



## **MINUTES**

### **RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

**Zoom - Public Telephone Access: (206) 337-9723 or (253) 215-8782**

**Meeting ID No. 505 625 7380**

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#### **City Council Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**

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

#### **Welcome and Roll Call**

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

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

Also present were City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Interim Chief of Police Clary, 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, Economic Development Manager Wallner, and City Clerk Rogers.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

#### **Approval of Agenda**

**COUNCILMEMBER LUKSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

#### **Presentations**

##### **1. New Hires & Retirements**

A video featuring the new hires for the end of January and February was played for the audience. There were no retirement announcements.

##### **2. Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report**

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Fire Chief Huntington provided a high-level overview of the 2021 Fire & Emergency Services Annual Report which included:

- Station Deployment Model Inputs
- Call Response Data
- Emergency Response Times
- 2021 Highlights
- Heart Safe Richland Initiative
- Station 76 Response Time Comparison
- Next Steps, Future Projects and Goals

Councilmember Lemley shared a personal event with the EMS response team. Councilmember Richardson thanked Chief Huntington for hosting the Heart Safe Richland event the previous week.

Council engaged in a question and answer session with staff.

### 3. Police Department Annual Report

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Interim Chief of Police Clary presented a high-level overview of the 2021 Police Department annual report which included:

- 2021 Staffing and Hiring Challenges
- 12 Comprehensive Law Enforcement Reform Laws Passed
- Body-Worn Camera Implementation
- National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Summary
- Calls for Service
- Operations, Support Services, Benton County Emergency Services (BCES)
- 2022 Goals

Council provided comments and engaged in a lengthy question and answer session with staff.

### **Public Hearing**

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

#### 4. Proposed Relinquishment of an Access and Utility Easement at Bradley Boulevard, Resolution No. 2022-31

Mayor Alvarez opened the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Randy Slovic - 74 Newcomer Street, Richland, WA: Ms. Slovic provided testimony opposing Resolution No. 2022-31.

Mayor Alvarez closed the public hearing at 7: 29 p.m.

#### 5. Proposed Relinquishment of a Utility Easement at Stevens Drive, Resolution No. 2022-32

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 7: 29 p.m. No testimony was offered.

## **Public Comments**

The following individuals provided remote comments:

Kevin Nicholson - 4717 Barbera Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Nicholson thanked Planning Manager Stevens, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl and staff for their guidance, perspective, responsiveness to inquiries and for attending numerous meetings in support of the Badger Mountain South community. Mr. Nicholson then thanked members of the Planning Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission for their volunteerism. Lastly, Mr. Nicholson thanked Mayor Alvarez and Councilmembers Jones and Richardson for attending the recent Planning Commission meeting.

Guy Steen - 126 Cimarron Street, Richland, WA: Mr. Steen stated that he provided Council with photographs of an alleged hazardous waste site located within the City of Richland city limits, but with unknown property ownership. Mr. Steen urged Council to initiate a clean-up.

## **Consent Calendar**

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

**MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

## **Minutes**

6. Approval of the February 15, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 22, 2022 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

## **Ordinances - First Reading**

None.

## **Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage**

7. Ordinance No. 2022-05, Amending Chapter 12.08 of the Richland Municipal Code related to Right-of-Way Construction
8. Ordinance No. 2022-06, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 11.040.030 related to Seasonal Parking at the Lee Boulevard Cul-de-sac in Howard Amon Park
9. Ordinance No. 2022-07, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 9.22.075 related to Park Hours

10. Ordinance No. 2022-08, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 9.22.070 Related to Speed Limits on Shared Use Pathways

### **Resolutions - Adoption**

11. Resolution No. 2022-28, Authorizing an Amendment to a Consultant Agreement with H.W. Lochner, Inc. for the Design of the South George Washington Way Project
12. Resolution No. 2022-29, Authorizing Submittal of a Washington Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application for the Water Facilities Energy Resiliency Improvements Project
13. Resolution No. 2022-33, Authorizing Submittal of Grant Applications to the Washington State Department of Transportation's Safety Program
14. Resolution No. 2022-34, Authorizing Submittal of a Grant Application to the Washington State Library for Voluntary Online Patron Reading Progress Services

### **Items – Approval**

None.

### **Items of Business**

15. Resolution No. 2022-31, Relinquishing an Access and Utility Easement lying within Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Short Plat 2214 along Bradley Boulevard

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the facts surrounding the proposed relinquishment. The easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes.

Council engaged in a question and answer session with staff.

**MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-31, RELINQUISHING AN ACCESS AND UTILITY EASEMENT LYING WITHIN LOTS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 OF SHORT PLAT 2214 ALONG BRADLEY BOULEVARD. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN, AND COUNCILMEMBERS KENT, LEMLEY, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: JONES. MOTION CARRIED 6-1.**

16. Resolution No. 2022-32, Relinquishing a Public Utility Easement at 1409 Stevens Drive

Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the facts surrounding the proposed relinquishment of portions of a public utility easement at 1409 Stevens Drive to enable expansion of existing structures. The easement is no longer needed for municipal purposes.

**MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER LEMLEY SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-32, RELINQUISHING PORTIONS OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT AT 1409 STEVENS DRIVE. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

17. Resolution No. 2022-35, Ratifying a Purchase and Sale Agreement for Purchase of 515 George Washington Way

Economic Development Manager Wallner provided an overview of the purchase and sale agreement for the property located at 515 George Washington Way (former Economy Inn). The City negotiated the purchase of the property for the purpose of future municipal needs (possible fire station) and redevelopment. An offer of \$1.2M was made and accepted by the owners, MD Sayed Ali and Jasmine Ali.

Council engaged in a lengthy question and answer session with staff regarding the potential relocation of Fire Station 71 to this site.

**MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-35, RATIFYING A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF 515 GEORGE WASHINGTON WAY. MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

## **Reports and Comments**

### *City Manager*

City Manager Amundson announced that the indoor mask mandate will no longer be in effect beginning March 12, 2022, and that the March 15, 2022 City Council meeting will accommodate both in-person and remote attendance. The hybrid meeting option will apply to all City boards, commissions and committees while Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28 is in effect, and in-person meetings will be the practice so long as an effective remote component can also be provided to the public.

Next, City Manager Amundson announced that Benton County Deputy County Administrator Matthew Rasmussen will be in attendance at the March 15, 2022 City Council meeting to present on the proposed Recovery Center and Mobile Crisis Response Teams and to answer any questions regarding the Public Safety Sales Tax and revenue allocated towards mental health programs.

### *City Council*

Councilmember Jones thanked staff for the presentations and for their responses to council inquiries. Councilmember Jones spoke of Council's obligation to represent the community.

Councilmember Lemley had no comments.

Councilmember Lukson congratulated Benton County Prosecutor Andy Miller on his recent retirement announcement after 36 years of service, and shared that Mr. Miller's name is synonymous with public safety in the community. Councilmember Lukson wished Mr. Miller well in his retirement.

Councilmember Richardson stated that she is impressed with the collaborative efforts demonstrated by the community regarding mental health issues and future city developments.

Councilmember Kent echoed comments made by Councilmember Lukson regarding the retirement of Mr. Miller and his contributions over his lengthy tenure as Benton County Prosecutor. Councilmember Kent praised City Manager Amundson and Interim Chief of Police Clary for their leadership through the various difficult events occurring over the last few months.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen also congratulated Benton County Prosecutor Andy Miller on his retirement and wished him well. Mayor Pro Tem Christensen then expressed excitement over the purchase of 515 George Washington Way and its future use as a municipal facility. Lastly, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen provided comments on the possible active shooter lockdown incident that took place at the Hanford nuclear site earlier in the day. After investigation by the Benton County Sheriff's Office and Hanford Patrol, the incident was determined to be a false alarm.

Councilmember Kent added that she was on site at Hanford when the possible active shooter incident occurred. Councilmember Kent praised Hanford staff, Hanford Patrol, and regional law enforcement for their quick response and guidance during the incident. Councilmember Kent encouraged citizens to reach out to the Richland Police Department or the Richland Fire Department if they would like to receive information on what to do in the event of an active shooter incident.

#### *Mayor*

Mayor Alvarez spoke positively of the property acquisition at 515 George Washington Way. Mayor Alvarez then thanked members of the public for their comments and added that he looks forward to resuming in-person meetings.

#### **Adjournment**

Mayor Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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APPROVED:

  
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Michael Alvarez, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: March 15, 2022

DATE PUBLISHED: March 16, 2022