

CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2022

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

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Community Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

HR Manager Selena Smathers

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Police Chief Thomas Grego

Associate Planner Elisha Ransom

IT Systems Admin Brad Borton (V)

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

Councilmember Bloom 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.

5. Presentations-

a. Police Chief Grego- Introduce Officer Michael Benavidez

Police Chief Thomas Grego performed the oath of office and introduced West Richland's newest officer, Michael Benavidez, who came to the City of West Richland from the Washington State Patrol.

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

a. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting –November 15, 2022 & Workshop November 29, 2022

b. Motion to Confirm Mayor's Reappointments to the Park Board and Planning Commission

c. Motion to authorize Mayor to execute professional services contract with Tierra for road row acquisition associated with SR 224 / Red Mountain Transportation Improvement Project.

d. Motion to accept S. 38th Ave & SR 224 Signal Project as complete.

e. Motion to authorize mayor to execute Amendment #1 to Lease Agreement – Former Tri-City Raceway – FORMEC

f. Motion to execute Industrial Wastewater User Contract – Permit No. WR-2023-001 with Vinmotion Wines

g. Motion to execute Industrial Wastewater User Contract – Permit No. WR-2023-002 with Red Mountain Estates, LLC

h. Motion to execute Industrial Wastewater User Contract – Permit No. WR-2023-003 with Double Canyon

i. ORD. 25-22 -Relating to where parking is prohibited at all times amending WRMC 10.12.060(L) – Deer Street

ORDINANCE NO. 25-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO WHERE PARKING IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES ON DEER STREET, AMENDING SECTION 10.12.060(L) OF THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE.

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

7. Citizen Public Comments –

Colin Gil- Spoke of his concern about his neighbor's bees and asked Council to reconsider the rules for beekeeping

Debra Humphreys – Spoke of her concerns for the speeding on Collins Road

Gaylene Fredrickson – Spoke of her concerns for the speeding on Collins Road and the safety of those who live there and get their mail

Shawna Brown- Spoke of her concerns for Collins Road and how aggressively people speed on the hill section.

Shelly Burt – Spoke in support of Traffic Safety and her concern for the traffic safety around Desert Sky Elementary School and the lack of a traffic signal at South Highlands and Keene Road. She suggested that the city spend their money there instead of on raises.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Public Hearings-

a. Public Hearing - Utility Easement Vacation for VACA-008-2022

Associate Planner Elisha Ransom presented a staff report for the proposed adoption of Resolution 62-22, which would vacate an easement located at 1074 S 54th Ave, legal description Willamette Heights, Section 6 Lot 165 (Parcel No: 106984020165000); the south 14 feet of the north 30 feet except the west 30 feet, and the west 20 feet of the east 30 feet, except the south 30 feet of Lot 165, Plat of Section 6 of Willamette Heights.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:27 p.m.

b. RES. 62-22 - Utility Easement Vacation for VACA-008-2022

RESOLUTION NO. 62-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, VACATING A PORTION OF A 30-FOOT-WIDE PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ON WILLAMETTE HEIGHTS SECTION 6, LOT 165, PARCEL NUMBER 1-0698-402-0165-000.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Resolution 62-22; Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 62-22.

c. Public Hearing - Utility Easement Vacation for VACA-009-2022

Associate Planner Elisha Ransom presented a staff report for the proposed adoption of Resolution 63-22, which would vacate an easement located at 985 S 54th Ave, legal description Short Plat 3223, Lot 2 {Parcel No: 106983013223002}; the north 20 feet of the south 30 feet except the portion within AFN 2009-035548 and the east 20 feet for the west 30 feet of Lot 2, Short Plat 3223.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:30 p.m.

d. RES. 63-22 - Utility Easement Vacation for VACA-009-2022

RESOLUTION NO. 63-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, VACATING A PORTION OF A 30-FOOT-WIDE PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT LOCATED ON WILLAMETTE HEIGHTS SECTION 6, LOT 210, PARCEL NUMBER 1-0698-402-0210-001.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Resolution 63-22; Councilmember Moran seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 63-22.

e. Public Hearing - Adopt the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket

Associate Planner Elisha Ransom presented a staff report for the proposed adoption of Ordinance 26-22, which would adopt the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Map Amendments into the existing 2017 Comprehensive Plan and adopt the resulting document by ordinance.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:36 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:37 p.m.

f. ORD. 26-22 - Adopt the 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Docket

ORDINANCE NO. 26-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE 2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MAP AMENDMENTS INTO THE EXISTING 2017 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ADOPTING THE RESULTING DOCUMENT BY ORDINANCE

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance 26-22; Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 26-22.

g. ORD. 27-22 – Rezone 0001-2022 – Indian Eyes

ORDINANCE NO. 27-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO ZONE RECLASSIFICATION AND RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance 27-22; Councilmember Moran seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 27-22.

h. ORD. 28-22 – Rezone 0002-2022- Parcel 11

ORDINANCE NO. 28-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO ZONE RECLASSIFICATION AND RECLASSIFYING CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance 28-22; Mayor Pro Tem Brink seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 28-22.

i. ORD. 29-22 - 2021-2022 Biennial Budget Amendment

Finance Director Erin Gwinn presented a staff report explaining the proposed amendments to 2021/2022 Biennial Budget, which appropriates additional expenditures and recognizes additional revenue in various funds.

ORDINANCE NO. 29-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance 29-22, amending the 2021/2022 biennial budget. Councilmember Moran seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 29-22.

j. ORD. 24-22 – Adopting the 2023/2024 Biennial Budget

ORDINANCE NO. 24-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON ADOPTING THE 2023/2024 BIENNIAL BUDGET.

Councilmember Stoker moved to approve Ordinance 24-22, adopting the 2023/2024 biennial budget. Councilmember Bloom seconded the motion. After a discussion, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 24-22.

k. RES. 64-22 – 2023/2024 Salary Schedule

HR Manager Selena Smathers presented a staff report explaining proposed updates to the 2023/2024 Salary Schedule.

RESOLUTION NO. 64-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, REPEALING AND REPLACING THE 2021-2022 SALARY SCHEDULE.

Lisa Nelson- Spoke in opposition to the proposed salary schedule for the higher-level positions. Indicated it was difficult for citizens to grasp paying comparable to the bigger cities when West Richland is smaller.

Harry Mays- Spoke of his concern for the PW Director making more than the Police Chief and that it should be distributed to the Police.

Shelly Burt – Indicated she was surprised by the comparison to the bigger cities and that it makes no sense.

Councilmember Stoker moved to approve Resolution 64-22. Councilmember Bloom seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 64-22.

I. RES. 65-22 – Total Compensation Principle

HR Manager Selena Smathers presented a staff report explaining proposed changes to the City Personnel Policies regarding the Total Compensation Principle.

RESOLUTION NO. 65-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES 'TOTAL COMPENSATION PRINCIPLE'.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Resolution 65-22. Mayor Pro Tem Brink seconded the motion. Council held a lengthy discussion on the details of the COLA and the proposed pay for performance changes. Council voted Hays – Yay, Moran – Yay, Fetto – Yay, Brink – Yay, Bloom- Yay, Smart – Nay and Stoker – Nay to approve Resolution 65-22.

m. RES. 66-22 – Personnel Policy Update

HR Manager Selena Smathers presented a staff report explaining proposed changes to the City Personnel Policies.

RESOLUTION NO. 66-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES SECTIONS 8.2.8 SICK LEAVE CASH-OUT, 4.10 STANDBY PAY, AND 8.1 VACATION LEAVE

Shelly Burt – *Commented that the Council doesn't listen to citizens and gives raises to their friends.*

Councilmember Moran moved to approve Resolution 66-22. Mayor Pro Tem Brink seconded the motion. Council held a lengthy discussion and voted 6-1 to approve Resolution 66-22, with Councilmember Stoker voting nay.

n. RES. 67-22 – Amending the Master Fee Schedule

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade presented a staff report explaining that when Council adopted Resolution 55-22 on November 1, 2022, it was missing a page, therefore has been brought back to be adopted with the missing page included.

RESOLUTION NO. 67-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 55-22

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Resolution 67-22. Councilmember Moran seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 67-22.

o. Motion to authorize Mayor to execute a contract extension with Mid-Columbia Library

City Attorney Brown presented a staff report explaining the proposed contract extension with the Mid-Columbia Library to allow for more time to negotiate a contract.

Councilmember Moran moved to execute a contract extension with the Mid-Columbia Library. Councilmember Bloom seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve 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 citizen comments during this comment period.

12. Announcements, Reports & Comments

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Mendenhall provided a history of his actions regarding beekeeping rules since Mr. Gil's previous appearances before the Council. He indicated the CD Sub-Committee was not interested in allotting resources to this matter at this time and that Mr. Gil's neighbor would not be required to change to meet any new code that the city adopts. He also provided an update on the Lewis & Clark Ranch planning efforts.

Police Chief Thomas Grego provided an update on the Police Department's efforts on Collins Road, gave a shout out to Officer Jeremy Jones, a Pasco Officer who was shot in the line of duty and is currently recovering from his injuries, thanked the Young Marines and the American Heritage Girls for decorating the trees in the PD lobby, announced opportunities to give back via the Giving Tree located in the PD lobby, and that the Community Care Foundation funded "Cocoa with a Cop" through the month of December.

Council Reports

Councilmember Moran thanked all the attendees at the meeting, both in person and virtual, reported on the loss of Mike Lawrence, and indicated that the BFCOG was working on the 2023 Legislative priorities for Benton and Franklin Counties.

Councilmember Bloom reported on the Bateman Island Causeway fix and indicated they are still working on a solution.

Councilmember Smart thanked the participants of the meeting and asked them to come to more meetings to get the full picture of decisions that are made. He also commented on the speed of Collins Road and asked everyone to hold themselves accountable for safe driving.

Councilmember Fetto stated it was great to have people in attendance and indicated that he doesn't engage in social media and asked to be contacted via email with citizen concerns. He reminded everyone of the Operation Candy Cane Food Drive at Flat Top Park on Saturday, December 10th from 4-8pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink stated that the Council does listen to their citizens but make their decisions on the totality of the information provided, and asked citizens to contact their Council to address their concerns. He also reported on the upcoming meetings he will be attending, including the State Emergency Management and AWC Board meetings, his appointment to the State of Washington Forensic Investigation Council, the West Richland Chamber Bucks Ball, and recognized May Hays on her upcoming retirement from the West Richland Chamber.

Councilmember Hays reported that they had 87 people attend the Chamber Buck Ball on the previous Friday, and that the Chamber was working on the Adopt a Family program for the holidays.

Councilmember Smart inquired if the COVID Emergency Order had been rescinded.

Mayor Gerry indicated that he would discuss the Emergency Order with Senior Staff at their meeting the following day.

13. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

14. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 8:55 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk