



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

Zoom- Public Telephone Access: (206) 337-9723

Meeting ID No. 946 0040 8440

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, 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 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. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Reents provided a COVID-19 update relating to school openings, declining COVID-19 cases in Benton County, COVID-19 vaccination, and the under-utilization of testing sites. City Manager Reents added that the Benton-Franklin Health District and local hospital officials are encouraging everyone to get a flu shot, continue social distancing and wear face coverings.

City Manager Reents further discussed how wildfires in California, Oregon and Washington have contributed to poor air quality, and has temporarily closed COVID-19 testing sites and other activities. Labor & Industries (L&I) has postponed electrical inspections until further notice, which affects the City's ability to process certificates of occupancy for homeowners and businesses.

Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington provided an update on the regional wildfires and their effect on local air quality.

Councilmember Lemley inquired if flu shots have been scheduled for the City of Richland. City Manager Reents replied that this activity is typically scheduled for October, and added that notification will be provided once a date is established.

Public Hearing

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

2. Relinquishment of Easements at 650 George Washington Way, Resolution No. 124-20

State law requires a public hearing to solicit testimony before relinquishment of property acquired for utility purposes. Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of this basis behind this relinquishment request.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:18 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Mayor Lukson stated commented favorably on the project at 650 George Washington Way, including the fact that it is scheduled to be completed in November.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read aloud the public comments received electronically:

Laila Krowiak - 1523 Hains, Richland, WA: Ms. Krowiak stated concerns with current speed limits and parking on Hains Avenue. Ms. Krowiak questioned if traffic calming solutions will be implemented on Hains Avenue if parking on both sides of the street is eliminated.

Francesca Maier - 2146 Hudson Ave., Richland, WA: Ms. Maier expressed disappointment concerning the City's lack of response to residents' safety concerns on Hains Avenue.

Joel Rogo - 21 Aaron Drive, Richland, WA: Mr. Rogo thanked Mayor Lukson, the Municipal Advisory Committee, Stephanie Swanberg of the Tri-Cities Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Tri-Cities Fitness Coalition for their successful efforts in reopening fitness centers and dance studios.

The following individual provided telephonic comments:

Dori Luzzo-Gilmour - 2051 Howell Ave., Richland, WA: Ms. Luzzo Gilmour inquired about Resolution No. 133-20, which authorized a maintenance agreement with Friends

of Badger Mountain. Ms. Luzzo-Gilmour questioned why a maintenance agreement was being pursued instead of a park partnership agreement.

Consent Calendar

MAYOR LUKSON PULLED RESOLUTION NO. 133-20, AUTHORIZING A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH FRIENDS OF BADGER MOUNTAIN (ITEM NO. 12). ITEM NO. 12 WAS RELOCATED TO ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 2 ON THE AGENDA.

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED. 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 September 1, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 29-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 9: Crime
5. Ordinance No. 30-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 12.04.100 related to Driveways in the Industrial Districts
6. Ordinance No. 31-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 13.06.330 related to Billing for Ambulance Transport

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions - Adoption

9. Resolution No. 124-20, Relinquishing Utility Easements at 650 George Washington Way
10. Resolution No. 131-20, Authorizing a Grant Application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration for Sewer Infrastructure into North Horn Rapids

11. Resolution No. 132-20, Awarding Bid to Booth & Sons Construction, Inc. for Phase One of the Neighborhood Signage and Gateway Entrance Signage Project
12. Resolution No. 133-20, Authorizing a Maintenance Agreement with Friends of Badger Mountain **(RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS ITEM NO. 2)**

Items - Approval

13. Appointment to the Personnel Committee: Steve Lorence
14. Appointments to the Economic Development Committee: Brad Bricker, Ken Spencer, Theresa Richardson and Kim Knight
15. Appointment to the Library Board: Lindsay Lightner
16. Appointments to the Americans with Disabilities Citizens Review Committee: Michele Levenite and Deborah Titus
17. Appointments to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee: Lara Watkins and Andrew Lucero-Montano

Expenditures - Approval

18. Expenditures from August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 for \$28,384,167.33 including Check Nos. 281796-282648, Wire Nos. 8228-8266, Payroll Check Nos. 168066-169109, Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11636-11679, and Pension Check Nos. 5568-5596

Items of Business

1. Ordinance No. 21-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 11.40.030 related to Parking Prohibited on Certain Streets

Public Works Director Rogalsky presented on this ordinance, then engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 21-20. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

2. Resolution No. 133-20, Authorizing a Maintenance Agreement with Friends of Badger Mountain **(ITEM NO. 12 PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl provided an overview of the partnership and

agreement with FOBM and responded to questions asked by Ms. Luzzo-Gilmour during public comments.

Mr. Schiessl added that Resolution No. 133-20 memorializes a maintenance agreement with FOBM to maintain existing trails, and sets up future trails in Little Badger Mountain.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 133-20. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents had no comments.

City Council

Councilmember Alvarez encouraged everyone to get a flu shot. Councilmember Alvarez shared that longstanding local business has permanently closed its doors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged everyone to stay healthy and remain hopeful that more businesses can reopen.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent encouraged everyone who was not selected for appointment to a board, commission or committee to reapply when a vacancy is published. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also shared that she recently participated in a remote meeting with a local Girl Scouts troops. She added that she was impressed with the Girl Scout members and the troop leaders who have continued to engage the youth throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson agreed that the City's boards, commissions and committees are comprised of great people whose participation makes it possible for the City to accomplish great things.

Mr. Lukson then spoke of the declining number of COVID cases, which should lead to the reopening of schools in October.

Executive Session

1. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(I): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Retained Legal Counsel

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. TO DISCUSS CURRENT OR

POTENTIAL LITIGATION WITH RETAINED COUNSEL FOR 20 MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Present for the executive session included Mayor Lukson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, Councilmembers Alvarez, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson, and retained counsel Ann Marie Soto.

COUNCIL EXTENDED THE EXECUTIVE SESSION BY 15 MINUTES AT 7:21 P.M.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:36 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

2. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h): To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.

COUNCIL MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO EVALUATE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENTS TO ELECTIVE OFFICE FOR 60 MINUTES AT 7:52 P.M.

Present for the executive session included Mayor Lukson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, Councilmembers Alvarez, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson, and City Manager Reents.

COUNCIL EXITED THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:52 P.M.

Mayor Lukson announced the three applicants selected to interview for Position No. 2 on the Richland City Council: Marianne Boring, Theresa Richardson and Maria Gutierrez.

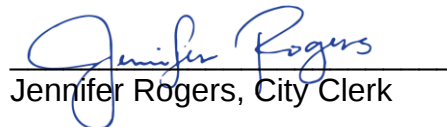
Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: October 6, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: October 11, 2020