



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

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

Attendance: Mayor Alvarez, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson and Richardson were present. Council Position No. 5 is vacant.

Also present were City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, 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 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

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations

1. Letters of Appreciation for Fire Ops 101

Mayor Alvarez announced his participation in a Fire Ops 101 event, held at the Volpentest Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response (HAMMER) Federal Training Center. Elected officials and agency management are invited to undergo a day of hands-on firefighter training.

Mayor Alvarez then read aloud letters of appreciation addressed to several members of the Richland Fire & Emergency Services Department, including Colton Casillas, Christopher Denney, Travis Leonard, Chad Miller and Michael Van Beek, thanking them for their contributions to the Fire Ops 101 event.

2 New Hires & Retirements

A video featuring the new hires and retirements for the month of May was played for the audience. In addition to welcoming new hires, the City acknowledged Juan Cardenas's retirement from the Meter Reader Division in the Energy Services Department after serving twenty-four years (24) with the City of Richland.

Public Hearing

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

3. Proposed Transportation Improvement Program, Resolution No. 2022-84

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

4. Proposed Amendment to Exhibit A of the 2022-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Southeast Washington Telecommunicators Guild, Resolution No. 2022-85

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

Public Comments

- Alex Nunez - 585 Burton Court, Richland, WA: By way of introduction, Mr. Nunez shared relevant personal education, work experience and career goals for the purpose of receiving a letter of recommendation from Mayor Alvarez to submit to the Officer Candidate School (OCS) Admissions Office at the U.S. Naval Academy. Councilmembers praised Mr. Nunez and collectively supported Mayor Alvarez in authoring the desired letter of recommendation to Mr. Nunez.
- Paul Laurentier - 105609 E. Wiser Pkwy. Kennewick, WA: Mr. Laurentier, representing a local developer, voiced concerns regarding the existing electric transformer shortage and delivery delays and called on City Council to assist in finding a solution that would allow Richland Energy Services to meet the demand of local housing growth.
- Joel Rogo - 1823 Darcie Ct. Richland, WA: Mr. Rogo, owner of Tri-Cities Academy of Ballet and Music, announced that the annual recital held at the HAPO Community Stage was a success. Mr. Rogo thanked the Parks & Public Facilities Department for their assistance in support of the event.
- Andrew Laurentier - 105609 E. Wiser Pkwy. Kennewick, WA: Mr. Laurentier reiterated the comments made by Mr. Paul Laurentier.

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. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Minutes

5. Approval of the May 17, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 24, 2022 City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

None.

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

6. Ordinance No. 2022-17, Amending the 2022 Budget to Include the 2021 Budget Carryovers
7. Ordinance No. 2022-18, Amending Richland Municipal Code Section 9.12.055 related to Illegal Dumping

Resolutions - Adoption

8. Resolution No. 2022-75, Approving the Final Plat of Walnut Heights
9. Resolution No. 2022-76, Authorizing Award of Bid to Premier Excavation for the Henderson Loop Extension in Horn Rapids
10. Resolution No. 2022-77, Authorizing Award of Bid to Inland Asphalt Company for the 2022 Jadwin Overlay Project
11. Resolution No. 2022-78, Authorizing a Third Amendment to the Consultant Agreement with Murraysmith, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Retrofit Project
12. Resolution No. 2022-79, Authorizing an Agreement with Transpo Group USA, Inc. for Design of the Downtown Connectivity Project
13. Resolution No. 2022-80, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the Washington State Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

14. Resolution No. 2022-81, Authorizing a Sixth Amendment to the Gas Purchase and Site License Agreement with Horn Rapids RNG, LLC Related to the Gas- to-Fuel Project
15. Resolution No. 2022-82, Accepting a Washington State Department of Transportation Grant for the Jadwin Avenue/Catskill Street Pedestrian Crossing
16. Resolution No. 2022-83, Authorizing an Interlocal Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for Wildland Fire Suppression

Items - Approval

None.

Items of Business

17. Resolution No. 2022-84, Adopting the 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Public Works Director Rogalsky stated that local jurisdictions are required to prepare and adopt a perpetual six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The City's TIP is combined with other stated and local agency TIPs into a statewide STIP.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Public Works Director Rogalsky provided an overview of the list of projects in the 2023-2028 TIP. The Richland Planning Commission and Richland Parks & Recreation Commission favorably recommend adoption of the proposed 2023-2028 TIP.

City Council engaged in a question and answer session with staff.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-84, ADOPTING THE 2023-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

18. Resolution No. 2022-85, Amending Exhibit A of the 2022-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Southeast Washington Telecommunicators Guild

Human Resources Director Paulsen provided an overview of the proposed amendments to Exhibit A of the 2022-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement with Southeast Washington Telecommunicators Guild.

At Mayor Pro Tem Christensen's request, Human Resources Director Paulsen discussed various dispatcher recruitment issues and explained the current longevity incentives

available to SEWTG employees. Council thanked staff for being proactive in looking for ways to curb the recruitment challenges existing at Benton County Emergency Services.

City Council engaged in a question and answer session with staff.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2022-85, AMENDING EXHIBIT A OF THE 2022-2024 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHEAST WASHINGTON TELECOMMUNICATORS GUILD. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson announced that he was contacted by Jo Ellen Peters, Administrative Consultant for the Hanford Area Economic Investment Fund Committee (HAEIFAC), to inquire as to how the City would handle the vacancy on the HAEIFAC board created by Councilmember Lemley's resignation. City Manager Amundson shared that HAEIFAC members are appointed by the Washington State Department of Commerce instead of City Council. Ms. Peters requested City Council submit three (3) candidates from the seated Council for consideration to serve the unexpired term. City Manager Amundson then followed with an overview of the HAEIFAC appointment process.

At City Manager Amundson's invitation, Energy Services Director Whitney addressed concerns regarding the electric transformer supply shortage and delivery delays mentioned during the public comment portion of the meeting. Energy Services Director Whitney shared that the transformer supply shortage is being experienced locally and nationwide, and that over the course of eight months, the City has placed three orders to accommodate transformer demands. The price for each transformer has escalated from \$1,500 to \$10,000 with longer lead times for delivery.

Energy Services Director Whitney stated that the American Public Power Association (APPA) published an explanation of the supply chain issue, citing labor, oil, and material shortages as chief contributing factors to the transformer supply shortage experienced nationwide. Staff is responding to the shortage by seeking transformers without loads to relocate to areas in immediate need. To conclude on the topic, City Manager Amundson shared additional approaches implemented by staff to address the transformer supply shortage.

City Council

Councilmember Kent shared her own Fire Ops 101 experience from several years ago, and thanked the HAMMER administration for providing the location and materials to host the event. Additionally, Councilmember Kent thanked the City's union partners for their

participation in the event.

Councilmember Lukson asked that the City communicate to the community regarding the transformer supply shortage. Councilmember Lukson then spoke favorably of two projects adopted on the Consent Calendar, the Design of the Downton Connectivity Project and the Jadwin Avenue/Catskill Street Pedestrian Crossing project. Councilmember Lukson praised staff for actively seeking grant opportunities to fund intersection improvement projects.

Councilmember Jones also asked that the City communicate to the community regarding the transformer supply shortage.

Councilmember Richardson spoke of the importance of initiating the City Manager evaluation process for 2022 and expressed an interest in participating as a member on a city manager evaluation subcommittee. Mayor Alvarez sought interest in serving on the subcommittee, and determined that it would be comprised of Councilmember Richardson, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Mayor Alvarez. City Manager Amundson shared that, at the request of Council, he has identified a well-regarded consultant to facilitate the City Manager's goals and performance evaluation for calendar year 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen encouraged citizens to apply for the vacant Position No. 5 on Richland City Council, and inquired as to the number of applicants received to date. City Manager Amundson responded that three applications had been received.

Mayor

Mayor Alvarez shared that he attended a B-Reactor Tour offered by the U.S. Department of Energy. Next, Mayor Alvarez announced that the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Exploratory Center, located at LIGO Hanford Observatory, is expected to open next week. Lastly, Mayor Alvarez announced that he and City Manager Amundson attended the Richland Rotary meeting earlier in the day as guest speakers.

Executive Session

19. Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i): Discuss Current or Potential Litigation with Legal Counsel (30 minutes)

City Attorney Kintzley asked that the executive session be rescheduled to the June 21, 2022 Regular City Council meeting due to scheduling issues with outside counsel.

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Adjournment

Mayor Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

APPROVED:



Michael Alvarez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: June 21, 2022

DATE PUBLISHED: June 23, 2022