



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom - Public Telephone Access: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID No. 939 6838 4841 Password: 556361

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.

Also remotely present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington, Administrative Services Director Koch, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney, Planning Manager Stevens, Transportation & Development Manager West 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 CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. Proclamation - Attendance Awareness Month

Mayor Lukson read aloud the Attendance Awareness Month Proclamation and provided comments supporting the importance of student attendance.

2. Proclamation - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Lukson read aloud the Childhood Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation.

3. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Reents began her update by stating this past week marked the 200th day of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Reents then shared updates provided during the Benton-Franklin Health District meeting.

The Benton-Franklin Health Department reported that COVID-19 testing sites continue to be under-utilized. Testing sites have administered less than two hundred (200) tests per day; however, they have the capacity to administer up to five hundred (500) tests per day. Those who are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 should get tested.

Though Benton County remains in a modified 1.5 phase of the *Safe Start Washington* reopening plan, the County has been operating under certain Phase 2 designations. The State is re-writing the phases of the *Safe Start Washington* plan and the process to advance through the phases. The cities have strongly encouraged Benton County and the Benton-Franklin Health District to prepare the application for Phase 2 in advance so that it can be promptly submitted once Governor Inslee's pause is lifted.

City Manager Reents provided additional updates on local COVID-19-related matters, including the decline in positive cases reported, the declining number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals, the creation of a Benton-Franklin outbreak mitigation team, and the possible opening of schools in the fall.

The superintendent of the Richland School District stated that RSD is pursuing a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club and finalizing a plan to allow special needs students to receive in-school instruction. Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended several waivers to provide free meals to children through December 2020 to help ensure all children have access to meals while the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Benton and Franklin Counties are moving into the second and third rounds of small business grants, funded through the federal CARES Act. City Manager Reents provided information on how \$126 million of Washington's federal stimulus funding will be allocated among the local health jurisdiction and cities.

The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce partnered with the Minority Business Development Agency to offer 100 free personal protection equipment (PPE) kits to qualifying businesses in Benton and Franklin Counties.

Lastly, City Manager Reents stated that even with the pause in advancing to the next phase, local leaders have continued their efforts to advocate to the local health district for the reopening of additional businesses and activities.

Public Hearing

None.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Comments procedures.

City Clerk Rogers read the following public comment received electronically:

Ms. Randy Slovic - 74 Newcomer Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Slovic praised city staff for the placement of beacon lights on George Washington Way near Waldron Street, and on Newcomer Street. Ms. Slovic stated that the lighting provides safety at both locations. Ms. Slovic then stated her opposition to the elimination of term limits for boards, commission and committee members as outlined in Ordinance No. 07-20.

The following individual provided comments via telephone:

Mr. John Becker - 93406 E. Holly Road, Kennewick, WA: Mr. Becker provided comments in support of Resolution No. 128-20, approving the final plat of Good Ridge Estates - Phase 1.

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: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes - Approval

4. Approval of the August 18, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

5. Ordinance No. 27-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the General Fund
6. Ordinance No. 28-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 12.08.020 relating to Right-of-Way Construction Permits

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

7. Ordinance No. 25-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 27: Signs
8. Ordinance No. 26-20, Amending the 2020 Budget in the General Fund

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution No. 93-20, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Barnes BTKM Enterprises, LLC
10. Resolution No. 127-20, Setting a Public Hearing Date related to the Proposed Vacation of a Portion of Robertson Drive

11. Resolution 128-20, Approving the Final Plat of Goose Ridge Estates - Phase 1
12. Resolution No. 129-20, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with 3 Rivers Diesel, LLC
13. Resolution No. 130-20, Authorizing a Master License Agreement with ExteNet Systems, Inc. for Wireless Small Cell Facilities

Items - Approval

14. Appointments to the Utility Advisory Committee: Charlton Campbell and Larry Felton

Expenditures - Approval

None.

Items of Business

15. Resolution No. 125-20, Establishing the 2020 Docket of Comprehensive Plan Policies, Maps and Zoning Code Amendments

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the proposed resolution and stated that City Council has the option to remove one or both of the items, if desired. Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 125-20 as presented.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 125-20. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

16. Anticipated Motion for Reconsideration: Ordinance No. 07-20, Amending Section 2.04.110 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Term Limits for Boards, Commissions and Committees

City Attorney Kintzley provided a brief procedural background for Ordinance No. 07-20, including the fact that it failed to pass at the last meeting due to lack of receiving a majority vote of all members of Council as required by the Richland City Charter. City Attorney Kintzley further advised that Council has a long-established process for motions to reconsider, and stated that the motion to reconsider may only be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side of the proposition. That allows only Mayor Pro Tem Kent to make the motion for reconsideration. If the motion for reconsideration is successful, Council may then consider Ordinance No. 07-20 for second reading and passage.

Councilmember Thompson provided comments supporting a motion for reconsideration.

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER ORDINANCE NO. 07-20. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ,

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

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 07-20.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent provided comments opposing the adoption of the ordinance. Councilmember Christensen thanked Mayor Pro Tem Kent for allowing for reconsideration of Ordinance No. 07-20. Councilmember Christensen then provided comments supporting the approval of the ordinance. Mayor Lukson also shared comments supporting the approval of the Ordinance.

MAYOR LUKSON CALLED FOR THE ROLL CALL VOTE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: MAYOR PRO TEM KENT. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-1.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents had no comments.

City Council

Councilmember Lemley encouraged residents to visit the local food bank if they are in need of assistance. Additional information can be found on the food bank's website.

Councilmember Thompson shared his observations of decisions made regarding COVID-19 policies imposed at the state level. Councilmember Thompson stated his appreciation for the efforts made by Mayor Lukson and City staff in advocating for the reopening of businesses and schools, and encouraged them to remain vigilant in their efforts.

Councilmember Christensen agreed with statements made by Councilmember Thompson relating to the policies set by Governor Inslee, and shared concerns with the changing standards used to determine progress. Councilmember Christensen added that the prolonged closure has been harmful to communities and children.

Councilmember Alvarez shared his observations on how neighboring states are handling the COVID-19 pandemic, and the difference it makes on quality of life.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent encouraged everyone to follow the health district's guidelines to further reduce the number of confirmed positive cases. Mayor Pro Tem Kent encouraged everyone to be kind to each other and help those who are in need.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson encouraged those who exhibit COVID-19 symptom to get tested. He reiterated City Manager Reent's statements that testing sites are only utilizing fifty percent of its testing capacity. Mayor Lukson voiced frustrations with the shifting standards, metrics and guidelines to reopen certain businesses. Mayor Lukson also emphasized that local leaders are actively advocating for the reopening of additional businesses. He shared concerns for what lies ahead for businesses that have not reopened. Lastly, Mayor Lukson shared his excitement for schools potentially opening in the fall.

Adjournment

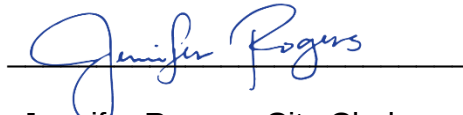
Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Lukson', written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTESTED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Rogers', written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 15, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: September 16, 2020