



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

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

Meeting ID No. 505 625 7380

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

Mayor Pro Tem Kent called the City Council workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Lukson joined the workshop meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Also attending remotely were Interim City Manager Amundson, Fire Chief Huntington, Administrative Services Director Koch, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney, Development Services Director Jensen, Fire Battalion Chief Aust and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Items

1. Update on City's Public Art Survey

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl introduced Arts Commission Chair Kissel, who presented the results of the City's Public Art Survey. Chair Kissel stated that in collaboration with city staff, the Richland Arts Commission was able to successfully complete a Citizen Public Art Survey with dedicated questions about art in Richland.

Community input for the Public Arts Master Plan is an objective identified in the City's Strategic Leadership Plan. The Arts Commission reviewed the Public Arts Survey input submitted by 434 respondents. Chair Kissel reviewed the results of the Citizen's Art Survey in great detail.

A question and answer session between Chair Kissel and Council followed the presentation. Council engaged in additional discussion regarding strategies for future allocation of art funding, the art design located at the Queensgate roundabouts, and objectives for future art.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked Councilmember Boring for serving as Council Liaison to the Arts Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also thanked Dr. Kissel for the excellent presentation, and expressed appreciation to all Arts Commission members for completion of the art survey.

2. Public Safety Facilities Planning

Fire Chief Huntington, Chief of Police Bruce and Fire Battalion Chief Aust provided a high-level overview of the public safety facility needs and implications of proposed Station 76.

Fire Battalion Chief Aust provided an overview of the 2018 station deployment model, which is found in the City's strategic plan and Richland's Comprehensive Plan. The deployment model is built around a 9-station concept.

Fire Chief Huntington provided an overview of the following:

- Areas that meet Comprehensive Plan trigger points (Horn Rapids and Badger Mountain South)
- Public safety facility deployment needs
- Long term: station deployment model review
- Medium term: Police & Fire Department Administrative and Training Space
- Short term: Station 76 implications
- Station build funding analysis
- Project timeline
- Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) funding
- Ambulance utility rate comparators

Chief of Police Bruce provided an outline on the current state of the Police Headquarters located in downtown Richland. The Police Department is currently beyond capacity and has additional needs for current and expected growth. The initial process to relocate teams and assets to alternative stations has begun.

Chief Bruce stated that the City has repurchased property adjacent to Benton County Emergency Services (BCES) which would meet the real estate needs for the Police and Fire Departments. Chief Bruce proposed a regional Conceptual Design/Feasibility Study to house the Police Department, Fire Administration, dispatch center and county-wide emergency management under one roof. The current dispatch center would be converted to a training facility to be utilized by multiple departments.

Chief Huntington presented possible repurposing uses for the Police Department and Fire Station 1. An expanded program request will be included in the 2022 Budget if there is interest from Council to explore this concept.

Chief Huntington provided an overview of implications and considerations and a projected timeline for a proposed fire station in Badger Mountain South, and inquired if Council had an interest in approving funding and staff resource to conduct a feasibility and conceptual design for the facility and fleet purchases.

Staff responded to Council inquiries regarding the relocation of the Police Department, response times, station build funding analysis, ambulance utility rate projections, budget adjustments for response vehicles, and ambulance utility rate comparators for the proposed facility. Council engaged in additional discussion with staff.

3. Issuance of City Proclamations

Interim City Manager Amundson presented on the history on mayoral proclamations and provided criteria for issuance of common proclamations. Interim City Manager Amundson presented proclamation policy guidelines and optional proclamation alternatives for council consideration. At present time, the City does not have a formal policy to aid in determining which proposed proclamations to endorse.

Council engaged in a question and answer session with Interim City Manager Amundson throughout the presentation and provided guidance on how to proceed.

Council recessed at 8:15 p.m. and resumed the workshop meeting at 8:20 p.m.

4. Policy Discussion on Dwelling Units Size

Community Development Director Jensen introduced the item and presented in detail the proposed amendment to RMC 23.22.040 to remove the 500 square foot minimum dwelling unit size from the Central Business District (CBD). Removing the minimum dwelling unit size will allow for the conversion of aging/stressed hotels into small apartments.

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the topic on March 24, 2021 and recommended approval of the proposed code amendment. Council provided comments and engaged in a question and answer session with Staff. Council requested staff to bring forward additional information relating to the proposed project.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Kent adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: June 1, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: June 2, 2021