



MINUTES

RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, June 21, 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, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley, Chief of Police Clary, Fire Chief Huntington, Development Services Director Jensen, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Parks & Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Energy Services Director Whitney, 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

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

Presentations

1. Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition (BFRC) Co-Founder and Chair, Michele Gerber, presented the agency's background, mission, core beliefs and goals. Ms. Gerber emphasized the need to provide local detoxification, inpatient residential and mental health services to treat substance use disorders (SUD).

Ms. Gerber shared data from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) commissioned by the Benton-Franklin Health District, which indicates that SUDs, mental health and suicide are the greatest unmet needs in the region. Ms. Gerber also shared

the economic benefits of having a regional recovery treatment center.

Co-presenter and BFRC member, Cameron Fordmeir, provided a comprehensive overview of services that would be provided at the recovery center and BFRC funding sources.

Ms. Gerber announced that the BFRC is expected to open in 2024 with certain treatment services to be provided sooner. Ms. Gerber also promoted criminal justice treatment alternatives as preferable to immediate arrests and incarceration.

Councilmembers provided comments supporting the services to be offered by BFRC and commended individuals who have a part in its operations. Councilmember Lukson stated he would like the City of Richland to participate in contributing funds to BFRC.

2 Richland Public Facilities District

Richland Public Facilities District President Bill King and REACH Museum Executive Director Rosanna Sharpe presented an REACH Museum update. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Sharpe discussed the REACH Museum's mission statement and shared an overview of the Museum's programs, events, resources and educational activities. Ms. Sharpe also listed agencies who have partnered with the REACH Museum.

Ms. Sharpe invited Council to attend a Members Only: Meet the Artist reception event on Friday, June 24, 2022 at the REACH Museum. Lastly, Ms. Sharpe announced the showcase of "Columbia & Cascade," a new art exhibit featuring the works of artists who excelled in documenting the landscape while surveying the railway route.

Mr. King's portion of the presentation consisted of an overview of the Museum's budget and funding sources, after which he and Ms. Sharpe engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

Public Hearing

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

3. Proposed Annexation of Approximately 12 Acres on Brantingham Road (Badger Mountain Estates), Ordinance No. 2022-20

Mayor Alvarez opened and closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m. No testimony was offered.

4. Proposed Annexation of Approximately 300.1 Acres Located at Tax Parcel Numbers 1-1108000000000 and 1-14081000001003 (USD OE), Ordinance No. 2022-21

Mayor Alvarez opened the public hearing at 6:57 p.m. The following individual provided

public testimony:

- Aaron Lambert - 3431 George Washington Way, Richland WA: Mr. Lambert, a representative of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), stated his support of the proposed annexation.

No other testimony was offered. Mayor Alvarez closed the public hearing at 6:58 p.m.

Public Comments

The following individual provided general public comments to be read into the record:

- Robert Benedetti - 400 Broadmoor St. Richland, WA: Mr. Benedetti provided comments opposing the zoning change of property owned by Hayden Homes and Big River, LLC for the construction of a multi-family project. Mr. Benedetti believes there will be undesirable environmental impacts associated with the two construction projects.

Consent Calendar

City Clerk Rogers read the Consent Calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER KENT MOVED AND MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN 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 June 7, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Ordinances - First Reading

6. Ordinance No. 2022-23, Amending Chapter 9.22 of the Richland Municipal Code related to City Property

Ordinances - Second Reading & Passage

None.

Resolutions - Adoption

7. Resolution No. 2022-70, Rejecting All Bids received for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Basin Retrofit Project

8. Resolution No. 2022-86, Authorizing a Funding Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Vantage Highway Pathway - Phase 2 Project
9. Resolution No. 2022-87, Ratifying the Establishment of a Joint Retirement Plans Committee to Provide Fiduciary Oversight for all City of Richland Retirement Investment Plans
10. Resolution No. 2022-88, Authorizing a Consultant Agreement with JUB Engineers, Inc. for Design of Improvement to Clubhouse Lane and its Utilities
11. Resolution No. 2022-89, Authorizing a Purchase Agreement with Myers Power Products, Inc. for Procurement of the City View Substation Transformer Bank 2 Metalclad Switchgear
12. Resolution No. 2022-90, Authorizing Purchase of Park Property from Nor Am Investment, LLC in Badger Mountain South

Items - Approval

13. Appointment to the Arts Commission: Alex Boecker and Talia Wolfgramm

Expenditures - Approval

14. Expenditures from May 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022 for \$30,577,010.67 including Travel Check Nos. 20128-20154, Accounts Payable Check Nos. 300158- 300996, Accounts Payable Wire Nos. 5060-9089, Payroll Wires & ACH Nos. 12726-12773, Payroll Direct Deposit & Check Nos. 193133-194257 and Pension Check Nos. 6166-6190.

Items of Business

15. Ordinance No. 2022-20, Annexing Approximately 12 Acres on Brantingham Road (Badger Mountain Estates)

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the proposed annexation of Lots 1-8 of Badger Mountain Estates as provided in the staff report, then engaged in a question and answer session with Council.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-20, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 12 ACRES ON BRANTINGHAM ROAD (BADGER MOUNTAIN ESTATES), FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

16. Ordinance No. 2022-21, Annexing Approximately 300.1 Acres Located at Tax Parcel Numbers 1-11080000000000 and 1-14081000001003 (USDOE)

Planning Manager Stevens provided an overview of the proposed annexation request as presented in the staff report, then engaged in a question and answer session with Council. Specific questions were raised regarding the tax implications of annexing federal property.

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER JONES SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-21, ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 300.1 ACRES LOCATED AT TAX PARCEL NUMBERS 1-11080000000000 AND 1-14081000001003 (USDOE), FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

17. Ordinance No. 2022-22, Amending Richland Municipal Code Title 8: Health and Sanitation, to add Chapter 8.10 entitled Regulating Public Camping

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, City Attorney Kintzley provided an overview of Ordinance No. 2022-22, which would create a comprehensive approach to regulating public camping.

City Attorney Kintzley explained the strategies developed by the State of Washington and Benton County to proactively shift individuals experiencing homelessness out of unauthorized encampments on public property and right-of-way. City Attorney Kintzley further explained that the Washington State Department of Commerce and Benton County both have a legal obligation to develop and implement strategic plans to eliminate homelessness, and that although cities do not have an affirmative legal obligation to provide resolution for homelessness, Richland can provide support to state and county efforts by adopting code provisions that are an exercise of general police power and focus on the health, safety and welfare of its citizens.

Proposed Chapter 8.10 RMC allows the City to enforce no-camping provisions on public property so long as there is a legal alternative available for individuals experiencing homelessness to obtain shelter. The City will partner with the Benton County Department of Human Services to ensure that resources are available and personally offered before enforcement action is taken. The proposed code section also identifies a number of high-visibility/high-use locations in the City where encampments and unauthorized camping will never be allowed, regardless of whether enforcement is suspended.

At the conclusion of the presentation, staff fielded questions from Council.

COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22, AMENDING RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 8: HEALTH AND SANITATION, TO ADD

CHAPTER 8.10 ENTITLED REGULATING PUBLIC CAMPING, FOR FIRST READING, BY TITLE ONLY. THOSE IN FAVOR: MAYOR ALVAREZ, MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN, AND COUNCILMEMBERS JONES, KENT, LUKSON AND RICHARDSON. THOSE OPPOSED: NONE. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Reports and Comments

City Manager

City Manager Amundson identified three (3) upcoming meetings with alternative dates and times for Council consideration. A general consensus was reached to make the following scheduling adjustments:

- Reschedule the August 2, 2022 City Council Regular meeting to August 1, 2022
- Reschedule the August 23, 2022 City Council Workshop meeting to August 30, 2022
- Advance the September 6, 2022 City Council regular meeting start time to 5:30 p.m.

Because the Richland Municipal Code requires formal action to adjust regular meeting dates, the scheduling matter will come forward on the July 19, 2022 meeting agenda.

City Council

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen and Councilmembers Lukson and Richardson had no comments.

Councilmember Kent thanked those who presented throughout the meeting, and commended those who submitted an application for appointment to the Richland City Council. Lastly, Councilmember Kent expressed enthusiasm for selecting a candidate who will represent all citizens in Richland.

Mayor

Reiterating his pride in our country and in military service in general, Mayor Alvarez spoke highly of the display of exemplary military strength and patriotism portrayed in a recently released film.

Executive Session

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

COUNCIL ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:40 P.M.

Individuals present for the executive session included Mayor Alvarez, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson and Richardson. Others present included City Manager Amundson, Assistant City Manager Florence, City Attorney Kintzley and retained legal counsel Ken Harper (by phone).

COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:10 P.M.

Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h): Evaluate the Qualifications of Candidates for Appointment to Elective Office (45 minutes)

COUNCIL ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:10 P.M.

Individuals present for the executive session included Mayor Alvarez, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, and Councilmembers Jones, Kent, Lukson and Richardson. City Manager Amundson was also present.

COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:53 P.M.

Adjournment

Mayor Alvarez adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

APPROVED:


Michael Alvarez, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jennifer Rogers, City Clerk

DATE APPROVED: July 5, 2022

DATE PUBLISHED: July 7, 2022