

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
REMOTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

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 Gail Brown

Councilmember Rich Buel

Councilmember David Fetto

Councilmember Kate Moran

Councilmember John Smart

Police Chief Ben Majetich

Police Captain Thomas Grego

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

City Attorney Bronson Brown

3. Pledge of Allegiance –

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

4. Approval of Agenda –

Mayor Gerry announced that Councilmember Bloom has requested to remove item 6b from the consent agenda to item 7b.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink requested to add a discussion on changing the form of government as item 9d in the new business section.

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

5. Presentations -

a. Lourdes Hospital, LLC- MHP Ride-Alongs

Police Captain Grego introduced Cameron Fordmeir and Deanna Petrilli, who presented information to the City Council on the Mobile Outreach Team Ride-Along Program. The City Council asked several questions about the program, and Chief Majetich added information about current detention practices.

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

a. Approve Minutes- Regular Meeting April 20, 2021

b. *(Moved to item 7b)*

c. Motion to amend On-Call Engineering Services Agreement with JUB

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

7. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions And Public Hearings-

a. RES. 15- 21 – Official naming of the new Police Facility Community Room

Police Chief Ben Majetich presented a resolution to set the official name of the new Police Facility Community Room.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-21 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, OFFICIALLY NAMING THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF THE NEW POLICE FACILITY.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve Resolution 15-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Council unanimously approved Resolution 15-21.

b. ORD. 15-21 – Repealing Ordinance 14-21 and Adopting Corrected Land Use Matrix

Community Development Director Eric Mendenhall presented an ordinance repealing Ordinance 14-21 and adopting a corrected land use matrix. Councilmember Bloom requested for this item to be removed from the consent agenda because he was concerned about drive-thrus in neighborhood commercial and that the Council had promised residents it wouldn't change. Council held a discussion regarding Councilmember Bloom's concerns.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-21- AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, REPEALING ORDINANCE 14-21 AND AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE, WHICH CONSOLIDATES ALL LAND USES INTO A LAND USE MATRICES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance 15-21, amended to restrict restaurants with drive-thru windows in the Neighborhood Commercial zone. It was seconded by Councilmember Brown. Ordinance 15-21, as amended, was unanimously approved by Council.

8. Unfinished Business –

a. Update to Water Aesthetics Issue

Public Works Director Slade presented an update to the Council on the water aesthetics issue that was discussed at the last Council meeting.

9. New Business –

a. Regional Pathway Speed Regulations

Mayor Gerry presented information to Council on developing a regional pathway speed limit. With pathways becoming busier and busier, it may become necessary to develop one in the near future. He will continue conversations with the other cities and will report back.

b. Lime/Bird- Regional Scooter Pilot Program

Mayor Gerry presented information to Council on a regional proposal to bring Lime/Bird Electric Scooters to the area. Council concurred that they are open to listening to a potential proposal.

c. Amending Public Comment Period on Council Agendas

Mayor Gerry presented a proposal to Council to add an additional citizen comment period to the Council agendas to address the concerns expressed at the last Council meeting, which include sitting through a three hour Council meeting until the opportunity to speak occurs. The proposed period would have a three minute time limit and would be limited to items not on the agenda. Council concurred with the Mayor's proposal and formal action will be brought back on the next consent agenda.

d. Form of Government

Mayor Pro Tem Brink proposed that the Council look into the benefits and negatives of changing the City's form of government and to hold these discussions in concert with the 2023/2024 budget adoption process. Council held a discussion and the consensus was in agreement with Mayor Pro Tem Brink's proposal.

10. Citizen Public Comments-

Carl Baker- Spoke in favor of changing the public comment portion of the agenda, and also in favor of the consideration of the change of government.

11. Announcements, Reports & Comments

a. Staff Reports –

Public Works Director Slade announced that it is Washington State Department of Health Drinking Water Week and that the City learned that Fred Pardini, a longtime West Richland employee who retired in March after 30 years of service, had earned a lifetime achievement award with DOH. He also reported that the Purchase and Sale Agreements with 7HA is set to close on 5/5/21.

b. Council Reports

Councilmember Bloom commented on the bogus email he had received as well as the training email, which he'd appreciate a heads up on. He had attended a BC Mosquito Control and learned the County made an error in the property assessments, which effects 10% of the district's budget. It effected several properties, including the City's properties. It made him wonder if the City's tax assessments were correct, and the City may want to review them.

Councilmember Fetto reported on the recent Police Subcommittee tour of the new facility. He indicated that it is really coming along quickly and it looks great.

Councilmember Moran has been reading about Neighborhood Plans and wonders if the City could implement them to try them out. She also reported about HB1923 and the funds that may be available to the City. She suggested the City look into hiring an economic consultant, and finally asked for clarification on when the change of government discussion might actually be held from the prior discussion. (Finance Director Gwinn explained that the next budget cycle discussion would start approximately 8 months from now, and Mayor Pro Tem Brink concurred that syncing those together is his recommendation.)

Mayor Gerry reminded Council that the City currently has an adopted budget, which sets the work plans for the budget years. He has heard a number of Council requests for other things that Council wants to get done in the 5 months since the budget has been adopted. He reminded Council that when we have a budget cycle and adopt the SFAs is when these types of ideas/projects should be presented so they can be incorporated into the budget and the work plans and that if Council wants to deviate from the current budget and work plans, then they will need to direct as to what is not going to get done.

Councilmember Bloom stated that elections are coming up. He suggested that a meeting is planned in December to incorporate current and potential new members for a retreat to discuss the change of government issue.

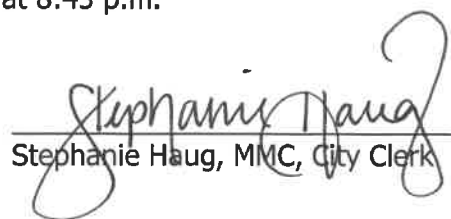
Councilmember Brown reminded Council that the current budget has been amended by approximately \$1.5 million dollars in these first four months, and there's always budget changes.

12. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

13. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk