



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 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, Fire Chief Huntington, 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 THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

1 Proclamation of Appreciation to Nancy Doran and Barry Richards

Mayor Lukson read aloud a proclamation of appreciation for Mr. Barry Richards' years of service and contributions to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Mayor Lukson read aloud a proclamation of appreciation, accompanied by a plaque, for Ms. Nancy Doran's years of service and contributions to the Parks & Recreation Commission. In response, Ms. Doran voiced appreciation to the Richland City Council, and added that working with staff and other commissioners has been a great learning experience.

Councilmember Thompson thanked Ms. Doran for her years of service to the Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked Mr. Richards and Ms. Doran for their service and contributions to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Ms. Kent stated that both

members were instrumental in providing community insight on many projects. Ms. Kent said both members will be missed on the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mayor Lukson thanked Mr. Richards and Ms. Doran for their combined twenty (20) years of service to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

2 Visit TRI-CITIES 2020 Annual Report, 2021 Work Plan and Request for Funds from the Tri-City Regional Hotel-Motel Commission Reserve

Mike Novakovich, Visit TRI-CITIES President & CEO, presented the 2020 State of the Tourism Industry Report which included:

- Tourism spending breakdown
- Hotel Motel tax distributions
- Revenue summary comparisons for 2019 and 2020
- Convention & Sports
- Media outreach
- Marketing campaigns
- COVID-19 marketing messages

Mr. Novakovich also presented in detail on the 2021 Work Plan and Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) project requests. Mr. Novakovich engaged in a question and answer session with Council following his presentation.

3 Annual Hanford Communities Update

David Reeploeg, Hanford Communities Executive Director, provided an overview of the formation of the Hanford Communities, the agency's objectives, and a summary of the make-up and purpose of Hanford Communities' governing and administrative boards.

Mr. Reeploeg then presented the Annual Hanford Communities update, which included:

- 2021 Notable changes within the United States Department of Energy (DOE)
- DOE Reorganization
- Members of the Washington Congress and their contributions to the DOE
- 2021 Priorities
- Hanford Site Contract Changes
- 2021 Issue Agenda

Mr. Reeploeg engaged in a question and answer session with City Council at the conclusion of his presentation.

Councilmember Thompson shared personal observations regarding a recent \$27 million bid contract awarded by DOE. Councilmember Thompson urged councilmembers to educate themselves on the risks associated with the contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent agreed with statements made by Councilmember Thompson, and added that there is a difference between the needs of the local community and the State's

west-side political position. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also spoke positively of Mr. Reeploeg's representation to local communities.

Mr. Reeploeg identified concern over the lack of interest from state leadership to support opportunities identified to allow for safer communities. A letter was submitted to DOE in which local leadership expressed opinions that the State is not representing the community's best interests related to Hanford policies and issues. Mayor Lukson inquired if a response to the correspondence has been received. Mr. Reeploeg replied in the negative, and shared input from several key DOE members is usually obtained before a response is given to correspondence of this importance.

4. 2021 Parks & Recreation Commission Goals

Parks & Recreation (PRC) Chair Maria Gutierrez presented on the PRC's 2020 and 2021 Goals and Objectives. Ms. Gutierrez thanked the City of Richland staff for hosting numerous remote services and virtual activities for the community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Gutierrez praised city staff for managing the budget to allow for the continuance and completion of certain recreational projects.

Mayor Lukson and Councilmember Alvarez thanked Ms. Gutierrez and PRC members for their work.

Councilmember Christensen thanked Ms. Gutierrez for her work, and inquired about the Master Plan for Legacy Park adoption date. Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl replied that the Legacy Park Master Plan was adopted approximately ten years ago. Additionally, P&PF Director Schiessl stated that funding has been allocated in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to bring the existing master plan into alignment with the Visit TRI-CITIES plan.

Council thanked the PRC members and staff for all they accomplish for the community.

Public Hearings

None.

Public Comments

The following individual submitted comments telephonically:

Ms. Randy Slovic – 74 Newcomer, Richland, WA: Ms. Slovic provided comments regarding a recent article published in the Tri-City Herald which compared the use of force within the Tri-Cities police departments.

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

5. Approval of the March 16, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions – Adoption

7. Resolution No. 28-21, Approving a Purchase and Sale Agreement with R&R Property Enterprises, LLC for 1.49 Acres in the Horn Rapids Industrial Park
8. Resolution No. 32-21, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with KPFF, Inc. for the Island View to Vista Field Trail Project
9. Resolution No. 33-21, Declaring 840 Northgate Surplus to the City's Needs
10. Resolution No. 34-21, Authorizing 2021 Business License Reserve Funding
11. Resolution No. 35-21, Authorizing 2021 Commercial Façade Improvement Program Funding
12. Resolution No. 37-21, Authorizing \$345,250 from the Tourism Promotion Area Reserve Account for Supplemental Tourism-Related Projects in 2021

Items – Approval

13. Appointments to the Arts Commission: Jet Richardson, Eboni "Raleigh" Lovell and Emilie Cooper
14. Appointment to the Board of Adjustment: Michael Simpson
15. Appointments to the Code Enforcement Board: Albert Edmondson and Ragan Faylor

16. Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Commission: Maria Gutierrez, Meaghan Brooks, Isaac Arnquist, William Henry and Annabella Aldous

Expenditures – Approval

17. Expenditures from February 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021 for \$25,116,125.07 including Travel Check Nos. 19967-19974, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 287121-287946, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 8448-8486, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 11929-11978, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 174977-176025, and Pension Check Nos. 5744-5773.

Items of Business

None.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

Interim City Manager Amundson announced that on March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill, the *American Rescue Act of 2021*. The City of Richland will receive an estimated \$7.6 million dollars. Council will be notified when the funds are received, and funding opportunities will be presented to Council for approval.

Interim City Manager Amundson stated that he will attend a virtual training session sponsored by the International City Manager's Association (ICMA) on March 24, 2021. The training session will provide information and guidance on utilization of the funds, future funding opportunities with the Fast Act Transportation Legislation, and 2022 appropriation bills.

Interim City Manager Amundson commented that the Richland Public Library and Parks & Public Facilities staff will continue to provide activities for all ages despite the limitations of COVID-19. Interim City Manager Amundson also provided an overview of the March 23, 2021 City Council workshop agenda topics.

City Council

Councilmember Thompson shared personal observations concerning the article published by Tri-City Herald regarding the use of force in the regional police departments.

Councilmember Lemley asked about proposals for the old city hall site. Interim City Manager Amundson replied that there are none. Councilmember Lemley then inquired about the progress of the wayfinding signage project. Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl provided a brief project status.

Councilmember Alvarez extended his sympathy to a Pasco Police Department officer and son of retired Richland Police Captain Cobb related to an unfortunate medical event.

Councilmember Boring thanked Ms. Doran and Mr. Richardson for their years of commitment and dedication to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Councilmember Boring also stated that there will be opportunity for citizen input on the proposed trail system for the Island View to Vista Field Trail project.

Councilmember Boring congratulated the newly appointed board, commission and committee members, and encouraged those who were not selected to apply for future vacancies.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent stated that there was a competitive applicant pool for the board, committee and commission vacancies. She thanked all applicants and the selected candidates for participating in the interview process. Mayor Pro Tem Kent encouraged those who were not selected to apply for future vacancies. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked all board, committee and commission members for their expertise and contributions to the City.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson announced that Scout Clean Energy submitted an application to construct and operate a wind and solar energy project, known as the Horse Heaven Wind Farm project, to be located in Benton County. Though local government will not have a direct involvement in the decision-making process, Mayor Lukson announced that he is interested in soliciting Council input on the project.

Energy Services Director Whitney provided a high-level overview of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm project, the role of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and the process for determining the outcome of the project. Council determined to oppose this project with a letter of opposition to be signed by local partners.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: April 6, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: April 7, 2021