



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, September 7, 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 remote Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Lukson welcomed those attending the remote meeting and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

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

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

Also remotely present were Interim City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Fire Chief Huntington, Chief of Police Bruce, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Energy Services Director Whitney, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Planning Manager Stevens, and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Lemley led the Council and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

1 Proclamation Recognizing Constitution Week

Mayor Lukson read aloud a proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2021 Constitution Week in the City of Richland. Cheri Eisen, Vice-Regent of the Columbia Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Ms. Eisen thanked Council for its recognition of NSDAR and for reading the Constitution Week proclamation.

2. Proclamation Recognizing the Allied Arts Association's 70th Anniversary of Art in the Park

Mayor Lukson read aloud a proclamation which recognized the Allied Arts Association's 70th annual Art in the Park event in the City of Richland. Allied Arts Association President Mary Jecha thanked Council for its recognition of their annual event. She also thanked Richland's Parks & Public Facilities Department for its support and assistance over the years.

Allied Arts Director Brandie Saint-Claire agreed with the statements made by Mary Jecha.

City of Richland staff member Stan Johnson stated that he has enjoyed collaborating with the Allied Arts Association for the annual Art in the Park event.

Councilmember Christensen thanked the Allied Arts Association representatives for hosting this annual event.

3. New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring the August 2021 new hires was played for the audience. There were no retirements.

Public Hearing

City Clerk Rogers read the public hearing and public comment procedures.

4. Proposed Relinquishment of an Easement within 1311 Winslow Avenue, Resolution No. 106-21

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed relinquishment of an easement as provided in Resolution No. 106-21. Property owners requested that a certain portion of a public utility easement be relinquished in order to expand existing structures. The requested easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes because it has been replaced with a new easement that better matches existing utilities.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:14 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

5. Proposed Amendment to the Richland Municipal Code Section 23.54.020 Related to Minimum Parking Standards, Ordinance No. 21-21

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the proposed amendment to the minimum parking standards as provided in Ordinance No. 21-21. Staff discussed the application for the text amendment, the Planning Commission's recommendation, and staff's recommendation.

City Council engaged in a question and answer session with Planning Manager Stevens.

Mayor Lukson opened and closed the public hearing at 6:27 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER ALVAREZ SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, BORING, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

6. Approval of the August 17, 2021 Richland City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 24, 2021 Richland City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

7. Ordinance No. 22-21, Amending the 2021 Budget in the General Fund for the Purchase of Police Camera Systems
8. Ordinance No. 23-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 2.44.010 related to LEOFF I Firefighters' Pension Board Membership
9. Ordinance No. 24-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 2.48.010 related to LEOFF I Police Pension Board Membership
10. Ordinance No. 25-21, Granting a Solid Waste Collection Transition Franchise to Waste Management of Washington, Inc. related to the Zinsli, Allenwhite and Badger Mountain Winery Annexations
11. Ordinance No. 26-21, Granting a Solid Waste Collection Transition Franchise to Basin Disposal, Inc. and Ed's Disposal, Inc. related to the Zinsli, Allenwhite and Badger Mountain Winery Annexations
12. Ordinance No. 27-21, Granting a Solid Waste Collection Transition Franchise to Waste Management of Washington, Inc. related to the Lorayne J Annexation

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions – Adoption

13. Resolution No. 106-21, Authorizing the Relinquishment of an Easement at 1311 Winslow Avenue
14. Resolution No. 110-21, Approving the Final Plat of Westcliffe Heights – Phase 4
15. Resolution No. 111-21, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Cities of Kennewick, Pasco and West Richland for the Quad-City Stormwater Effectiveness Study and Water Quality Stormwater Grant Application

Items - Approval

16. Relocation Expenses - Library Manager

Items of Business

1. Resolution No. 105-21, Opposing Imposition of a Local Income Tax on the Residents and Businesses of the City of Richland

Interim City Manager Amundson stated that at the August 17, 2021 City Council meeting, Council discussed the pros and cons of adopting a resolution prohibiting the imposition of a local income tax on residents and businesses as other cities in the state have done. At the conclusion of the discussion, the majority of Council expressed interest in bringing forward a resolution prohibiting the imposition of a local income tax for consideration.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 105-21, OPPOSING THE IMPOSITION OF A LOCAL INCOME TAX ON THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

2. Ordinance No. 21-21, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 23.54.020 Related to Minimum Parking Standards

Councilmember Christensen thanked staff for the informative staff report presented for this agenda item and fully supports staff's recommendation.

COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTENSEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 21-21 FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 23.54.020 RELATED TO MINIMUM PARKING STANDARDS USING THE 1:250 RATIO RECOMMENDED BY STAFF. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR LUKSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS ALVAREZ, BORING, CHRISTENSEN, LEMLEY AND THOMPSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

Interim City Manager Amundson reported on the City's Annual Tri-Cities' Geocoin challenge held on September 4, 2021 at John Dam Plaza. Interim City Manager Amundson also shared that a formal introduction will be scheduled with Council, staff and the community for the new Library Manager upon his arrival to the city.

Fire Station 75, located at 460 Battelle Boulevard, is near completion and a ribbon-cutting will be scheduled. An event for Station 76, located on Jadwin Avenue, will be scheduled approximately one month later.

The Richland Police Department's 2021 Citizens Academy commenced on September 7, 2021 and will continue through November 23, 2021. The academy provides information about the operation and programs of the police department and the local criminal justice system.

Lastly, Interim City Manager Amundson reported that the City has reached an agreement with the University of Washington to host a walk-up COVID-19 test site at the Columbia Playfield parking lot near George Prout Pool. The clinic is intended to help reduce the testing demand at other test sites.

City Council

Councilmember Boring thanked the Planning Commission for their valuable input regarding Ordinance No. 21-21, and provided her basis for supporting staff's recommendation for the 1:250 parking ratio. Councilmember Boring also encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Councilmember Alvarez concurred with Councilmember Boring's statements regarding support of Ordinance No. 21-21.

Councilmember Lemley encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

Councilmember Thompson shared personal observations regarding the COVID-19 mandates imposed on large gatherings.

Mayor

Mayor Lukson shared concerns expressed by local hospital administrators regarding lack of capacity, diverting patients for medical treatment, staff shortages and possible prioritizing of patient care. Mayor Lukson encouraged those who are not vaccinated to limit their interactions in large gatherings.

Executive Session

Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(I)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Legal Counsel (20 minutes)

COUNCIL MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:47 TO DISCUSS CURRENT OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL FOR 20 MINUTES.

Individuals virtually present included Mayor Lukson, Councilmembers Alvarez, Boring, Christensen, Lemley and Thompson, Interim City Manager Amundson, Fire Chief Huntington and City Attorney Kintzley.

AT 7:17 P.M., MAYOR LUKSON ANNOUNCED THAT EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL 30 MINUTES.

COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:47 P.M.

Adjournment

Mayor Lukson adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

APPROVED:



Ryan Lukson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: September 21, 2021

DATE PUBLISHED: September 23, 2021