



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 15, 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 and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Alvarez 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. Chancellor's Update: WSU Tri-Cities

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, WSU Tri-Cities Chancellor Sandra Haynes gave a WSU Tri-Cities update which included information regarding new construction, renovations, graduation, an in-person learning plan, new college courses, additional learning opportunities, student housing, and student transfer data. Following the presentation, Dr. Haynes engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

Public Hearings

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

2. Proposed Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution No. 67-21

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the City's proposed 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). RCW 35.77.010 requires cities to annually prepare and update their six-year TIP pursuant to one or more public hearings.

Public Works Director Rogalsky identified the proposed funded projects and unfunded priorities list included in the proposed 2022-2027 TIP. A list of new and removed projects added since 2020 was also presented.

Mayor Lukson opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

Christine Bond - 35 Vista Court, Richland, WA: Ms. Bond stated that she collected approximately 150 signatures from individuals who support a request for the City to install a pass-through in the sound barrier directly across Airport Way on the east side of SR-240.

Laila Krowiak - 1523 Hains Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Krowiak appealed to the City to decrease the default speed limit to 20 mph and to prioritize traffic calming designs and active transportation safety over automobile convenience. Ms. Krowiak stated her support of all projects in the TIP that support evidence-based active transportation safety and connectivity.

Mayor Lukson closed the public hearing at 6:35 p.m.

Public Comments

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

Dori Luzzo Gilmour - 2051 Howell Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Luzzo Gilmour requested the Richland Police Department enforce the speed limits as children will be navigating their way to schools for summer school.

Francesca Maier - 2146 Hudson Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Maier outlined her opposition to the adoption of Resolution No. 77-21 supporting application of a grant from the Bureau of Justice for body-worn cameras.

Kurt Maier - 2146 Hudson Avenue, Richland, WA: Mr. Maier provided statements suggesting the Richland Police Department make more varied use of the proposed body-worn cameras other than as a records requirement, and suggested transparent deployment of the devices to build trust with the community.

Alexis Painter - 81 Newcomer Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Painter stated concerns over the increased traffic speeds on Newcomer, Davison and Harris to Leslie Groves Park. Ms. Painter suggested adding speed limit signs on Newcomer.

Nancy Stratton - 650 George Washington Way, Richland, WA: Ms. Stratton stated concerns relating to a homeless individual who appears to be residing in Howard Amon

Park. Ms. Stratton requested that the City enforce its *No Camping* rules and address the camping issue immediately.

The following individuals registered to provide comments telephonically:

Maureen Anderson - 202 Barth Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Anderson shared that her husband is employed as a lineman with the City of Richland. Ms. Anderson stated that the line crew has been working extended hours in the absence of an approved labor contract, and requested that Council review the proposed contract and offer a competitive salary.

Shelby Covert - 195 Bitterroot Drive, Richland, WA: Ms. Covert stated that the Richland line crew is understaffed, have been working without an approved labor contract, and are the second lowest paid line crew in Washington. Ms. Covert urged Council to work to resolve labor issues before it becomes a crisis.

Councilmember Thompson called on City Attorney Kintzley to provide clarification regarding Council's role in responding to citizen statements related to pending labor negotiations. City Attorney Kintzley advised that each party has a designated labor representative, and that all bargaining is to occur through that designated representative.

Ziad Elsayhili - 17933 NE Evergreen Parkway, Beaverton, OR: Mr. Elsayhili, President of Fortify Holdings, LLC, expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity to invest in the Richland community.

Katie Mills - 245 Van Giesen Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Mills spoke favorably of the work performed by Richland's line crew and advocated for higher wages. Ms. Mills also stated that COVID funding should be allocated for essential employees such as linemen.

Connie Pattison - 419 George Washington Way, Richland, WA: Ms. Pattison stated her support for Richland's line crew and advocated for a wage increase for employee retention. Ms. Pattison suggested the City draw on the \$7.3M provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to rebuild the community and support the City's economy by increasing line crew wages to support local jobs. Ms. Pattison questioned the City's ability to award multi-million-dollar contracts to upgrade the electrical system yet failing, in her opinion, to provide a competitive salary for the Richland line crew.

Colleen Somes - 562 Sedgwick Place, Richland, WA: Ms. Somes asked how pre-budged funds for linemen who have left city employment are being utilized. Ms. Somes also asked how the \$7.3M in ARPA funds are being allocated.

Tiffany Suarez - 680 Big Sky Drive, Richland, WA: Ms. Suarez announced that her husband, who is employed as a lineman for the City, has been working without a labor contract for several months. Ms. Suarez stated that other surrounding agencies pay their linemen higher wages, and added that the City will be left short-staffed if linemen resign to pursue a competitive wage elsewhere. Ms. Suarez advocated for higher wages for the

linemen.

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

3. Approval of the June 1, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

4. Ordinance No. 16-21, Amending Chapter 22.10 of the Richland Municipal Code Related to Critical Areas
5. Ordinance No. 17-21, Amending Chapter 23.70 of the Richland Municipal Code Related to Administration, Enforcement and Amendment

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

6. Ordinance No. 14-21, Amending the 2021 Budget in the General Fund, Public Safety Facilities 73 & 75 Construction Funds, Streets Capital Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Industrial Development Fund, and Broadband Fund

Resolutions – Adoption

7. Resolution No. 65-21, Amending the Design-Build Agreement with DGR Grant Construction for Public Safety Response Stations 73 & 75
8. Resolution No. 67-21, Adopting the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program
9. Resolution No. 69-21, Approving the Final Plat of West Vineyard - Phase 2
10. Resolution No. 70-21, Awarding Commercial Façade Improvement Program Funding
11. Resolution No. 71-21, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with Parametrix, Inc. for Phase 2 of the Horn Rapids Landfill Closure
12. Resolution No. 73-21, Setting a Meeting Date to Review a Proposed Annexation (Badger Mountain Estates)

13. Resolution No. 74-21, Authorizing Award of Bid to Magnum Power, LLC for Construction of the Gateway Substation
14. Resolution No. 75-21, Authorizing Award of Bid to Magnum Power, LLC for the 2021 Overhead Pole and Conductor Replacement Project
15. Resolution No. 78-21, Authorizing Award of Business License Reserve Funds

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures – Approval

Expenditures from May 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 for \$42,097,189.31, including Travel Check Nos. 19993-19996, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 289641-290505, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 8557-8608, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 12096-12142, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 178712-179810 and Pension Check Nos. 5833-5860.

Items of Business

1. Resolution No. 77-21, Authorizing a Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant Application for Body-Worn Cameras

Chief of Police Bruce provided an overview of the grant application, which requires a 50% percent (50%) cash or in-kind match up to \$2,000 per device to include hardware, software and training for 68 commissioned staff. Application for this grant will assist with complying with HB 1233 - Uniform Electronic Recordation of Custodial Interrogations, effective January 1, 2022.

Chief Bruce engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 77-21, AUTHORIZING A BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATION FOR BODY-WORN CAMERAS. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

There was a brief discussion regarding a potential regional approach to combining funds to purchase a larger quantity of devices. Chief of Police Bruce confirmed that there have been conversations to submit a regional application for the grant in hopes of receiving increased funding.

2. Ordinance No. 13-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 23.22.040 related to Site Requirements and Development Standards for Minimum Dwelling Unit Requirements in the Central Business District

Mayor Lukson identified that Council had already engaged in a robust discussion related

to approval of Ordinance No. 13-21 for first reading. Councilmember Christensen and Councilmember Boring reiterated their positions regarding opposition to Ordinance No. 13-21.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE FOR SECOND READING AND PASS ORDINANCE NO. 13-21, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 23.22.040 RELATED TO SITE REQUIREMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR MINIMUM DWELLING UNIT REQUIREMENTS IN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: COUNCILMEMBERS BORING AND CHRISTENSEN. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-2.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

Interim City Manager Amundson announced Mike Charbonneau's retirement and congratulated him on his last City Council meeting. Mr. Charboneau has been a part of CityView TV for twenty-two (22) years. His retirement will be recognized later in the month. Interim City Manager Amundson also thanked crews for responding to the water leak and power outage occurring over the weekend of June 12-13, 2021.

Interim City Manager Amundson recommended Council hold a closed session immediately after the end of the meeting.

Lastly, Interim City Manager Amundson advised that the City would explore resuming in-person meetings once Governor Inslee releases additional guidance on the topic.

City Council

Council thanked Mike Charboneau for his years of committed service to the City and added that he will be greatly missed.

Councilmember Thompson shared personal observations regarding Council's role in labor negotiations.

Councilmember Alvarez reiterated that Council is limited on what can be said publicly regarding labor negotiations, and thanked the public for their comments.

Councilmember Christensen announced that Governor Inslee will visit the Tri-Cities, and inquired whether Mayor Lukson or Interim City Manager Amundson received an invitation to meet with him. Mayor Lukson replied that he and Councilmember Thompson will meet Governor Inslee, along with other mayors and county commissioners, to discuss issues with the Department of Ecology and Department of Energy.

Councilmember Thompson added that in addition to the meeting confirmed by Mayor Lukson, the Department of Energy will host a meeting in which the Department of Ecology will address issues and concerns of the Tri-Cities, and possibly Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

Councilmember Christensen inquired whether the Richland Public Facilities District still hold meetings. Councilmember Lemley replied that the Richland PFD meets each month, while the Regional Public Facilities District has not met in over one year. Mayor Lukson directed Interim City Manager Amundson to contact Pasco City Manager Zabell for an update on the Regional PFD's proposed waterpark and the direction of the organization.

Councilmember Christensen inquired whether Ben Franklin Transit has discussed reallocating transit funding to a mental health facility. Councilmember Lemley provided a detailed response. Mayor Lukson instructed Interim City Manager Amundson to collect additional information for a future workshop discussion.

Councilmember Boring announced that the Mosquito Control District recently conducted an aerial spray. Councilmember Boring then thanked the public for their comments, and staff for being well-prepared to provide responses when called upon.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent thanked Councilmember Thompson for calling on City Attorney Kintzley to provide clarification on Council's role in labor negotiations. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also commended everyone for keeping the discussions professional.

Mayor Lukson

Mayor Lukson voiced frustrations with labor negotiations as Council is limited on what can be said publicly. He added that Richland's line crew are greatly appreciated, and hopes a resolution will be reached in the near future.

Mayor Lukson announced that he received correspondence from Senator Cantwell regarding PILT and shared the contents of the letter. Lastly, Mayor Lukson announced that he received a phone call from a Richland School District Board Member regarding the impacts the absence of PILT funds will create.

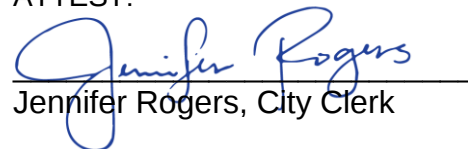
Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 6, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: July 7, 2021