

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
 REMOTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022**

**City Clerk Stephanie Haug administered the oath of office to Mayor Brent Gerry. Mayor Brent Gerry then administered the oath of office to Council Members John Smart, May Hays, and Ken Stoker.*

1. Call to Order – Mayor Gerry called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call –

Present:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Mayor Brent Gerry | Police Chief Ben Majetich |
| Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink | Finance Director Erin Gwinn |
| Councilmember Richard Bloom (6:13pm) | Public Works Director Roscoe Slade |
| Councilmember May Hays | Community Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall |
| Councilmember Ken Stoker | City Clerk Stephanie Haug |
| Councilmember Kate Moran | City Attorney Bronson Brown |
| Councilmember John Smart | |

Absent:

- Councilmember David Fetto

Councilmember Smart moved and Councilmember Moran seconded to excuse Councilmember Fetto from the meeting. Council unanimously approved the motion.

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

Mayor Pro Tem Brink led the council, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda –

Councilmember Moran moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart. Council unanimously approved the amended agenda.

5. Presentations-

- a. Police Chief Majetich introduced the City’s newest police officer, Cassandra Martinez.

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

- a. Payment of Bills

Description	Check Number(s)	Amount
Accounts Payable Checks	69957-70082	\$2,376,302.34
Accounts Payable Voids	70039	(\$217.71)
Manual Payroll	16695-16701	\$6,051.82
Electronic Wire Payments	APPKT01116,1164,1187,1192,1193,1199,1200,1203,1206,1216, 1217,1220,1223,1226,1228	\$437,587.42
Direct Deposit		\$307,931.06
Merchant, LGIP, & Bank Fees		\$21,439.99
Total		\$3,149,094.92

- b. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting on December 7, 2021

c. RESOLUTION NO. 01-22

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

- d. Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Agreement for Service- West Richland Area Chamber of Commerce
 e. Motion to approve contract with Express Employment Professionals for 2021
 f. Motion to approve contract for the Parks Maintenance Plan

Councilmember Hays abstained from voting on the consent agenda due to a conflict of interest with the West Richland Chamber of Commerce. Councilmember Bloom arrived to the meeting and was

sworn into office by Mayor Gerry. Council approved the consent agenda.

- 7. Citizen Public Comments** - - There were no comments.
- 8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions And Public Hearings-**
 - a. ORD. 01-22** – 2021/2022 Budget Amendment – Cooperative Way Project & TIB Grant 62nd Project
 - b. RES. 02-22** - Establishing Interfund Loan from 401 Water/Sewer Fund to 321 CERB Cooperative Way Project Fund

Finance Director Erin Gwinn provided a staff report outlining the proposed changes in the 2021/2022 Budget Amendment, as well as the necessity of the Interfund loan.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve Ordinance 01-22 and Resolution 02-22. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart. Councilmember Hays abstained from voting on the consent agenda due to a potential conflict of interest with Benton REA. Council voted to approve Ordinance 01-22 and Resolution 02-22.

- 9. Unfinished Business** – There was no unfinished business.
- 10. New Business** – There was no new business.
- 11. Citizen Public Comments** –
Shelly Burt- Speaking on behalf of her 21 year old son and requested more pickle ball courts in West Richland, preferably lighted courts.
- 12. Announcements, Reports & Comments**

a. Staff Reports

Police Chief Ben Majetich reported that the police department will be vacating the old building on Thursday and Friday, January 6th and 7th, and will be closed to the public those days. The new PD will be open and operational on Monday, January 10th. He reminded Council of the ribbon-cutting and open house to be held on January 25th.

Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall thanked Ms. Burt for her comments, and provided an update on the pending Parks Plan updates. He asked her to reach out to him for more information.

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade reported that two of the City’s PSA closed before Christmas, including the Benton REA transaction and the Old PD building.

b. Council Reports

Councilmember Smart asked Clerk Haug about filing the Oath of Office and reiterated his concerns about the current declaration of emergency regarding COVID and hopes to get things back to normal.

Councilmember Moran welcomed the new councilmembers and reported on the BFED meeting she attended. They are working on the bridge light up program and they also approved the CEDS. She indicated she is happy this meeting is still remote as she was exposed to Covid and wouldn’t be able to attend otherwise.

Councilmember Stoker thanked Councilmember Moran and provided a brief introduction. He is looking forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink reported that his term on the legislative priorities committee for AWC has ended and he is now serving on the training and advisory committees. He was also nominated by AWC to serve on the Governor’s advisory committee to oversee forensic services. He also welcomed the new councilmembers.

Councilmember Bloom apologized for being late and indicated he had not been feeling well. He reported that there are two candidates for the interim general manager position at Ben Franklin Transit. They will be advertising for the position and it should be announced who is the interim

manager at that time. He also indicated that Chuck Torelli, a councilmember for Kennewick, replaced Bob Thompson the Hanford Communities Board.

Councilmember Hays is thankful to be elected and is looking forward to serving her community and for the new challenge.

Councilmember Moran inquired on when the new Mayor Pro Tem would be selected. Clerk Haug indicated it would be on the next meeting agenda.

Councilmember Smart spoke about the railroad crossing on Van Giesen. Mayor Gerry reported that Port of Benton is working on the project to correct the issue and it should be done in May/June of this year.

Mayor Gerry thanked Mayor Pro Tem Brink for filling in for him last meeting while he was in Washington DC. He was happy to report he was elected the chair of ECA while he was there. He requested that Council provide him with their interests for council liaison and sub-committee positions, and requested that the new councilmembers are provided with an opportunity to serve in those positions.

- 13. Executive Session** – There was no executive session. The one listed on the agenda was cancelled.
- 14. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk

