



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING

Tuesday, June 22, 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 Lukson called the City Council workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Mayor Lukson, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, and Councilmembers Alvarez, Boring, Christensen and Lemley. Councilmember Thompson was absent.

Also attending remotely were Interim City Manager Amundson, Fire Chief Huntington, City Attorney Kintzley, Administrative Services Director Koch, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney, Public Works Director Rogalsky and City Clerk Rogers.

Agenda Items

1. E-Scooter Update

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl announced that the Parks & Recreation Commission has been reviewing state law and speed limits in communities where e-scooters and e-bikes are permitted and regulated.

The Parks & Recreation Commission solicited public comment on the issue of e-bikes, and a variety of responses were received. The Parks & Recreation Commission will continue the discussion and produce a recommendation for Council consideration specific to e-bike usage in Richland.

A separate but related topic is the private provision of e-scooters for rent as a transportation option in Richland.

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl introduced Michael Novakovich, Visit Tri-Cities President & CEO, to present an overview of a potential regional program, managed by Visit Tri-Cities, for e-scooters in Richland, Kennewick and Pasco. The e-scooter implementation plan would include a pilot program followed by an evaluation to determine if there is interest in permanent implementation.

Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl and Mr. Novakovich engaged in a question and answer session with Council throughout the presentation.

Mayor Lukson stated that, based on Council comments, there appears to be sufficient support to pursue implementation of a pilot program if executed correctly. Mayor Lukson added that he would be interested in receiving updates as Mr. Novakovich gathers additional feedback from citizens and neighboring communities.

2. Wheeled All-Terrain Vehicles (WATVs) Update

Public Works Director Rogalsky delivered a brief follow-up on the topic, to include the results of a recent online survey hosted by the Communications & Marketing division. 307 individuals responded to the survey. Of those 307 people, 71% support the use of WATVs on city streets.

Public Works Director Rogalsky presented a list of streets where WATVs would not be allowed due to the existing posted speed limit greater than 35 mph, and also identified additional streets where WATV use would be incompatible. Public Works Director Rogalsky then discussed the possible city-specific requirements and expectations to be implemented if Council desires to move forward with allowing WATVs on public streets.

Public Works Director Rogalsky, City Attorney Kintzley and Chief of Police Bruce responded to Council inquiries throughout the presentation. Based on comments made by Council, City Attorney Kintzley clarified that staff has no position for or against adoption of an ordinance allowing WATVs, and brought a recommendation related to acceptable streets in the event Council directs staff to move forward with preparing an ordinance for adoption.

Following Council discussion, there was consensus among Council to proceed. Staff will present an ordinance for Council adoption at a future meeting.

Before relinquishing the floor, Public Works Director Rogalsky provided Council with an update on the recent planned outage of the irrigation system to repair a water leak in the primary pipeline located in Horn Rapids. Public Works Director Rogalsky commended staff for completing the repairs ahead of schedule.

3. Review of 2022 Budget Process

Administrative Services Director Koch provided a high-level overview of the tentative schedule for the 2022 Budget process. During the presentation, Administrative Services Director Koch also touched on local impacts to the budget, a possible Washington State minimum wage increase, contributions to the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds (\$7.3M), budget and operational impacts from the Healthy Families Act, and a timeline to adopt a biennial budget.

Administrative Services Director Koch engaged in a question and answer session with Council throughout the presentation.

At the close of the meeting, Interim City Manager Amundson announced that the Richland Regatta will return to Howard Amon Park this weekend (June 26-27), and shared that Governor Inslee's Office has yet to release open public meeting guidance for the state-wide reopening on June 30, 2021.

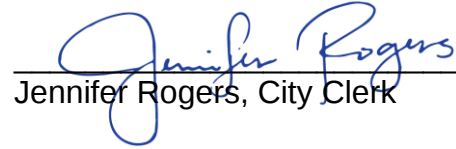
Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:


Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 6, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: July 7, 2021