

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING - WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023**

1. Call to Order –

Mayor Gerry called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call –

Present:

Mayor Brent Gerry

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink

Councilmember Richard Bloom

Councilmember David Fetto (arrived at 5:40pm)

Councilmember May Hays

Councilmember Kate Moran

Councilmember John Smart

Councilmember Ken Stoker

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Police Chief Thomas Grego

3. Discussion – City Revenue Sources

Finance Director Erin Gwinn presented information on new opportunities for additional revenue for the city, including a levy lid lift and increasing utility taxes.

Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall presented information on changing the municipal code to allow cannabis sales and gambling activities and the potential revenue that could come from those types of establishments.

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade presented information on Transportation Benefit Districts, which would generate revenue for the city by adding a fee to residents' car tabs.

Director Gwinn rounded out the presentation with information on Metropolitan Park Districts.

Council asked questions and discussed the various revenue sources and their impacts that were presented by City Staff.

Councilmember Smart indicated that the Transportation Benefit District (TBD), an increase in utility tax rates and property tax were his preferred three options of those presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink requested that the Cannabis option should be explored via a citizen survey, and the TBD was his top option, followed by property tax increase/levy lid lift.

Councilmember Stoker agreed that Cannabis should go on a citizen survey, and indicated his preference is to explore a levy lid lift, a TBD and a Metropolitan Park District (MPD).

Councilmember Bloom was in favor of exploring a TBD and the levy lid lift.

Councilmember Moran selected the TBD as her top choice, followed by a levy lid lift and then an MPD.

She also indicated that she'd be in favor of the cannabis option going on a citizen survey.

Councilmember Fetto specified that the TBD and the MPD were at the top of his list, was not in favor of a levy lid lift and agreed that the cannabis issue should go on a survey.

Councilmember Hays suggested that the cannabis and gambling changes should go on a survey, and ranked the TBD, then the MPD and a levy lid lift as her preferred revenue sources to explore.

Mayor Gerry indicated that the gambling facility located in Richland wasn't obnoxious to look at and it might be worth adding the survey as well. Councilmember Smart asked questions about the survey and was directed that the details of such were not included in the scope of this meeting, and that another workshop will be held on January 31st to discuss the survey. Councilmember Bloom indicated he was against putting the cannabis issue on the survey.

4. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 6:42 p.m.

Brent Gerry, Mayor

Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk