

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 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

Councilmember John Smart

Councilmember Ken Stoker

City Attorney Bronson Brown

City Attorney Jessica Foltz

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Police Chief Thomas Grego

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

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

4. Approval of Agenda –

Councilmember Bloom requested to move item 6c to item 8a for discussion. Councilmember Bloom moved to approve the agenda as amended. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart. Council unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

5. Presentations-

a. New Officer Introduction/Oath of Office– Chief Grego

Chief Grego introduced and administered the oath of office for new lateral officer Isaiah Suarez. Officer Suarez introduced himself and his family to the Council.

b. New City Attorney Introduction -City Attorney Brown

City Attorney Brown announced he was appointed to a judicial position and would be unable to continue to serve as the City's primary City Attorney. He introduced Jessica Foltz, who formerly worked for the City of Kennewick, who would be replacing him as the West Richland City Attorney.

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

a. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting February 21, 2023 & Special Meeting February 28, 2023

b. Motion to authorize Mayor to sign contract with AXON Enterprises for 2 Additional Cameras

c. *Moved to item 8a*

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

7. Citizen Public Comments –

Rob Meyers- Inquired about improvements to South Highlands Park, stating that the park is dilapidated and currently unusable.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Public Hearings

a. Motion to award N. 62nd Ave Overlay and Watermain Replacement Project

Councilmember Bloom inquired about the insufficient funds to complete the Chelan waterline. Mr. Slade said that once the rate model was completed, they would have a good idea for that project in 2024.

Councilmember Bloom moved award the N. 62nd Ave Overlay and Watermain Replacement Project to Premier Excavation Inc. in the amount of \$1,164,085.88 including sales tax and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract. Mayor Pro Tem Brink seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

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

Chief Grego announced that there would be a swearing in ceremony for Polar, West Richland Police Department’s emotional support animal on March 16th at 9am.

Public Works Director Slade reported that the Keene Road/Bombing Range Intersection Modification project is gearing up and detours will start the week of April 10th. He suggested that you avoid the area during construction if you can.

Community Development Director Mendenhall provided an update on the planned improvements for South Highlands Park, indicating improvements are planned for the next budget cycle and include converting the tennis courts to pickleball courts.

Council Reports

Councilmember Moran reported on the upcoming BFCOG meeting on March 17th, where they will be reviewing the bylaws. She also reported that the Tri-City Mobility Action Group will be performing a walk audit on March 23rd and having a meeting on March 24th.

Councilmember Stoker reported he will be out of town on March 21st and asked to be excused.

Councilmember Bloom attended the American Transportation Conference in Las Vegas on behalf of Ben Franklin Transit. He asked about West Richland’s stance on marketing on bus stop shelters, indicating that Seattle does not allow it. Community Development Director Mendenhall indicated that they are not allowed in West Richland. Councilmember Bloom also reported that he’d attended a HAB meeting and suggested attendance at an upcoming webinar on RAD protection.

Councilmember Hays thanked Mr. Mendenhall for the great job he did at the Chamber luncheon as the speaker. She reported that Dan Newhouse, Councilmember Fetto and Mayor Pro Tem Brink all attended. She also reported that the Senior Center would reopen with a luncheon on Tuesday, March 14th at 11:30am.

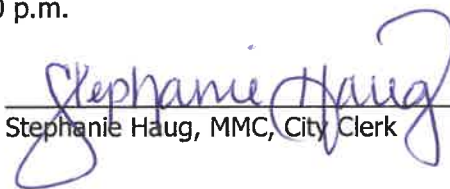
Mayor Pro Tem Brink reported that he was appointed to the AWC Bylaws Committee, and he would gladly accept any feedback to pass along to the committee.

13. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

14. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk