



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Zoom - Public Telephone Access: (888) 788-009 or (833) 548-0276

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 - 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Lukson called the remote Council meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Lukson welcomed those attending the remote meeting.

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

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE MAYOR PRO TEM KENT AND COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Also present (remotely) were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, 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 remote 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 5-0.

Presentations

1. Proclamation of Appreciation and Plaque to Larry Lowry

Mayor Lukson read aloud a Proclamation of Appreciation to Larry Lowry for his years of service on the Board of Adjustment.

2. Fourth of July Fireworks Update

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Police Chief Bruce and Fire Battalion Chief Hempstead provided a recap of the preparations, incidents and statistics relating to fire calls and fireworks during the 4th of July holiday. A question and answer opportunity followed the presentation.

At Mayor Lukson's request, Chief Bruce described the protest that occurred over the weekend and RPD's approach to it. Chief Bruce reiterated that he supports each individual's constitutional right to protest, so long as protests remain peaceful.

Mayor Lukson stated that he appreciates the efforts of Chief Bruce and the Richland Police Department during this difficult time. Councilmember Alvarez voiced concerns over the hazards imposed by protestors lying in the street and protesting in the street.

Councilmembers engaged in general discussion related to the protests. Staff provided responses to questions asked.

3. COVID-19 Update

City Manager Reents stated that the City of Richland has been working with the Benton-Franklin Health District and Benton County for several weeks to move the community into the next phase of Governor Inslee's *Safe Start* Plan in a safe manner.

City Manager Reents provided information on a press conference held with many community leaders in attendance, and reported on Benton County's grant of approval to move into a modified Phase 1.5 of the *Safe Start* reopening plan. She also provided information on face covering compliance rates.

A joint public service announcement featuring several Tri-Cities leaders was played.

City Manager Reents went on to thank Communications & Marketing for their tireless work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also provided information on permitted activities and reopening guidance for businesses under the modified Phase 1.5. City Manager Reents noted that counties throughout the state of Washington will not be permitted to advance to the next phase until at least July 16, 2020.

City Manager Reents shared that the City received 1.7 million dollars of CARES Act monies to provide additional services and relief programs. She reported that 21 local businesses qualified for a grant of up to \$10,000 from the City, which is funded by federal dollars. City Manager Reents further commented that the evidence suggests that the State did not correctly calculate the CARES Act funding award, and it is possible that the City will receive additional funds.

City Manager Reents called attention to Resolution No. 102-20 on tonight's agenda, which authorizes the City Manager to issue temporary waivers of certain city regulations in support of local businesses operating under *Safe Start*. City Manager Reents also reported that Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28 related to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) has been extended until August 1, 2020, and that Resolution No. 100-20 on tonight's agenda would provide for virtual meetings for the City of Richland until Benton County enters a phase of the *Safe Start* reopening plan that allows gatherings and the opening of public buildings.

City Manager Reents reported that Benton and Franklin Counties' *Roadmap to Recovery*, which has been approved by both jurisdictions and posted on the Benton-Franklin Health District website, was developed by the Department of Health to get businesses reopened in Benton and Franklin Counties to minimize economic impacts to the region while implementing additional COVID-19 response activities to help offset the risk of transmission in these businesses. In conclusion, City Manager Reents shared information on COVID-19 testing sites, confirmed positive cases, funding received for resource expenses, and the number of face coverings distributed.

At the close of City Manager Reents' presentation, Mayor Lukson invited Dr. Rick Schulte, Superintendent of the Richland School District, to address Council related to RSD's reopening efforts. Dr. Schulte stated that RSD has several goals, with a primary focus on:

- Getting the students back to school as soon as possible;
- Keeping the health and safety of students and staff at the forefront;
- Providing learning options for families.

Dr. Schulte provided an overview of the District's *Return to School Roadmap* for the 2020-21 school year. The plan covers topics such as instruction, school operations, public health, and facilities. District leaders are monitoring decisions from the Governor's Office, as well as recommendations from federal, state and local health officials. The Richland School Board will consider the recommendations to reopen and determine whether to adopt them, hopefully by the end of July.

Mayor Lukson provided comments in response to the reopening of schools in the fall and the effects a continued closure will have on families. Council provided comments.

Dr. Schulte stated that the District is required to adhere to guidelines released by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Washington's Department of Health when planning for the reopening of schools.

A question and answer session ensued with Dr. Schulte. Councilmembers provided additional comments that were supportive of reopening schools in the fall.

Council directed City Manager Reents to contact other stakeholders in the Tri-Cities to inquire if they would like to sign a joint letter to Governor Inslee advocating to reopen the Richland School District in the fall.

Public Hearing

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

4. Amending RMC Title 23 and the Official Zoning Map to Change Zoning on 98.16 Acres at Queensgate Drive and Legacy Lane (Sienna Hills), Ordinance No. 19-20

Planning Manager Mike Stevens presented on the rezone request, the project site, and the scope of work. Mr. Stevens also provided a recap of the process needed to approve the preliminary plat. The proposed rezone will result in the development of a new

subdivision, Sienna Hills. The Richland Hearing Examiner recommends conditional approval as outlined in his written report, which was provided to Council in the agenda packet.

Mayor Lukson opened the hearing for public comments at 7:45 p.m.

Jason Mattox - 400 Bradley Boulevard, Richland, WA: Mr. Mattox stated that he is employed by PBS Engineering and Environmental. He submitted the application on behalf of the applicant, and stated his support of the project. Mr. Mattox offered to answer any questions.

No other comments were received. Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

5. Amending the 2020 Budget to Include the 2019 Budget Carryovers, Ordinance No. 20-20

Finance Director Brandon Allen supplied details on the proposed budget amendment.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 7:48 p.m. No testimony was offered.

6. Amending the 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution No. 96-20

Public Works Director Rogalsky presented an overview of the proposed 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program amendment.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. No testimony was offered.

Public Comments

City Clerk Rogers read comments submitted by the following individuals:

Alphabet House Preservation Advocates - Richland, WA: The AHPA advocates urged Council to rename Lee Boulevard to Pehrson Boulevard.

Jana Kinnaman - Richland, WA: Ms. Kinnaman stated concerns with the protest that occurred over the weekend.

Bob Lawrence - Spokane, WA: Mr. Lawrence urged Council to rename Lee Boulevard to Pehrson Boulevard.

Francesca Maier - Richland, WA: Ms. Maier wrote in support of Resolution Nos. 94-20 and 102-20. Ms. Maier also wrote in general support of the proposed Proclamation of Richland's Commitment to Inclusiveness and Community Safety, but opposes the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement.

Matthew Smith - Richland, WA: Mr. Smith stated concerns over the new utility payment processing program.

Jessica Magula - Richland, WA: Ms. Magula expressed opposition to vacating portions of Brantingham Road pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-20.

Fawn Roose - Kennewick, WA: Ms. Roose provided a recap of her negative encounter with protestors over the weekend on George Washington Way.

Ashleigh Rogers - Richland, WA: Ms. Rogers expressed concerns over a recent communication she had with Councilmember Thompson, and urged Council to provide a response to her concerns.

Aaron Magula - Richland, WA: Mr. Magula expressed opposition to vacating portions of Brantingham Road pursuant to Ordinance No. 14-20.

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 AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

7. Approval of the June 16, 2020 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

8. Ordinance No. 14-20, Vacating Portions of Brantingham Road
9. Ordinance No. 16-20, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 9.04.090 and 9.05.060 related to Coercion and Coercion – Domestic Violence
10. Ordinance No. 19-20, Amending Title 23 and the Official Zoning Map to Change Zoning on 98.16 Acres at Queensgate Drive and Legacy Lane (Sienna Hills)
11. Ordinance No. 20-20, Amending the 2020 Budget to Include the 2019 Budget Carryovers

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions - Adoption

13. Resolution No. 88-20, Authorizing an Award of Bid to Northbank Civil & Marine, Inc. for the Columbia River Intake Screen Upgrade Project
14. Resolution No. 89-20, Authorizing an Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. for the Water System Risk and Resilience Assessment Study
15. Resolution No. 91-20, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with West Richland for the Tapteal 1 Booster Pump Station Upgrade Project
16. Resolution No. 90-20, Authorizing a Land Exchange Agreement with Martin and Jacqueline Stout
17. Resolution No. 92-20, Approving the Final Plat of Quail Ridge Phase 1 & 2
18. Resolution No. 94-20, Authorizing a Grant Application to the Washington State Department of Transportation Pedestrian and Bicycle Program
19. Resolution No. 95-20, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Parametrix Inc. for Assessment Monitoring Services for the Horn Rapid Landfill
20. Resolution No. 96-20, Authorizing Amendment to the 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program
21. Resolution No. 97-20, Authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Michel and Solbrack related to the Center Parkway South Project
22. Resolution No. 100-20, Designating Virtual Meeting Locations Consistent with *Safe Start – Washington's Phased Reopening Plan*
23. Resolution No. 101-20, Authorizing Award of Bid to Granite Construction Company for the Duportail Corridor Improvements Project
24. Resolution No. 102-20, Authorizing the City Manager to issue temporary waivers to certain city regulations in order to promote local businesses operating under *Safe Start – Washington's Phased Reopening Plan*

Items - Approval

25. Appointment to the Richland Public Facilities District Board: Bill King

Expenditures - Approval

None.

Items of Business

26. Resolution No. 98-20, Adopting Results and Recommendations of the Downtown Connectivity Study

Public Works Director Rogalsky presented an overview of the Downtown Connectivity Study. During the presentation, Mr. Rogalsky discussed the public engagement process, public input received, alternatives considered, and ranking and scoring. The Study considered the cost and feasibility of alternative improvements as part of its analysis, and Mr. Rogalsky stated that it is feasible to implement the recommended improvements largely with grant funds.

Spencer Montgomery, project lead with J-U-B Engineers, Inc., reviewed the Downtown Connectivity Study in detail. A question and answer period ensued with Council. Councilmember Thompson voiced concerns regarding the percentage of public participation, and questioned whether it captured the community's true sentiment on the issue. Alternatively, Mayor Lukson expressed his approval of the design, and commented on the fact that members of Council are elected by the citizens to implement policy and vision that is consistent with who they represent themselves to be during the election process. To that end, Council should feel comfortable making decisions that align with the vision that has been set for the City of Richland.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 98-20. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

27. Resolution No. 99-20, Approving Commercial Façade Improvement Program Grant Funding

Councilmember Christensen gave a brief overview of the Economic Development Committee's recommendation regarding the recent round of applicants seeking Commercial Façade Improvement Grant funding.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 99-20. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

28. Proclamation of Richland's Commitment to Inclusiveness and Community Safety

Mayor Lukson read aloud the proposed Proclamation of Inclusiveness and Community Safety, which reaffirms the City's 2017 Welcome Proclamation and speaks to exercising constitutional rights in an safe and responsible manner.

Chief Bruce provided clarification on the definition of "proactive" law enforcement, which appears in the proposed proclamation through reference to RPD's adopted Mission Statement. Chief Bruce also addressed public comments regarding the use of facial recognition software by law enforcement.

COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION OF RICHLAND'S COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVENESS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Rents did not provide any comments during Reports and Comments.

City Council

Councilmember Christensen offered commentary on the protest and how it affected certain residents. Councilmember Christensen also stated reasons why he opposes renaming Lee Boulevard.

Councilmember Thompson addressed a public comment directed at him regarding his response to a recent event posted on social media.

Councilmember Lemley concurred with statements made by Councilmember Christensen regarding renaming Lee Boulevard.

Councilmember Alvarez spoke briefly about statements made earlier in the evening by Councilmember Thompson.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson reminded the public that each councilmember has independent viewpoints, but unite as a body when making decisions on behalf of the City of Richland. Mayor Lukson then clarified statements he made with regard to a published Tri-City Herald article on renaming Lee Boulevard.

Adjournment

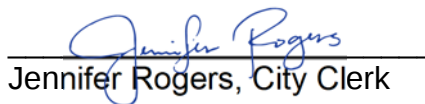
Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 21, 2020

DATE PUBLISHED: July 22, 2020