



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, August 9, 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 Special 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.

Also present were Interim City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, and Fire Chief Huntington.

Items of Business

1. Discussion to Determine City Council's Position on Proposal for Ben Franklin Transit to Initiate a Referendum Reducing Transit Sales Tax Collection by .10%

Benton and Franklin Counties are requesting Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) to initiate a referendum reducing transit sales tax collection by .10%. Councilmember Phil Lemley represents the Richland City Council on the Ben Franklin Transit Board. The BFT Board is scheduled to vote on this item on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

Per RCW 82.14.045, and with voter approval, Ben Franklin Transit is authorized to collect a sales and use tax to be used solely to fund operations, maintenance, and capital needs of the Public Transportation Benefit Area. The current voter-approved sales tax collection rate is .60%

Using the 2022 sales tax revenue forecast of \$41.6M, BFT has determined the annual impact of the requested reduction in sales tax collection would amount to a loss of revenue of \$6.9M, or \$39M over five years using a 4.0% revenue growth factor.

Council discussed the Benton and Franklin County Commissioners' proposal to remove .10% of sales tax revenue from BFT to apply toward a mental health or drug treatment facility. Of primary concern is the fact that no plan has been made public for how the dollars would be spent.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED, AND MAYOR PRO TEM KENT SECONDED THE MOTION THAT THE CITY OF RICHLAND WILL NOT SUPPORT CHANGING THE

CURRENT LOCAL SALES TAX STRUCTURE WITHOUT FIRST BEING INFORMED OF AN ACCEPTABLE PLAN FOR HOW THE MONEY WOULD BE UTILIZED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: August 17, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: August 18, 2021