolution No. 117-20, Authorizing an Application to the Benton County Rural County Capital Fund for the Center Parkway – North – Gage to Tapteal Drive Project
14. Resolution No. 123-20, Authorizing Amendments to the City's Governmental Money Purchase Plans & Trusts and 457 Deferred Compensation Plans to Implement Provisions of the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures - Approval

15. Expenditures from July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020 for \$30,233,301.83 including Check Nos. 280907-281795, Travel Check Nos. 19930-19932, Wire Nos. 8198- 8227, Payroll Check Nos. 167010-168065, Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11590- 11635, and Pension Check Nos. 5539-5567

Items of Business

1. Ordinance No. 21-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 11.40.030 related to Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets **(PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR)**

City Attorney Kintzley provided an overview of the proposed ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent stated that she approves the ordinance for first reading, but is asking staff to further study the issues relating to speeding, accessibility and visibility before bringing the ordinance for second reading and passage. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also asked for opinions from staff on how to address speeding on Hains and Newcomer.

Councilmember Christensen and Mayor Lukson agreed with statements made by Mayor Pro Tem.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 21-20 FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT,

CHRISTENSEN AND LEMLEY. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

2. Ordinance No. 07-20, Amending Section 2.04.110 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Term Limits for Boards, Commissions and Committees **(PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR)**

City Attorney Kintzley provided an overview of the proposed code amendment.

Councilmember Christensen addressed concerns raised during the public comment period regarding the ordinance, and shared his support of the ordinance.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent shared her opposition to the ordinance.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 07-20 FOR SECOND READING AND PASSAGE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, CHRISTENSEN AND LEMLEY. THOSE OPPOSED: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT. THE MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A MAJORITY OF ALL COUNCILMEMBERS AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE III, SECTION 3.02 OF THE RICHLAND CITY CHARTER.

Note: The City Attorney stated during the meeting that the ordinance passed based on the general rule for conducting business under Robert's Rules of Order. However, the Richland City Charter deviates from this general rule. The City Attorney promptly notified City Council and the City Manager that Ordinance No. 07-20 failed for lack of a majority vote of all councilmembers as required by Article III, Section 3.02 of the Richland City Charter.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents requested Council to clarify if it would like to advertise the vacant council seat. City Manager Reents then provided an overview on the process for filling council vacancies as determined by Chapter 2.04 of the Richland Municipal Code. Council confirmed its desire to fill the vacancy, and directed City Manager Reents to advertise the vacancy and follow the interview process used in previous appointments.

City Council

Councilmember Christensen thanked Mayor Lukson and City Manager Reents for their efforts in advocating for the reopening of businesses and schools. He added that constituents have expressed discouragement in the slow progress Benton County has made under Washington's *Safe Start* reopening plan. Councilmember Christensen also thanked Brad Anderson for his contributions and wished him well.

Councilmember Lemley wished Brad Anderson well.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent voiced appreciation to Brad Anderson and wished him well. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also congratulated City Clerk Rogers on earning a Master Municipal Clerk designation from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Association (IIMC). When invited to comment, City Clerk Rogers thanked Mayor Pro Tem Kent and Council for the recognition, and added her thanks for the support of immediate supervisor City Attorney Kintzley and City Manager Reents.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson thanked Brad Anderson for his years of service and friendship. Mayor Lukson stated that he anticipates the reopening of more industries and business in the near future, and added that the progress made to date is the result of the advocacy and hard work of our citizens.

Adjournment

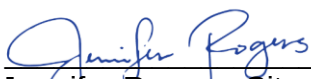
Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 1, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: September 2, 2020