



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Richland City Hall ~ 625 Swift Boulevard

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.

Mayor Lukson called the Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was a hybrid of in-person and online attendance via Zoom.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Lukson welcomed those in the audience and those attending remotely.

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

MAYOR PRO TEM KENT MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Also present were Interim City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, Fire Chief Huntington, Public Works Director Rogalsky, and Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lukson led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. 4th of July Update

Fire Chief Huntington, Chief of Police Bruce, and Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl gave a brief update regarding activity in Richland on the 4th of July. According to Fire Chief Huntington, cooler temperatures and equalized relative humidity allowed for a positive environment to avoid fire concern on the holiday. Overall fire call volume was down, with only ten (10) fireworks-related calls in Richland. Parks was able to promptly clean any debris from fireworks in city parks.

Public Hearings

None.

Public Comments

In-person public comments were taken from the following individuals and are summarized as follows:

- Richard Bloom – 5900 Everett Street, West Richland, WA: Mr. Bloom offered comments related to the costs associated with operating a drug treatment and mental health facility. Mr. Bloom advocated to continue to fund transit through the Ben Franklin Transit as needed by the public.
- Colleen Spadoni – 2351 Harris, Richland, WA: Ms. Spadoni stated that the Parks Department has done a fantastic job keeping green space clean throughout Richland and near her home. Many residents are enjoying Leslie Groves Park, the swim beach, and other park-related amenities. Ms. Spadoni stated, however, that she is noticing people living in the park and expressed concern to Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl and Chief of Police Bruce regarding homelessness in city parks.
- Michael Charboneau – 33207 Red Mountain Road, Benton City, WA: Mr. Charboneau stated that, having been employed with the City of Richland for 22 years, he has worked with all employees in the City, and wants the citizens of Richland to know how lucky they are to have such dedicated staff employed in public service.

Written comments from the following individuals were read into the record by City Attorney Kintzley and are summarized as follows:

- Connie Pattison – 419 George Washington Way, Richland, WA: Ms. Pattison stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Michele Levenite – 637 Lynnwood Loop, Richland, WA: Ms. Levenite expressed her desire for Richland to ban fireworks.
- Pamela Thornton – 100 Timmerman Drive, Richland, WA: Ms. Thornton stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Pauline Santos – 1488 Oxford Avenue, Richland, WA: Ms. Santos stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Rhonda Marlow – 3801 Emerald St., Richland, WA: Ms. Marlow stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage

during labor negotiations.

- Richard Ewell – 1107 Abbot Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Ewell stated his support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Tiffany Suarez – 680 Big Sky Drive, Richland, WA: Ms. Suarez stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Sarah Coffey – 604 Laurelbrook Ct., Richland, WA: Ms. Coffee stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Erik Patchett – 4707 Jodie St., Richland, WA: Mr. Patchett stated his support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Joyce McMurphy – 612 Meadows Drive East, Richland, WA: Ms. McMurphy stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.

Telephonic comments were taken from the following individuals and are summarized as follows:

- Colleen Somes – 562 Sedgwick Place, Richland, WA: Ms. Somes stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.
- Shelby Covert – 195 Bitterroot Drive, Richland, WA: Ms. Covert stated her support for the IBEW line crews and encouraged City Council to provide a comparable wage during labor negotiations.

Consent Calendar

City Attorney Kintzley read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER BORING MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR ON ROLL CALL VOTE: MAYOR LUKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM KENT, AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, BORING, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

- 2 Approval of the June 15, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes and June 22, 2021 City

Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

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

Resolutions - Adoption

5. Resolution No. 68-21, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with RH2 Engineering, Inc. related to the Center Parkway South Extension Project
6. Resolution No. 76-21, Approving the Final Plat of Westcliffe Heights - Phase 3
7. Resolution No. 79-21, Setting a Meeting Date to Review a Proposed Annexation of Approximately 300.1 Acres in North Richland (USDOE)
8. Resolution No. 80-21, Authorizing a Weatherwise Contractor Agreement with Silverbow Roofing, Inc. for Weatherwise Program Participation
9. Resolution No. 81-21, Authorizing an Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Murraysmith related to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Retrofit Project
10. Resolution No. 82-21, Authorizing a Services Agreement with the Benton-Franklin Health District for COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Clinics
11. Resolution No. 83-21, Authorizing an Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Frost Me Sweet, LLC

Items - Approval

12. Authorize Travel for Mayor Lukson and Councilmember Thompson
13. Appointment to the Board of Adjustment: Justin Raffa
14. Appointment to the Utility Advisory Committee: Dave Larkin

Mr. Raffa was invited to share a few words related to his appointment to the Board of

Adjustment. Mr. Raffa thanked Council for the appointment and expressed his desire to return to City service after exiting the Arts Commission.

Items of Business

1. Resolution No. 72-21, Authorizing Award of Bid to Sierra Electric, Inc. for the Traffic Signal Systemic Safety Upgrades Project

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the Traffic Signal Systemic Safety Upgrades project. Credit was given to Traffic Engineer John Deskins for evaluating the City's intersections and identifying their eligibility for enhancements. Enhancements will include backplates with reflective borders, flashing yellow left-turn treatments, supplemental signal heads for left-turns, and audible pedestrian pushbuttons and countdown pedestrian signals. More details are available in Public Works Director Rogalsky's PowerPoint presentation.

Councilmember Alvarez spoke favorably about the enhancements that are forthcoming. Mayor Lukson echoed Councilmember Alvarez's comments.

COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 72-21, AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID TO SIERRA ELECTRIC, INC. FOR THE TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEMIC SAFETY UPGRADES PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

2. Resolution No. 84-21, Accepting a Request for Annexation (Brantingham)

Planning Manager Stevens presenting on the proposed Brantingham annexation. The property is located across from Yokes at Keene and Kennedy. This item reflects the proponents' meeting with Council to discuss the proposed annexation as required by state law. Council is authorized to accept, reject, or modify the annexation proposal. No modifications were raised or discussed by Council.

COUNCILMEMBER BORING MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 84-21, ACCEPTING A REQUEST FOR ANNEXATION (BRANTINGHAM) AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

3. In-Person Meetings for Boards, Commissions & Committees (Discussion)

City Attorney Kintzley presented on the status of the Open Public Meetings Act in Washington after Governor Inslee's June 30, 2021 state-wide reopening. Proclamation 20-28 is still in effect, and a hybrid model for public meetings is now possible with no capacity restrictions or social distancing requirements. Council expressed an interest in maintaining the hybrid meeting model for Richland's boards, commissions and committees, including City Council. Interim City Manager Amundson recommended a hybrid trial period for all public meetings, and a discussion at the fall Council retreat on

whether the hybrid approach is working well or should be discontinued when Proclamation 20-28 is rescinded. Council concurred.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

Interim City Manager Amundson thanked those who acted for him during his brief vacation, and expressed appreciation for staff who quickly coordinated cooling centers during last week's heatwave. Interim City Manager Amundson also expressed gratitude for the safe and sane 4th of July experienced earlier this week.

City Council

Councilmember Thompson concurred with public comments related to the questionable stripping of Ben Franklin Transit funding for a proposed drug treatment/metal health facility. Councilmember Thompson also applauded citizens for demonstrating responsible fireworks management that resulted in an uneventful holiday for emergency response. Finally, Councilmember Thompson acknowledged the difficult job performed by IBEW line crews, and offered that there is more to determining compensation than just wages. Total compensation must be reviewed to ensure accurate comparison.

Councilmember Boring shared a personal experience with an audible alert that spoke a confusing message and encouraged Public Works Director Rogalsky to ensure that the audible alert on the pedestrian crossings are clear.

Councilmember Alvarez congratulated Mr. Raffa on his appointment to the Board of Adjustment, and extended appreciation to all those serving on Richland boards and commissions. Councilmember Alvarez also shared his appreciation for IBEW, and stated that the labor negotiations process needs to be followed.

Councilmember Lemley agreed with Councilmember Thompson and Councilmember Alvarez regarding review of total compensation for IBEW during negotiations. Councilmember Lemley also spoke against cutting transit funding and argued that sustainable mass transit is critical to the success of the community. Finally, Councilmember Lemley shared his experience on the 4th of July confronting groups in his neighborhood about legal use of fireworks. Councilmember Lemley states that the City's fireworks education campaign appears to be failing since so many individuals stated unequivocally that they were engaged in lawful behavior while setting off aerial firework displays.

Mayor Pro Tem Kent commented briefly about IBEW negotiations and how Council is not in a position to speak publicly on the topic. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also complimented Parks & Facilities Director Schiessl for ensuring that the metal handles on City facilities are covered with neoprene mats to prevent burnt hands when handles heat up in the sun. Mayor Pro Tem Kent also plugged the Richland Farmers' Market and encouraged

everyone to shop local.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson advised that vaccination rates in Benton County have not yet reached 50%, and failure to achieve a higher percentage of vaccination may result in a backslide and possible closure in the fall. Mayor Lukson encouraged residents to get vaccinated. Mayor Lukson also shared the sentiments expressed by Councilmembers Alvarez, Thompson, Lemley and Kent related to IBEW negotiations and Council's limited ability to comment publicly on the matter. Finally, Mayor Lukson complimented Richland residents for engaging in responsible fireworks management this 4th of July, and observed that Richland had fewer fire-related incidents than neighboring jurisdictions with full fireworks bans. Mayor Lukson stated that the City would continue to improve its fireworks education campaign.

Adjournment

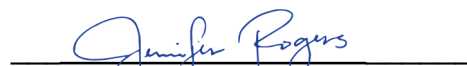
Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 20, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: July 21, 2021