



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, May 4, 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, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Planning Manager Stevens, Communications & Marketing Manager Logan, Fire Battalion Chief Aust, Consultant Marsha Fraser and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Interim City Manager Jon Amundson led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Presentations

1. Debrief of Yakima Delta Fire

Fire Battalion Chief Aust briefed Council on the details of the Yakima Delta Fire and the Columbia Point Fire. Following the presentation, Fire Battalion Aust engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

Public Hearings

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

2. Proposed Amendment to Title 23 RMC: Zoning Regulations to Add Section 23.54.055 Compact Car Spaces, Ordinance No. 10-21 (Open Record)

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the proposed amendment to RMC Title 23 to add Section 23.54.055. The amendment provides reduced-sized spaces for compact car parking for commercial and multi-family residential developments. Following the public hearing presentation, Planning Manager Stevens answered questions from Council.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. No testimony was offered.

3. Accepting the Proposed Annexation of 3.63 Acres along Allenwhite Drive, Ordinance No. 11-21

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the topic and gave the history of this particular annexation effort. At the end of the presentation, Planning Manager Stevens answered questions from Council.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. Testimony from Mr. Richard Brauns at 1043 Allenwhite Drive, Richland WA was read into the record by City Clerk Rogers. Mr. Brauns is affected by the annexation but did not sign the annexation petition. Mr. Brauns is opposed to the proposed annexation and urged Council to vote against it.

No other testimony was received.

Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

4. Accepting the Proposed Annexation of 76.54 Acres Located at 1106 N. Jurupa Road, Ordinance No. 12-21

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the topic and gave the history of this particular annexation effort. Planning Manager Stevens also advised that the Richland Planning Commission recommends R-1-12 zoning for the site. Council engaged in a question and answer session with staff.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 6:40 p.m.

The following individuals provided testimony (via telephone):

Mr. Michael Butterworth - 97004 E. Clover Rd. Kennewick, WA: Mr. Butterworth stated that he does not oppose the proposed annexation but requested Council consider a buffer between the new development and existing homes to prevent newly developed homes from abutting against existing homes. Mr. Butterworth also brought attention to the existing horse trails located around the vineyard.

Mr. Butterworth further requested that Council take into account the requirement to maintain green space within the Westcliffe Heights development.

Lastly, Mr. Butterworth reported that Pahlisch Homes is using images of Badger Mountain Vineyard as part of its Westcliffe Heights marketing strategy.

Mrs. Paula Butterworth - 97004 E. Clover Rd. Kennewick, WA: Mrs. Butterworth provided Council with alternative zoning designations for specific lots located within the proposed annexation. Mrs. Butterworth also reiterated the existence of horse trails in the vicinity.

No other testimony was received.

Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Public Comments

The following individual submitted comments to be read aloud by the City Clerk:

Mark Laun - 31 Galaxy Lane, Richland, WA: Mr. Laun commented on Council's recent proclamation regarding infertility. Mr. Laun then reminded Council that he is still waiting to receive responses from councilmembers regarding a survey he sent via email. Mr. Laun also commented on liberty and cautioned against factions.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR LUKSON PULLED ITEM NO. 11, RESOLUTION NO. 51-21, APPROVING 2021 HOTEL/MOTEL LODGING TAX FUNDING AWARDS. THIS ITEM WAS MOVED TO NO. 1 UNDER ITEMS OF BUSINESS.

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, BORING, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Minutes

5. Approval of the April 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes and April 27, 2021 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes.

Ordinances - First Reading

6. Ordinance No. 10-21, Amending Title 23 RMC: Zoning Regulations to add Section 23.54.055 Compact Car Spaces

7. Ordinance No. 11-21, Annexing Approximately 3.63 Acres Located Along Allenwhite Drive into the City of Richland

8. Ordinance No. 12-21, Annexing Approximately 76.54 Acres of Land Located at 1106 N. Jurupa Road into the City of Richland

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions – Adoption

9. Resolution No. 49-21, Authorizing Award of Bid to Intermountain Slurry Seal, Inc. for the 2021 Pavement Preservation - Microsurfacing Project
10. Resolution No. 50-21, Authorizing a Second Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Facility Improvements Project
11. Resolution No. 51-21, Approving 2021 Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Funding Awards **(PULLED AND RELOCATED TO ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS ITEM NO. 1)**

Items - Approval

None.

Items of Business

1. Resolution No. 51-21, Approving 2021 Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax Funding Awards

Mayor Lukson asked Interim City Manager Amundson to provide an overview of each funding award, and to explain what happens to the awarded funds when an event is cancelled. Interim City Manager Amundson turned the floor over to Communications & Marketing Manager Logan to respond.

Councilmember Christensen pointed out that projects are funded through reimbursement, and clarified his understanding of what occurs when an event is cancelled.

Communications & Marketing Manager Logan provided additional information on the amount of funding received for marketing and capital projects. A large portion of the funds is expended to promote tourism. Staff and Council discussed the probability of additional events being cancelled due to COVID-19 event/gathering restrictions.

Staff explained that changes were made to the funding agreements to allow grant recipients to request up to fifty percent (50%) reimbursement to offset marketing expenses if their event is cancelled due to COVID. Communications & Marketing Manager Logan engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

MAYOR LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 57-21, APPROVING 2021 HOTEL/MOTEL LODGING TAX FUNDING AWARDS. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

2. Parking Restrictions on Lee Boulevard in Howard Amon Park (Discussion Only)

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl provided an overview of the proposed parking restrictions for approximately eight (8) parallel curbside parking spaces at the Lee Boulevard turnaround in Howard Amon Park. The parking restrictions will accommodate tour bus parking that operates in conjunction with the cruise line agencies during the months of April through October. Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl engaged in a question and answer session with Council throughout the presentation.

There was further discussion regarding alternative parking restrictions. Council expressed an interest in aligning any parking restrictions with cruise line schedules to limit restricted access to the minimum necessary.

3. Recommended Core Competencies for Interim City Manager Evaluation Process (Discussion Only)

Mayor Lukson introduced Solutions At Work consultant Marsha Fraser, who has been retained to develop and implement a performance evaluation process to objectively evaluate the performance of the position of City Manager, including Interim City Manager Amundson.

Ms. Fraser and Council discussed at length the five (5) competencies selected by the Council subcommittee. At the close of the discussion, Council added an additional competency to the list. Ms. Fraser and Council then engaged in a detailed discussion regarding the contract estimated time-frame, update frequencies, establishing goals, follow-up assessment dates, and the projected evaluation process final completion date.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

Interim City Manager Amundson stated that he and Communications & Marketing staff will prepare an appreciation statement on behalf of City Council to regional partners who provided support and assistance in extinguishing the Yakima Delta Fire and Columbia Point Fire.

Interim City Manager Amundson also announced that the City will receive \$7.6M through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). A detailed list of possible funding options will be provided to Council via email, and discussion of spending limitations and possible funding appropriations will occur on a future workshop agenda. The ARPA funds must be exhausted by the end of the 2024 calendar year.

Interim City Manager Amundson informed Council that Visit Tri-Cities has submitted a proposal to receive \$1.9M of ARPA funds from local agencies to assist tourism, local business and job creation. The funding request may be fully or partially granted based on individual jurisdiction contributions.

Lastly, Interim City Manager stated that he had been asked by Mayor Lukson to research the establishment of parameters to assist in determining which proclamations Council will recognize. Council offered comments on this topic. Council asked Interim City Manager Amundson to schedule a workshop meeting to further discuss the topic.

City Council

Councilmember Boring thanked the Richland Fire Department and regional fire partners for their assistance in extinguishing the Yakima Delta Fire and Columbia Point Fire.

Councilmember Thompson shared personal observations regarding liberty and encroaching limitations on freedom.

Councilmember Alvarez announced that a number of local businesses are experiencing difficulties in filling job vacancies.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked community partners who assisted with the fire response, and thanked staff for providing valuable information to Council and the community through the fire debriefing. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also shared that she participated in a virtual ribbon cutting for a new local small business, Non-Vintage Wines.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson shared personal observations regarding Governor Inslee's sole authority to issue and extend emergency proclamations, noting that Washington is one of very few states who grant this sole and unfettered authority to the governor.

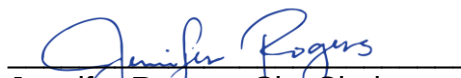
Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: May 18, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: May 19, 2021