

CITY OF WEST RICHLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 2, 2023

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 (6:02 pm)

City Attorney Jessica Foltz

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Police Chief Thomas Grego

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Public Works Admin. Aimee Hunt

Comm. Dev. Planner Elisha Ransom

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

Councilmember Bloom led the council, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Agenda –

Mayor Gerry requested that the file number on item 6d be corrected to VACA-002-2023 and that the executive session be removed from the agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve the agenda as amended. It was seconded by Councilmember Bloom. The Council unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

5. Presentations-

a. **Lori Matson** – *Tri-City Regional Chamber discussed business grant opportunities and previous award information. The council inquired about the requirements of the grant, if the scoring criteria was available and what happens to the data collected by the Chamber. Ms. Matson indicated it will go to Benton County.*

b. **Chief Tom Grego** – *New employee introduction (not on the agenda)*

Chief Grego introduced the new Executive Assistant to Chief, Melissa Hedrick, and administered to the Oath of Office to Zachary Riojas, Entry Level Police Officer, who will be attending the first academy to be held in Pasco.

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

a. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting April 18, 2023

b. **RES. 22-23** -Setting Public Hearing Date to Consider Frontage Improvement Waiver – Lot 4, Section 6 (S. 58th Ave and Everett Street)

RESOLUTION NO. 22-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER A PETITION FOR A ROADWAY FRONTAGE IMPROVEMENT WAIVER PER WRMC 12.04.060

c. **RES. 23-23** –Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Benton Franklin Health District and Cities of Kennewick, Richland, and Pasco for Funding the Operation of the Regional Algal Bloom Laboratory Screening Service

RESOLUTION NO. 23-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT FOR FUNDING THE OPERATION OF A REGIONAL ALGAL BLOOM LABORATORY SCREENING SERVICE WITH BENTON FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT AND CITIES OF RICHLAND, KENNEWICK, AND PASCO.

d. **RES. 24-23** – Resolution to set the Public Hearing for VACA-002-2023

RESOLUTION NO. 24-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, SETTING THE

PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER UTILITY EASEMENT VACATIONS ON WESTERN RIDGE PHASE 2, LOT 35, PARCEL NUMBER 1-0197-303-0000-035.

- e. **RES. 25-23** - Auth. Adoption of a Proclamation Proclaiming May 7-13th as Public Service Recognition Week
RESOLUTION NO. 25-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MAY 7TH THROUGH MAY 13TH, 2023 AS "PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK"

- f. Motion to authorize Amendment #1 to 2023 On-Call Engineering Service Agreement - JUB.
Councilmember Bloom moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the consent agenda.

7. Citizen Public Comments -

Richard Bloom – Everett Street. At the City Council meeting on 4/18/23 Mr. Slade denied the petition to redesignate fire access from city street. Staff rejected this petition. Mr. Bloom commented that he spoke to Mr. Slade and rationality is flawed and Mr. Bloom offered his rationality. Mr. Bloom recommended Staff and Council look closely at the situation.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions and Public Hearings

- a. **Closed Record Hearing** - PLAT-003-2023 Caden Estates—Preliminary Plat. Attorney Jessica Foltz read the Appearance and Fairness Doctrine. All Closed Record questions were answered "no" by the City Council members, the Mayor and there were no members of the public that objected.

- b. **Motion to approve** - PLAT-003-2023 Caden Estates—Preliminary Plat

Planner Elisha Ransom presented a staff report for the Closed Hearing Record to consider File No. PLAT-003-2023 Caden Estates Preliminary Plat.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve PLAT-003-2023 Caden Estates—Preliminary Plat. Councilmember Ken Stoker seconded the motion. After discussing the access points zoned (RM6) and voicing concerns for the current residents during construction, Mayor Pro Tem Brink called for the question. Councilmember Bloom seconded the call. Council approved to call for the question, with Councilmember Stoker and Councilmember Smart voting nay.

Council voted to approve PLAT-003-2023, with Councilmember Bloom voting nay.

- c. **ORD. 06-23** - Text Amendment Public School Support Facilities for TXT-0001-2023
Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall provided a staff report outlining the Conditional Usage Permit.

ORDINANCE NO. 06-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO (1) AMEND SECTION 17.13.030, TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR PUBLIC AGRICULTURE SCHOOL FACILITIES; AND (2) AMENDING SECTION 17.13.030 COMMERCIAL LAND USE MATRIX, ALLOWING PUBLIC AGRICULTURE SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE COMMERCIAL GENERAL AS A CONDITIONAL USE.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve Ordinance 06-23. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. After a discussion on location and types of agriculture for this location, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 06-23.

- d. **ORD. 07-23** - Text Amendment Secondary Signage for Public Facilities for TXT-0002-2023
Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall provided a staff report requesting secondary signs on public facilities that would allow better visibility with building identification signage.

ORDINANCE NO. 07-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO (1) AMEND SECTION 19.04.020, TO ADD AN EXEMPTION FOR PUBLIC FACILITY SECONDARY SIGNAGE.

Councilmember Moran moved to approve Ord. 07-23. Mayor Pro Tem Brink seconded the motion. After a brief discussion of the type of signage, Council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 07-23.

e. ORD. 08-23 - Text Amendment definition for Fire Stations for TXT-0003-2023

Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall provided a staff report to add a definition for a fire station.

ORDINANCE NO. 08-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO (1) AMEND SECTION 17.09.070 F DEFINITIONS, TO ADD A DEFINITION FOR FIRE STATION.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ord. 08-23. Councilmember Moran seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Ord. 08-23.

f. ORD. 09-23 – Budget Amendment #2

Finance Director Erin Gwinn provided a staff report for the support of amending the City of West Richland 2023/2024 Biennial Budget.

ORDINANCE NO. 09-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve Ord. 09-23. Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to approve Ord. 09-23.

g. Motion to award SR 224 Water and Sewer Improvement Project

Director of Public Works Roscoe Slade provided a staff report to award the SR 224/Van Giesen Improvement Project Phase 2 (Waster-Sewer).

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve the motion to award SR 224 Water and Sewer Improvement Project. Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. Council voted unanimously to award the SR 224 Water and Sewer Improvement Project.

9. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business – There was no new business.

11. Citizen Public Comments – There were no comments.

12. Announcements, Reports & Comments

Staff Reports - *There were no comments.*

Council Reports

Councilmember Fetto expressed a job well done to Chief Grego on the milestone of achieving a full staffed department in 6 months.

Councilmember Moran attended the BFCOG meeting on 4/21/23. TAC changes were discussed and went with not weighted. BFCOG clarification that meeting will be recorded again. Tri-Cities Mobility meeting on 4/28/23. Will contact for a walk audit. Leone Libby Middle School will be hosting the regional event the Cane Quest on 10/6/23 for the vision impaired. Last Saturday Marissa from the West Richland Police department at an adoption event Jenny's Hope. Thankful to how our city handles animals.

Councilmember Bloom spent two days two weeks ago in Yakima with the HAB. The YFWRB retreat will discuss what the future board will do and outreach to its partners.

Councilmember Smart thanked Councilmember Bloom for filling in for him at the HAB meeting. He asked Mayor Brent Gerry to tell everyone about the art that was hanging on the wall behind the council members. Mayor Brent Gerry announced that the painting of George Washington was donated by Luis Ojeda.

Councilmember Hayes expressed her concern regarding the behavior of a resident towards city staff at the

City Council meeting on 4/21/23, and that she appreciates our staff. Mayor Brent Gerry replied that freedom of speech takes place. Staff also experiences concerning behavior on a day-to-day interaction with residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink attended AWC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion roundtable (virtual) on 4/21/23. Sixty fellow board members. June 20-23, 2023, AWC Annual Conference in Spokane.

Mayor Brent Gerry – Townhall at Leona Libby Middle School, 16th District representatives. 5:30-7:00 pm. Land use making headway, will work out deescalate. Kuddos to staff.

13. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

14. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 7:52 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk