



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Zoom - Public Telephone Access: (206) 337-9723 or (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID No. 505 625 7380

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

Mayor Lukson called the remote 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 Boring, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson were present.

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

Also remotely present were City Manager Reents, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Administrative Services Director Koch, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Finance Director Allen, Communications & Marketing Manager Logan 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 BORING SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

None.

Public Hearing

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

1. Relinquishment of Certain Portions of Utility Easements at 505 Swift Boulevard, Resolution No. 01-21

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed relinquishment of certain portions of utility easements located at the former City Hall site. City staff is preparing the site for marketing and development. The easements recommended for relinquishment are no longer needed for municipal purposes.

No individuals signed up to provide testimony for this public hearing item. Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comments

Jaime Heppler - 4553 Barbera Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Heppler stated that she was unable to submit her comments by the 4:00 p.m. deadline. Mayor Lukson invited her to provide comments. Ms. Heppler replied that this is her first Richland City Council meeting as she is new to the area, and she did not have any comments to offer for this meeting.

Dave Zabell - 525 N. 3rd Avenue, Pasco, WA: City of Pasco City Manager Dave Zabell announced that he is representing chief executive officers of the cities of Kennewick, West Richland and Prosser. City Manager Zabell read aloud a joint letter addressed to the Richland City Council which expressed appreciation for the many years of service and partnership provided by City Manager Reents. The joint letter highlighted select accomplishments of City Manager Reents.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

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

Minutes

- 2 Approval of the December 15, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

- 3 Ordinance No. 50-20, Accepting the Annexation of 8.52 Acres Located at 771 Shockley Road (Zinsli)

Resolutions – Adoption

4. Resolution No. 01-21, Authorizing Relinquishment of Certain Utility Easements at 505 Swift Boulevard
5. Resolution No. 03-21, Authorizing a Purchase Order Contract with Boyd's Tree Service, LLC for Tree Pruning and Vegetation Management
6. Resolution No. 04-21, Authorizing an Agreement with Efficiency Solutions, LLC for Commercial Energy Efficiency Program Support
7. Resolution No. 05-21, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement for Administration and Funding for the Quad-City Water Right Mitigation Model and Operating Procedures Plan

Items – Approval

None.

Expenditures – Approval

8. Expenditures from November 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020 for \$27,576,835.34 including Check Nos. 284259-285010, Travel Check Nos. 19952-19956, Wire Nos. 8337-8375, Payroll Check Nos. 172779-172842, Payroll Wire/ACH Nos. 11792-11834, and Pension Check Nos. 5655-5683

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Reents thanked Pasco City Manager Dave Zabell for the joint letter he read aloud, and added that she is thankful for the partnerships forged over the years.

City Manager Reents provided a summary of Governor Inslee's *Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery* plan which will launch on January 11, 2021. The COVID-19 phased recovery plan follows a regional recovery approach that divides Washington into eight regions. Benton County is in Region 8 along with Columbia, Franklin, Kittitas, Walla Walla and Yakima Counties. Every region will begin in Phase 1.

A region's phase will be determined by the Department of Health (DOH) based on four metrics. To move from Phase 1 to Phase 2, regions must meet the established criteria in all four metrics.

The metrics for each region will be updated on the Risk Assessment Dashboard every Friday, and dependent on a region's metrics, the DOH will move a region forward or backward through phases on the following Monday.

City Manager Reents provided statistics relating to Benton County's positive case counts, testing rates and hospital occupancy rates. City Manager Reents briefly shared some of the allowable activities and services outlined in the new plan, and added that Governor Inslee's office will release additional information in the coming days.

Mayor Lukson shared his opinion that the statewide restrictions put in place in November will likely be extended for several more months.

City Council

Councilmember Christensen stated his disagreement with the ever-changing metrics of Governor Inslee's reopening plan. He added that small businesses and restaurants will need a miracle to survive the pandemic restrictions. Councilmember Christensen shared that a Pasco Councilmember brought forward a motion to designate the Pasco as a sanctuary city. Mayor Lukson replied that he believed the motion failed.

Councilmember Thompson shared statistics regarding states that issued lockdowns and stay-at-home orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic versus states that remained open. Councilmember Thompson provided observations relating to his views on the *Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery* plan and the impacts the pandemic mandates have had on individuals and local businesses.

Councilmember Boring wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked Pasco City Manager Dave Zabell and others for the thoughtful letter regarding City Manager Reents. Councilmember Boring encouraged everyone to stay positive and continue to support family, friends and businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent forecasted challenges in progressing to the next phase of the *Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery* plan given the other counties included in Region 8 with Benton County. She added that along with staying positive, it is also necessary to continue the dialogue with Governor Inslee's Office to gain reasonable and achievable controls to avoid irreparable harm to small businesses. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Kent encouraged everyone to stay safe, and emphasized the importance of being educated to make informed decisions.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson expressed disappointment with Governor Inslee's announcement of the *Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery* plan. He stated that the implications of the reopening plan will further harm small businesses. Mayor Lukson shared comments relating to a recent conversation he had with Governor Inslee's staff regarding the continued shut-down of certain industries, specifically restaurants and fitness facilities.

He also shared personal opinions regarding the source of COVID-19 transmission rate increases. Lastly, Mayor Lukson expressed his opinion that the state legislators should limit the Governor's emergency powers to thirty days.

Adjournment

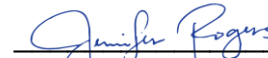
Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: January 19, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: January 20, 2021