



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Richland City Hall ~ 505 Swift Boulevard

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Call to Order:

Mayor Rose called the Council workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

Attendance:

Mayor Rose, Mayor Pro Tem Lemley, Council Members Anderson, Christensen, Thompson and Kent were present.

Also present were Deputy City Manager King, Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Development Services Manager Simon and City Clerk Hopkins.

Workshop Items:

1. Production, Processing and Retail Sales of Marijuana (I502)

Ms. Kintzley gave the following report:

On November 6, 2012, Washington voters passed Initiative 502 (I-502), which decriminalized simple possession of marijuana for anyone 21 years of age or older, made consuming or openly possessing marijuana in public a civil infraction and authorized the creation of an extensive taxing and regulatory scheme for growing, distributing and selling marijuana for recreational use.

The Washington Liquor Control Board has established rules to regulate and tax the production, processing and retail sales of marijuana, and held a filing period for business license applications during which thousands were received state-wide. The State has received approximately 46 license applications for retail sales of marijuana in Benton and Franklin Counties, with eight of those seeking to locate in Richland. Under the WALCB's scheme, the City of Richland is slated for three retail stores, Kennewick and Pasco are allowed four, and West Richland is allowed one.

On October 15, 2013, Council approved a six-month moratorium on production, processing, and retail sales of marijuana in order to allow staff the time necessary to study the proper path forward, and to allow more information to come forward on the topic. Since that time, the Washington State Attorney General's Office issued an opinion indicating that local jurisdictions are legally authorized to ban production, processing and retail sales of marijuana. To date, a handful of jurisdictions (Yakima, Wenatchee, and Pierce County) have elected to do so. In addition, multiple bills were introduced during the current legislative session that is designed to further impact the

legalized marijuana landscape. House Bill (HB) 2144 was introduced to ban local jurisdictions from banning retail marijuana-related activity, and Senate Bill (SB) 5887, which includes revenue sharing and attempts to remedy the disconnect between medical and recreational marijuana, is currently working through the legislature.

Richland's six-month moratorium is scheduled to expire on April 15, 2014. The surrounding cities (Pasco, Kennewick, and West Richland) have extended their respective moratoria to a full year.

Options available to the City at this time include:

- Moving forward with implementation of a local zoning and taxing scheme to locate retail marijuana-related activity within city limits and tax said businesses accordingly (B&O tax); or
- Approving an ordinance banning retail marijuana-related activity within city limits; or
- Extending the current moratorium to allow further development on the issue, including passage/failure of the bills introduced in the current legislative session.

Mr. King spoke on the work the City has done on identifying potential zoning areas and discussed the time it would take to prepare a zoning ordinance.

Council Members discussed the pros and cons of the moratorium and allowing retail marijuana-related activity in the city limits.

2. South Richland Sewer Planning

Mr. Rogalsky gave the following report:

The purpose of the workshop item is to update Council on the preliminary results of the South Richland Sewer Planning project and to discuss the implications of several alternative facility plans to be included in the project report.

In July, 2013, the City contracted with JUB Engineers, Inc. for the South Richland Sewer Planning project. The project was initiated because several property owners expressed interest in forming a Local Improvement District (LID) to construct sewer infrastructure to serve their recently annexed properties. The areas seeking sewer service are generally described as the Reata Annexation, completed in May, 2013, and the easterly portion of the Badger South annexation, completed in December, 2010.

Although several planning documents exist that describe facilities to provide sewer service to these areas, the City staff believed that this work should be revisited in light of the proposed LID and the 2011 completion of the Leslie Road / Badger Sewer pipeline project. The existing planning documents include the City's 2005 General Sewer Plan, the 2006 Badger Mountain / Valley View Urban Growth Area Expansion Capability Analysis, and the 2010 Badger Mountain Subarea Plan.

The South Richland Sewer Planning study is nearing completion, with the final report document expected in the next thirty to forty-five days. Preliminary findings indicate that two areas will require selection of a preferred alternative between a gravity-flow system and a system involving a substantial pumping facility. Staff seeks Council input on the criteria matrix.

Council Member discussed the project, possible alternatives to the project and requested that project costs are included in future reports.

Other Business:

Mr. King said an Arts Center Task Force is interested in pursuing a performing arts center in Richland, with or without the involvement of the Regional Public Facility District. He said staff is going to spend some time investigating the possibilities.

Mr. Amundsen highlighted an item in Council's Tuesday Notes regarding Charter Cable switching their channel line up to add more HD channels. He also noted the next Council meeting will be held on March 4, 2014.

Adjournment:

Mayor Rose adjourned the workshop at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins
City Clerk

Form Approved:



David W. Rose
Mayor

Date Approved:

March 4, 2014

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