



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 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 remote meeting.

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

Also remotely present were Interim City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Administrative Services Director Koch, Development Services Director Jensen, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl 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 CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

1 2020 Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report

Fire & Emergency Services Director Huntington provided a high-level overview of the 2020 Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report which included:

- COVID-19 response and implications
- Emergency response system performance
- Community performance indicators
- Future initiatives and issues

Councilmember Alvarez praised Chief Huntington and his staff for the great emergency service response times for arrival of Emergency Medical Response (EMS) personnel to an emergency scene.

Councilmember Alvarez stated that EMS response times are much higher in the southern region of Richland when compared to other areas of the city. He suggested holding a workshop meeting to discuss allocating funds in the 2022 budget for the construction of a new fire station in Badger Mountain South to reduce response times for citizens residing in that vicinity.

Mayor Lukson requested staff to include three to five years of EMS response data for national trend comparison as well as city-wide EMS response times for items of discussion during the same workshop meeting.

Public Hearings

None.

Public Comments

The following individual submitted comments telephonically:

Chad and Amy Hatfield - 1133 Stallion Place, Richland, WA: Mr. Chad Hatfield provided comments opposing the Ladera development and suggested that the public hearing scheduled for March 8, 2021 be postponed until sufficient notice of the hearing is given to all property owners near the proposed development (as opposed to only those required by law) and to allow for public participation.

Patrick Paulson - 2253 Davison Avenue, Richland, WA: Mr. Paulson provided comments relating to the City's issuance of an optional Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) to projects, including the Ladera project. Mr. Paulson stated that there will be significant adverse impacts associated with the issuance of a DNS for the Ladera development.

The following individuals submitted comments to be read aloud:

Brian Cable - 3555 Strawberry Lane, Richland, WA: Mr. Cable expressed disappointment over the issuance of a DNS for the Ladera development. He also stated concerns regarding staff's acknowledgment of the existence of an alleged agreement the City of Richland has with the Country Ridge Homeowners' Association and its residents. Mr. Cable also voiced concerns with the inability for many to prepare and review information relating to the March 8, 2021 hearing examiner meeting since information was posted last on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Mr. Cable requested the hearing to be delayed to allow for citizen preparation.

Heather Cleary - 1126 Stallion Place, Richland, WA: Ms. Cleary provided comments in opposition of the Ladera development scheduled for public hearing on March 8, 2021. Ms. Cleary stated that property owners were not adequately informed of the hearing. She requested that the project be postponed until completion of an accurate traffic and environmental study.

Kevin George - 726 Saint Street, Richland, WA: Mr. George requested that Council adopt an ordinance that would prohibit the use of vaping in all private and public facilities and impose penalties for non-compliance.

Bojana Leonard - 223 Lasiandra Court, Richland, WA: Ms. Leonard proposed reducing the speed limits on Columbia Park Trail and Steptoe Street to lessen the number of animal casualties.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER BORING SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, BORING, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Minutes

2. Approval of the February 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and February 23, 2021 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

3. Ordinance No. 06-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 21.01.020 related to Work Exempt from Permit

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

4. Ordinance No. 02-21, Approving a Site-Specific Rezone on 3.1 Acres in Clearwater Creek from AG to C-1 (Hayden Homes)
5. Ordinance No. 04-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 11.40.030 related to Parking on Certain Streets
6. Ordinance No. 05-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Sections 19.20.010 and 27.04.010 related to Procedures for Processing Sign Permits

Resolutions – Adoption

7. Resolution No. 24-21, Authorizing a Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Application for Automated External Defibrillators
8. Resolution No. 25-21, Setting the Date for a Public Hearing to Consider the Allenwhite Drive Annexation

9. Resolution No. 26-21, Setting the Date for a Public Hearing to Consider the Tiegs Annexation
10. Resolution No. 27-21, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Parametrix, Inc. for 2021 Environmental Monitoring at the Horn Rapids Landfill
11. Resolution No. 29-21, Rejecting the Bid received for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Improvements and Replacement Generator Project
12. Resolution No. 30-21, Authorizing an Interim City Manager Contract with Jon Amundson

Items – Approval

None.

Expenditures – Approval

None.

Items of Business

13. Ordinance No. 03-21, Approving a Site-Specific Rezone on 2.9 Acres located at 1769 Leslie Road from C-LB to C-3 subject to a Property Use and Development Agreement (Goodwill)

Development Services Director Jensen provided a brief overview of the proposed site-specific rezone request. Staff provided a Property Use and Development Agreement (PUDA) as requested and recommended approval.

Councilmember Alvarez expressed displeasure regarding what he and Councilmember Boring perceived as an incompatible rezone recommendation. Councilmember Alvarez urged staff to be more diligent in providing Council with thorough information required to render educated decisions.

Councilmember Boring added that the checks and balances in place within the City generally produce positive outcomes. She added that the teamwork demonstrated among each councilmember is complimentary.

Councilmember Thompson thanked Councilmember Alvarez for voicing his concerns regarding the site-specific rezone.

Mayor Lukson agreed that although Council has a diverse background and opinions, its members depend heavily on the information provided by staff in formulating decisions.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER BORING SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 03-21 FOR SECOND READING AND PASSAGE. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, BORING, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

14. Limited In-Person Component for Public Meetings

Mayor Lukson announced that the entire state is now in Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's reopening plan. Mayor Lukson sought input from Richland City Council on resuming in-person meetings. Mayor Lukson invited City Attorney Kintzley to provide an overview of the guidance for adding an in-person component for public meetings and how it relates to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

City Attorney Kintzley provided Council with information regarding the in-person meeting component for public meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) with associated guidance for *Miscellaneous Venues* under Governor Inslee's reopening plan. City Attorney Kintzley also provided recommendations based on the effectiveness of the virtual meeting environment and the practicalities of in-person attendance for Council review and consideration.

Each Councilmember provided statements supporting their decision to continue meeting remotely rather than adding an in-person meeting component at this time. Challenges identified included ensuring that all participants could be effectively heard and understood if required to wear a mask for the duration of the meeting, and ensuring self-assessments were performed before allowing entrance into the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent agreed with the consensus of each Councilmember to delay adding an in-person meeting component. She encouraged citizens to assist with technology for individuals interested in participating in remote Council meetings.

Mayor Lukson agreed with statements made by councilmembers to delay adding an in-person meeting component to the current virtual meeting platform. He added that he would also support in-person meetings if requirements outlined in the *Miscellaneous Venues* requirements are enforced. Mayor Lukson further stated there will be enough vaccines distributed by the end of May for anyone interested in receiving the vaccine.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

Interim City Manager Amundson responded to public comments regarding the Ladera development, clarifying that there is no seven (7) day public posting requirement in advance of the hearing examiner's public hearing. The requirement referenced during public comment referred to the hearing examiner's requirement to personally receive the staff report no fewer than seven (7) days before the hearing. Interim City Manager

Amundson also noted that, although Council declined to add an in-person component to public meetings at this time, an exception will be made for the March 8, 2021 Hearing Examiner meeting to allow in-person public testimony on the Ladera development given recent concerns raised by interested citizens. COVID safety protocols will be in place.

Finally, Interim City Manager Amundson reminded Council that a closed session was scheduled immediately following adjournment of tonight's regular meeting.

City Council

Councilmember Alvarez agreed with statements made by Mayor Lukson regarding the hinderances masks will create if they are to be worn for the entire duration of an in-person meeting. Councilmember Alvarez also reiterated the importance of receiving accurate information from staff to assist Council in the decision-making process.

Councilmember Boring thanked City Attorney Kintzley for bringing forward information regarding the option of adding an in-person component to existing public meetings. Councilmember Boring also encouraged everyone to stay positive.

Councilmember Thompson shared personal observations regarding the decision made by the Washington State Attorney General, the head of the Department of Ecology, and other special interest groups to submit correspondence to the newly appointed United States Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm. Councilmember Thompson expressed disappointment with the lack of communication and public involvement between officials and agencies in the State of Washington and local government. Councilmember Thompson stated that he intends to file public records requests to obtain information.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent spoke positively of her association with a diverse Council that has proven capable of working together for the betterment of the community. She thanked those who submitted comments for the meeting, and encouraged residents to continue the dialogue with councilmembers and staff regarding items of concern.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson thanked Councilmember Thompson for his comments, and agreed that there is a lack of communication between state and local government regarding decisions made on behalf of the community pertaining to the nuclear waste clean-up efforts.

Mayor Lukson further shared that the entire state is indefinitely suspended in Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's reopening plan.

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Adjournment

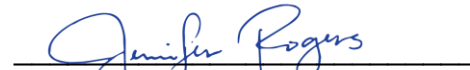
Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 16, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: March 18, 2021