

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

1. Call to Order –

Mayor Gerry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call –

Present:

Mayor Brent Gerry
Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink
Councilmember Richard Bloom
Councilmember David Fetto
Councilmember May Hays
Councilmember Kate Moran (6:04pm)
Councilmember John Smart
Councilmember Ken Stoker

City Attorney Bronson Brown
City Clerk Stephanie Haug
PW Admin Aimee Hunt
Police Chief Thomas Grego
Finance Director Erin Gwinn
Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall
Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

Councilmember Hays led the council, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda –

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Councilmember Bloom. Council unanimously approved the agenda as presented.

5. Presentations-

a. Recovery Center – Matt Rasmussen – Benton Co.

Matt Rasmussen, of Benton County, who was later joined by Kyle Sullivan, also with Benton County, presented information to the Council and public on Benton County's achievements and plans for opening additional resources in our region for those in crisis or in detox.

6. Consent Agenda – Mayor Gerry read the consent agenda titles for consideration:

a. Payment of Bills

b. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting February 7, 2023

c. RES. 12-23 - Relating to Surplus Property - Copiers/Printers and Plotter

RESOLUTION NO. 12-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO SURPLUS PROPERTY

d. Motion to authorize Mayor to execute Amendment #2 to Engineering Services Contract for Water System Plan Update – JUB

e. Motion to authorize Mayor to execute Engineering Services Contract for SCADA Upgrades to Water and Sewer Systems – RH2

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the consent agenda.

7. Citizen Public Comments –

Shelly B- Zoom participants are experiencing feedback and are having trouble hearing the meeting.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Public Hearings – There were no ordinances, resolutions, motions, or public hearings.

9. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business – There was no new business.

11. Citizen Public Comments – There were no comments.

12. Announcements, Reports & Comments

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Mendenhall provided an update on the development of a city survey, indicating the City will be moving forward with Onpointe.

Public Works Director Slade reported on his time in Olympia with Mayor Gerry. They met with several legislators and are hoping to secure the remaining money for the SR 224 project.

Chief Grego announced that West Richland now has an SRO in the Richland School District, and the City will see a contract to approve soon. He has been tracking the law enforcement bills in the legislature. The City welcomed a new lateral officer, whom he will introduce at the March 7th meeting, and he wanted council to know that even with the current no pursuit rule, his team is working hard to locate and recover stolen vehicles.

Council Reports

Councilmember Bloom wished everyone a happy Mardi Gras. He reported that the Ben Franklin Transit funding profile shows taxes down 6% and that he will be attending the American Transportation Conference down in Las Vegas later in the month.

Councilmember Moran reported on the BFCOG and TIP meetings, noting that they updated West Richland's status and that large changes to the bylaws were being considered. They are considering combining the BFCOG and Development District meetings and developing an associate membership type. There will be a meeting on March 17th to discuss the Carbon Reduction funding.

Councilmember Stoker asked about a future discussion for the rules and procedures, including an effort to do better with Robert's Rules. He stated it only takes an objection by a Councilmember to remove an item from the consent agenda and he feels like a councilmember shouldn't be denied an opportunity to speak.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink recapped his time in Olympia for City Action Days. He focused on local control of housing regulations. He also provided Council a copy of the AWC State of the Cities publication.

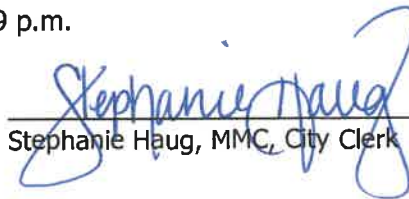
Councilmember Hays announced she was now the West Richland Senior Association Treasurer and invited everyone to the re-opening luncheon on March 14th at 11:30. She also encouraged everyone to attend the West Richland Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Wednesday, March 1st, where Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall will be speaking. She challenged all City Council members to be more present at community events so the community can see their support.

13. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

14. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 7:09 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk