

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
REMOTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021**

1. Call to Order – Mayor Gerry called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call –

Present:

Mayor Brent Gerry

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink

Councilmember Richard Bloom

Councilmember Gail Brown

Councilmember David Fetto

Councilmember Kate Moran

Councilmember John Smart

Police Chief Ben Majetich

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Associate Planner Elisha Ransom

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

City Attorney Bronson Brown

Absent:

Councilmember Rich Buel

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to excuse Councilmember Buel. Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

Mayor Gerry led the council, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda –

Upon motion by Mayor Pro Tem Brink, seconded by Councilor Moran, Council unanimously approved the agenda.

5. Presentations -

a. Chief Majetich introduced Officer Armitage to the City Council. Officer Armitage comes to West Richland as a lateral from the City of Richland.

b. Troy Berglund & Michael Bradshaw from Benton REA presented information on the current energy production climate and also provided information on how the energy created by wind farms is used by the utility.

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

a. Approve Payment of Bills

b. Approve Minutes- Regular Meeting March 2, 2021 & Workshop March 9, 2021

c. RES. 10-21- Declaring 1993 Johnston Street Sweeper as Surplus (to Benton City)

RESOLUTION NO. 10-21- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

d. Motion authorizing Mayor to execute Amendment #2 to Purchase and Sale Agreements with 7HA Family LLC.

e. Motion authorizing Mayor to execute Agricultural Property Lease Agreement with Derek Alexander Farms, Inc.

f. Motion to Award Professional Services Contract for Quad-City Water Right Mitigation Model & Operating Procedures with RH2

g. Motion to award professional services contract for Enterprise Fund's Financial Plan Updates.

h. Motion to Approve CivicPlus Website Contract

i. Motion to Approve Purchase and Sale Agreement – [for Belmont Lot 5 to Hapo Community Credit Union &/or Assigns in the amount of \\$350,000.](#)

Upon motion by Councilmember Bloom and seconded by Councilmember Smart, Council unanimously approved the consent agenda.

7. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS-

a. Public Hearing- Amend Res. 04-21 & Ord. 07-21 – Utility and Access Easement Vacation (EV 2020-17)

Associate Planner Elisha Ransom presented an ordinance and a resolution for public hearing and action to vacate an access and utility easement with corrected legal descriptions from those presented with Resolution 04-21 and Ordinance 07-21. Staff completed all procedural requirements and recommends approval of both the corrected ordinance and the corrected resolution.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:39 p.m.

b. RES. 11-21- Amending Res. 04-21- Utility Easement Vacation (EV 2020-17)

RESOLUTION NO. 11-21- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE 33 FOOT WIDE ACCESS EASEMENTS LOCATED ON SHORT PLAT 1950 LOTS 3 AND 4, PARCEL NUMBERS 1-0898-401-1950-003 AND 1-0898-401-1950-004.

Councilmember Moran moved to approve Resolution 11-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Bloom. City Council unanimously approved Resolution 11-21

c. ORD. 09-21- Amending Ord. 07-21- Access Easement Vacation (EV 2020-17)

ORDINANCE NO. 09-21- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE VACATION OF A PORTION OF THE 33 FOOT WIDE ACCESS EASEMENTS LOCATED ON SHORT PLAT 1950 LOTS 3 AND 4, PARCEL NUMBERS 1-0898-401-1950-003 AND 1-0898-401-1950-004.

Councilmember Moran moved to approve Ordinance 09-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart. City Council unanimously approved Ordinance 09-21.

d. Public Hearing- Amending 2021-2026 CIP

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall presented resolution for public hearing and action to adopt the updated Capital Improvement Plan.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:42 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:43 p.m.

e. RES. 12-21- Amending 2021-2026 CIP

RESOLUTION NO. 12-21- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING THE 2021-2026 SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Resolution 12-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Fetto. City Council approved Resolution 12-21, with Councilmember Smart clarifying that the plan is just budgetary and individual projects still require Council approval.

8. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

9. New Business – There was no new business.

10. Citizen Public Comments- Michael Dawkins presented comments to Clerk Haug to be read into the record. He asked that the Brotherhood neighborhood be taken care of, including adding the yellow bumpy areas to the side roads, not just the main ones. He also requested that a flashing light for crosswalks be installed at 62nd and Gray for the school kids.

11. Announcements, Reports & Comments

a. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Slade reported that the 38th Signal project finally received approval from WSDOT and will go out for advertisement on 3/21, with anticipated bid award to occur on April 20th.

b. Council Reports

Councilmember Bloom provided an update to Council on the status of the transit's COVID vaccine support. They have been working with DOH to facilitate what they can to aid in the accessibility to vaccinations. Clerk Haug will share the information on Facebook.

Councilmember Moran informed Council that the Walla Walla VA is providing COVID vaccinations, no matter what age, at their hospital by making an appointment. The Richland VA is currently providing vaccination appointments to those 65 and older. This information will also be shared to the City social media. She also reported that the CAC has the Second Chance Center, which is a day center for folks experiencing hardship that provides hygiene bags, a place to stay warm and to shower, is working to be up and operating again. They are asking for donations for the hygiene bags at this time.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink thanks REA for the information they provided, and reiterated that our area needs reliable, dependable energy sources, which is why he does not support the proposed wind farm project.

Councilmember Brown also stated that she does not support the project due to how much it will disturb the environment. She also agreed with the citizen that commented that there needs to be a plan for the older neighborhoods.

Mayor Gerry updated Council on the status of vaccines for employees, and that the next tier allows public works employees to become eligible as essential workers per the federal guidelines, but the state didn't currently allow them to be vaccinated. By working with the State, he was able to get them eligible.

Councilmember Smart inquired about installing sidewalks in the older neighborhoods and how that is accomplished.

Public Works Director Slade explained the process and what the West Richland Municipal Code allows. He will report back with more information.

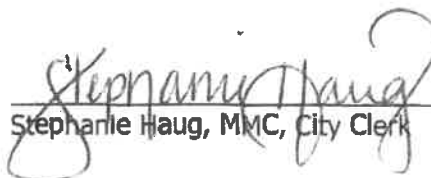
Councilmember Bloom reported that BFT and KI-Be School District are incentivizing vaccinations to their employees with stipends.

12. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

13. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk