

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 18, 2009**

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Pro Tem Buel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call – Mayor Pro Tem Rich Buel was present.** Council Members Tony Benegas, Gail Brown, Ken Dobbin, Merle Johnson and Julie Jones were also present. Staff members present were Police Chief Layne Erdman, Community Development Director Bob Leedy, Finance Director Howard Roberts, City Attorney Bronson Brown and City Clerk Julie Richardson.

Upon motion by Councilmember Benegas, seconded by Councilmember Jones, Council unanimously excused Mayor Jackson and Councilmember Hanneman from the meeting.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Councilmember Dobbin led the Council, Staff, and audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Approval of Agenda** – Mayor Pro Tem Buel announced that agenda items 9 a, b, c, d will be continued to the June 1, 2009 Council meeting. Councilmember Johnson requested that item 8d be moved from the consent agenda to item 9a under Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Public Hearings.

Councilmember Dobbin moved to approve the agenda as revised, seconded by Councilmember Benegas. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Presentations – Noemi Ortega, US Census Bureau** distributed and presented information on the United States 2010 census and the Complete Count Committee. Ms. Ortega requested that Council approve a Proclamation in support of the census. She also asked Council to consider having a complete count committee in West Richland.

Mayor Pro Tem Buel encouraged Ms. Ortega to stay in touch with City Clerk Richardson to coordinate her requests.

6. **Announcements, Reports & Comments – a. Staff Reports**

Community Development Director Leedy said at the last town hall meeting, a citizen asked Council to look into hours of operation of builders and contractors. He said Staff has been doing some background work on the subject and checking with other jurisdictions. Staff will provide a report to Council at the next meeting.

Finance Director Roberts recognized Assistant Finance Director Joe Potts for an award the City received for its exceptional investment policy. Mr. Potts did a complete rewrite of the investment policy in 2007-2008.

Mr. Roberts also announced that the water and sewer bond refinancing was completed this morning and the interest rates are 1.5% to 2.75%.

City Clerk Richardson said there were some inquiries regarding school zone flashing light times. She distributed copies of the Richland School District School Speed Reduction Program sheet which includes flashing light times and said it is available on the city website.

Police Chief Erdman announced that City Administrator Weiser will be out of town until May 28 and Chief Erdman will be acting administrator during his absence.

- b. Council Reports**

Councilmember Benegas reported on a meeting he had with Representatives Brad Klippert and Larry Haler and said unfunded mandates were discussed. The Representatives requested that citizen comments regarding unfunded mandates be directed to them.

Councilmember Benegas said the last Park Board workshop was cancelled and presentation of the proposed park plan is delayed. He also commented that the budget is tight resulting in changes in the parks, including less frequent mowing and less fertilizer.

Mayor Pro Tem Buel said that Public Works Director Slade received phone calls from the Department of Health and Senator Delvin's office regarding the cross connection program. The citizen, who expressed concerns about the program during the last town hall meeting, was encouraged to call the State Representatives and he did.

Councilmember Johnson asked the following questions:

Regarding park funds discussed by Councilmember Benegas at a previous meeting, he asked Finance Director Roberts if mitigation fees are the same regardless of the type of dwelling (four-plex, apartment complex, etc.).

Finance Director Roberts said he would need to check on that and respond to Councilmember Johnson.

Councilmember Johnson asked Police Chief Erdman about the rules and regulations on an abandoned vehicle and what a citizen should do to report them. He also asked about the rise in part one crimes.

Chief Erdman said if a vehicle is parked on the street, it has to be licensed and legal. He said to call the Police Department to report abandoned vehicles and the vehicle will be tagged and then towed within approximately 24 hours if it is not fixed.

Chief Erdman said a string of boat motor thefts on Bird Hill is part of the reason the part one crime numbers are up. He said there hasn't been violent crime type of activities this year, but there have been more child sex-type crimes than in previous years.

Councilmember Johnson asked about the teen dance that was proposed by the Lions Club. He said the Lions Club is considering a teen dance in the parking lot at Flat Top Park since it is lit, very open and visible, and has a flat surface for dancing. He said the Lions Club would like to pursue it and he requested a meeting with Chief Erdman to go over questions Chief Erdman might have regarding security, etc.

Councilmember Jones suggested having a dance specifically for middle school kids or high school kids, but not to combine the age groups.

Councilmember Dobbin commented on the joint meeting with Benton County Fire Districts (BCFD) 2 and 4 and direction that Staff and BCFD 4 Chief Spring meet to discuss the inter-local agreement. He suggested listing the functions that Fire and Emergency services needs to provide and then determine if the Fire Department, the City or some combination perform each of the functions. Following that determination, he suggested looking at the inter-local agreement to decide if it is OK or if it needs to be adjusted. He said he is inserting himself into that process to try to come back with a logical sequence of how we get to where we need to go, unless he receives objections from Council.

Councilmember Brown reported on a Benton Franklin Health & Safety Network meeting and said the group will receive the funding to stay active. She also reported that Public Health has started a financial committee and will be meeting to determine what cuts will occur in public health. She said 20% of their programs have been cut and they are still down about one-half million dollars from County funding.

Councilmember Brown commented on public notices on rezones, etc., and she feels the City isn't using the best information to get the notices out. She also commented on a Council budget workshop and said the sooner it is scheduled, the better.

Councilmember Jones reported on a Tapteal Foundation meeting and said they discussed whether the City Council wants to continue the Foundation. She said it was created to help the City with parks and trails and obtaining matching funding. The Foundation wants to know if the Foundation has the support of the City. The Foundation requested a meeting with the Council and a suggestion was made to hold a joint meeting on June 8 following the town hall meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Buel also suggested having one of the town hall meetings focus specifically on recreational and park activities and include the groups who are interested in a skate park, a pool, open spaces, etc.

7. **Citizens Public Comment** – Mayor Pro Tem Buel opened the meeting to citizen public comment on items not on the agenda at 7:46 p.m.

Donna Noski, said she attended the joint Council and Fire District meeting and she is sensing a fracturing of a partnership that she feels started out to be a good one. She feels that in the past couple of years, it has become less of a partnership which resulted in the Fire Marshall issue. She commended Councilmember Dobbin for working hard to try to bring the parties together. She was disappointed that the Council was unaware of the decision process of putting the Fire Marshall duties in the Police Department. She said budgetary decisions were impacted and Council did not have input. She feels that is not how city government should be conducted.

Ms. Noski referred to a Council meeting in October during which Planning Commission Chair Shea Meehan suggested a joint meeting between Council and the Planning Commission. She said that meeting has not taken place and she feels Council's unresponsiveness makes it difficult to recruit people for volunteer boards and commissions.

Johan Curtiss, asked if there will be feedback on the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) conference during the June 8 town hall meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Buel said the reason the Economic Development presentation was moved from the May town hall meeting to the June town hall meeting was so a report on ICSC could be included.

8. **Consent Agenda** – *Upon motion by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Benegas, Council unanimously approved the consent agenda as revised in item 4 (item 8d moved to 9a)*

a. **Approve Payment of Bills**

b. **Approve Minutes of Council Meeting of May 4, 2009, Special Meeting of May 6, 2009 and Town Hall Meeting of May 11, 2009**

c. **Accept Well #1 & #9 Pump and Motor Service Contract as Complete**

d. This item was moved to 9a.

e. **RES - Setting Public Hearing Date for Amending Water Use Efficiency Goals**

RESOLUTION 9-09 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO WATER USE EFFICIENCY GOALS AND MEASURES

f. **Accept South 40th Avenue Water Main Replacement Project as Complete**

g. **ORD – Amending WRMC 3.10, "Local Improvements and Assessments"**

ORDINANCE 14-09 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS AND AMENDING CHAPTER 3.10 OF THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE

h. **Award Keene Road Sewer Manhole Inside-Drop Connection Project**

9. **Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions & Public Hearings** – a. **RES - Setting Public Hearing for Adopting 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program**

Councilmember Johnson said he asked that this item be moved from the consent agenda to ask about public comments. He asked if the public is able to make comments up to 5:00 p.m. on June 1st – and asked the time frame for public comments. He also asked if there is a problem with setting June 1 as the comment deadline and then holding the hearing at the following meeting.

City Clerk Richardson said if a written comment is submitted at 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting, she will make copies of the comments and bring them to the meeting.

Community Development Director Leedy said a decision doesn't have to be made that evening, but the public hearing has to be held on the advertised date. He said with regard to

the Six Year Plan, the RCW requires it to be submitted to the State no later than July 1. So, Council could have the public hearing on June 1 and vote on the item on June 15. He also explained that it is not a closed record hearing situation.

RESOLUTION 8-09 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE CITY'S 2010-2015 SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Councilmember Johnson moved to pass resolution 8-09 setting June 1, 2009 as the date for a public hearing on the City's 2010-2015 Six Year Transportation Improvement Plan. Councilmember Benegas seconded the motion.

Councilmember Dobbin said he called the City Clerk to ensure that Council isn't setting the names of the streets in the Six Year Plan because someone may confuse one of the names with a person in Congress. He said he was told the names in the document are just placeholders and not set in stone.

The motion to pass resolution 8-09 carried by 6-0 unanimous vote as follows:

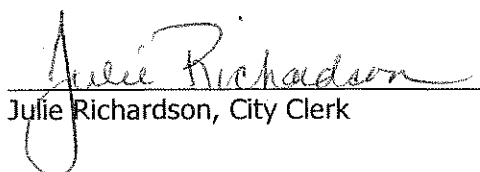
Yes: Mayor Pro Tem Buel, Council Members Benegas, Brown, Dobbin, Johnson, Jones

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Hanneman

- 10. Unfinished Business** – There was no unfinished business.
- 11. New Business** – There was no new business
- 12. Executive Session** – There was no executive session.
- 13. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.


Dale E. Jackson, Mayor


Julie Richardson, City Clerk