



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

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 Alvarez called the remote Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Mayor Alvarez welcomed those in the virtual audience and expressed appreciation for their attendance.

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

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

Also virtually present were City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Bruce, Fire Chief Huntington, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney, Finance Director Allen, Human Resources Director Paulsen, Planning Manager Stevens and City Clerk Rogers.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Presentations

None.

Public Hearing

City Clerk Rogers read the Public Hearing and Public Comments procedures.

1. Proposed Amendment to Richland Municipal Code Section 23.28.030 related to Business Use Districts Permitted Land Uses, Ordinance No. 2022-01

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the proposed amendment to RMC Section 23.28.030. The proposed amendment would add mini-warehouses to the list of Business and Personal Services Uses within the Business Research Park (B-RP) district. Richland Municipal Code currently allows twenty percent the land to be developed for residential uses while commercial uses are limited to fifteen percent. The proposed amendment would limit the total amount of land area that would be devoted to mini-storage uses to no more than five percent the total B-RP district.

The Planning Commission conducted an open-record public hearing on this item on December 8, 2021 and recommends the Richland City Council approve the proposed amendment.

Mayor Alvarez opened the public hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Rick Simon, a representative of SMI Group XV, LLC provided testimony in support of the proposed amendment.

No other testimony was offered. Mayor Alvarez closed the public hearing at 6:10 p.m.

2. Proposed Relinquishment of an Electrical Easement in Siena Hills, Resolution No. 2022-08

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed relinquishment of electrical easement. The electrical easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes as the electric utilities have been relocated to accommodate recent subdivision efforts.

State law requires that a public hearing be held before property initially obtained for utility purposes is dispositioned through sale or conveyance. Staff supports the proposed relinquishment.

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

3. Proposed Relinquishment of a Utility Easement in Siena Hills, Resolution No. 2022-09

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed relinquishment of utility easement. The utility easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes as the utilities have been relocated to accommodate recent subdivision efforts.

State law requires that a public hearing be held before property initially obtained for utility purposes is dispositioned through sale or conveyance. Staff supports the proposed relinquishment.

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

4. Proposed Relinquishment of an Electrical Easement along Saint Street, Resolution No. 2022-10

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the proposed relinquishment of electrical easement as requested by the property owner. The easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes because the utilities were never utilized for the intended purpose. Staff supports the proposed relinquishment.

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 6:13 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

5. Proposed Amendment to the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program related to the Vantage Highway Pathway - Phase 2 Project, Resolution No. 2022-15

Public Works Director Rogalsky stated that the City is required to prepare and annually adopt its six-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and file a copy of the adopted TIP with the Washington State Department of Transportation. On June 15, 2021, Richland City Council adopted the 2022-2027 TIP, which includes the construction phase of the Vantage Highway Pathway - Phase 2 project.

Due to staff workload and a design concept adjustment, the right-of-way acquisition phase previously included in the 2021-2026 TIP was not initiated as planned in 2021, but is now near ready to commence. Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 2022-15.

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

6. Proposed 2022-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Police Guild, Resolution No. 2022-16

Human Resources Director Paulsen presented on the proposed 2022-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Police Guild. The Richland Police Guild membership approved the proposed agreement on December 30, 2021.

Richland City Charter requires a public hearing be held before Council amends, repeals or adds to the City's personnel rules, including salary/wage plans for all City positions.

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. No public testimony was offered.

Public Comments

The following individuals provide public comments remotely:

Kevin Nicholson - 4717 Barbera Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Nicholson provided comments opposing upcoming proposed changes to the Badger Mountain South Land Use & Development Regulations (LUDR) and requested Council to review the proposed

changes and speak with members of the Badger Mountain South Community to hear their concerns.

Lisa Shear - 1507 Jones Road, Richland, WA: Ms. Shear thanked Council for addressing concerns raised at the January 4, 2022 City Council Meeting relating to the 1415 Jones Road property and urged Council to not disregard the importance of this issue for the neighboring residents. Ms. Shear added that she has an active public records request for police activity at 1415 Jones Road.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, LEMLEY, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

7. Approval of the January 4, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

8. Ordinance No. 2022-01, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 23.28.030 related to Business Use Districts Permitted Land Uses
9. Ordinance No. 2022-02, Amending Chapter 2.04 of the Richland Municipal Code related to the City of Richland's Administrative Code

Resolutions – Adoption

10. Resolution No. 2022-08, Authorizing the Relinquishment of an Electrical Easement in Siena Hills
11. Resolution No. 2022-09, Authorizing the Relinquishment of a Utility Easement in Siena Hills
12. Resolution No. 2022-10, Authorizing the Relinquishment of an Electrical Easement along Saint Street

13. Resolution No. 2022-11, Authorizing an Agreement with CorVel Enterprise Comp, Inc. for Third-Party Workers' Compensation Claims Administration Services
14. Resolution No. 2022-12, Approving the Final Plat of Falconridge - Phase I
15. Resolution No. 2022-13, Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Financial Consulting Services Group
16. Resolution No. 2022-15, Amending the 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program related to the Vantage Highway Pathway - Phase 2 Project
17. Resolution No. 2022-16, Authorizing the 2022-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Richland Police Guild

Items - Approval

None.

Expenditures – Approval:

18. Expenditures from December 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 for \$36,473,110.25 including Travel Check Nos. 20059-20065, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 295912-296842, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 8838- 8879, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 12456-12504, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 187121-188195 and Pension Check Nos. 6023-6051.

Items of Business

19. Resolution No. 2022-14, Authorizing an Application for a SAFER Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Fire Chief Huntington presented on the Station 76 Update, preparation of the 2021 Station 76 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), 2021 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program impacts, proposed project considerations for 2022, and a possible SAFER grant funding submittal for the 2023 budget year.

Adoption of Resolution No. 2022-14 authorizes staff to submit an application to FEMA for SAFER funding to provide staffing for the future Station 76. If approved, the funding would provide approximately \$2M over a three-year period to offset costs associated with Fire & Emergency Services staffing. The projected facility opening for Station 76 is late 2023 to mid-2024.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

20. Northwest RiverPartners Federal Columbia River Power System Education Campaign

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Energy Services Director Whitney provided an overview of the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRD) Education Campaign proposed by Northwest RiverPartners.

The LSRD educational campaign aligns with four (4) Richland Strategic Leadership Plan goals. Staff recommends utilizing \$165,000 of Energy Services funds to support the proposed educational campaign for the LSRD.

Council engaged in a question and answer session with staff. Council requested additional information regarding the educational campaign as it becomes available.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO ALLOCATE \$165,000 OF ENERGY SERVICES FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE NORTHWEST RIVERPARTNERS' EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson thanked Ms. Shear for the comments provided regarding the 1415 Jones Road property. Council will continue to receive updates on actions taken. Sgt. Swanson will coordinate with staff to prepare a report to be presented at an upcoming Code Enforcement Board meeting for recommended action.

City Manager Amundson then provided Council with an outline of the January 25, 2022 City Council workshop meeting agenda.

City Council

Councilmember Lemley read aloud excerpts of the Revised Code of Washington and Richland Municipal Code regarding the powers, duties, administrative supervision, and removal process of a city manager in a council-city manager form of government.

Councilmember Lemley also read aloud that Council, as individuals, should refrain from providing direct instruction to the City Manager or city staff. Lastly, Councilmember Lemley expressed an interest in reinstating the City of Richland's Ethics Committee.

Mayor Alvarez invited City Manager to provide a response to Councilmember Lemley's statements.

City Manager Amundson replied that he appreciates and enjoys working with Council and has not experienced individual councilmember instruction during his tenure with the City.

Councilmember Lukson thanked healthcare workers for their continued work during the pandemic, and encouraged citizens to stay safe and find ways to support healthcare employees.

Councilmember Richardson shared a recent conversation she had with a citizen relating to homelessness and associated conditions and crime taking place on the same street where the citizen's business is located. The caller was pleased to report that action was taken by the Richland Police Department the same day it was reported.

Councilmember Jones voiced concerns regarding the Benton County District Court COVID-19 emergency order for jail operations. The emergency order outlines which crimes warrant release or detainment of a defendant. The court order also allows a District Court judge to determine which misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor arrests should result in detainment of the defendant based on a community risk determination.

If bail is set at \$5,000 or greater, the Court will presume that the defendant presents a risk to the community, and the defendant will be detained. Councilmember Jones stated she looks forward to hearing how Chief Bruce might address the concerns.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen thanked Councilmember Richardson for the positive report shared.

Mayor

Mayor Alvarez agreed with statements made by Councilmember Lukson regarding the need to support healthcare workers and Richland Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) during the pandemic. Mayor Alvarez also requested City Manager Amundson to review and report to Council the requirements needed for Council to resume in-person meetings.

Adjournment

Mayor Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

APPROVED:



Michael Alvarez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: February 1, 2022

DATE PUBLISHED: February 2, 2022