

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
REMOTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021**

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Gerry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** –

Present:

Mayor Brent Gerry	Police Chief Ben Majetich
Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink	Finance Director Erin Gwinn
Councilmember Richard Bloom	Public Works Director Roscoe Slade
Councilmember Gail Brown	Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall
Councilmember Rich Buel	HR Manager Selena Smathers
Councilmember David Fetto	City Clerk Stephanie Haug
Councilmember Kate Moran	City Attorney Bronson Brown
Councilmember John Smart	

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** –
Mayor Gerry led the council, staff, and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Approval of Agenda** –
Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Council unanimously approved the agenda.
5. **Presentations** – There were no presentations.
6. **Consent Agenda** – Mayor Gerry read the consent agenda titles for consideration.
 - a. Approve Minutes- Regular Meeting May 18, 2021
 - b. **RES 20-21**- Authorizing Mayor to execute agreement with Alexander for Paradise Way Phase 4
RESOLUTION NO. 20-21- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF A PORTION OF PARADISE WAY STREET FRONTAGE WITH 7HA VENTURES LLC AND DEREK V. ALEXANDER.
 - c. **RES 21-21**- Authorizing Adoption of a Proclamation Proclaiming June 19th, 2021 as Juneteenth Day
RESOLUTION NO. 21-21 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING JUNE 19, 2021 AS JUNETEENTH DAY
 - d. **RES 22-21**- Authorizing Mayor to execute Disbursement Agreement for use of Rural County Capital Funds with Benton County
RESOLUTION NO. 22-21 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT FOR USE OF RURAL COUNTY CAPITAL FUNDS BETWEEN THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND AND BENTON COUNTY REGARDING SR 224 WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.
 - e. **RES 23-21**- Amending the 2021/2022 Salary Schedule
RESOLUTION NO. 23-21- A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR THE 2021-2022 BIENNIUM RES. 75-20
 - f. Motion to Approve – Intergovernmental Agreement- COVID-19 Response Messaging

- g. Motion to Approve Third Restated Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Benton/Franklin County Agencies for Police Information Network (BIPIN)

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

- 7. **Citizen Public Comments-** There were no Citizen Comments.

- 8. **Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions And Public Hearings-**

- a. **Public Hearing – SAO Cyber Security Audit (no action)**

Michael Hjermstad, Leah Glazener and Scott Frank of the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) presented the results of the City’s Cyber Security Audit that was conducted by SAO.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:13 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:13 p.m.

- b. **Public Hearing –2022-2027 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (no action)**

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade presented a staff report on the proposed updates to the 2022-20227 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Updates include: the addition of Keene Road Pathway Phase 5 and Collins Road Pavement Preservation Project; the modification of the SR 224/Red Mountain Project to combine multiple intersections into a single project, dividing the Keene Road Widening Project into two phases, and changing the Pavement Preservation Program; shortening the S 38th Phase 2 project and the Paradise Way Phase 6 project; and removing the SR 224/S 38th Signal, Paradise Way Phase 4, Keene Road Phase 6B, Belmont Boulevard Phases 2 & 3 projects and crack seal/slurry seal from the Pavement Preservation Program.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:18 p.m.

Councilmember Smart inquired about the Fallon Drive Project, and the inclusion of a pathway. Councilmember Brown voiced her concern over the ledge needed to include a pathway.

- c. **Motion to Approve Long Term Care Insurance Group Policy**

Human Resources Manager Selena Smathers presented a presentation on the proposed Long Term Care Insurance Group Policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to authorize the Mayor to take all necessary steps to offer LifeSecure’s Group Long Term Care Insurance policy to all current W2 City employees who work 500+ hours cumulatively at any employer and to authorize the City contributing \$25 towards each policy, every month as long as they policy is in effect and the employee works at the City of West Richland, until such time as LifeSecure no longer requires the City’s contribution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Moran.

The Council asked several questions about the Washington State Long Term Care Tax, and eligibility for the new group policy.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to amend his original motion to strike the words "who work 500+ hours cumulatively at any employer." Councilmember Moran seconded the amendment.

City Council unanimously approved the amendment, and then unanimously approved the motion as amended.

d. Motion to Authorize Mayor to Execute Contract with Axon Enterprise (vehicle & bodycams)

Police Chief Majetich presented a staff report on the Axon system for vehicle & body cams, plus Tasers. New state laws on "police reform" efforts are requiring the West Richland Police Department to purchase and implement body and vehicle cameras to comply with legislative mandates and protect from potential liabilities. He recommended that the City purchase the package denoted in the Axon proposals for body and vehicle cameras, cloud storage, hardware, software, installation, Taser equipment and training to comply with state laws and potential liabilities.

Councilmember Moran moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the Master Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon Enterprises should council approve the subsequent budget amendment. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart.

Council asked about the number of Tasers to be purchased, about a regional approach to meeting the new legislative requirements. They also inquired about retention of the records, as well as how much time it will take and the skills needed to produce the records. Mayor Pro Tem Brink inquired about what other vendors were reviewed. Councilmember Smart asked about how they are activated.

Council unanimously approved the motion.

e. ORD. 17-21- Amending the 2021/2022 Biennial Budget

Finance Director Gwinn experienced technical difficulties during this portion of the meeting, so City Clerk Haug read the staff report prepared for this ordinance.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-21 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance 17-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart.

Councilmember Moran asked about the emergency nature of the items included in the amendment. Councilman Bloom asked about replacement of snow equipment and how it is determined. Councilmember Brown indicated it is important to pay attention to items during the legislative session and also inquired if public works keeps an inventory of their equipment. Councilman Smart provided a background on the items and indicated that none of the proposed amendments are new to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Brink agreed with Councilmember Smart.

Council unanimously approved Ordinance 17-21.

- 9. Unfinished Business** – There was no Unfinished Business.
- 10. New Business** – There was no New Business.
- 11. Citizen Public Comments**- There were no Citizen Comments.
- 12. Announcements, Reports & Comments**

a. Staff Reports – There were no Staff Reports.

b. Council Reports

Councilmember Bloom reported that he will be attending the joint meeting with the Franklin County Commissioners in support of Ben Franklin Transit regarding their intent to reduce the BFT sales tax to fund a new mental health facility. He reported that this proposal will result in a 20% cut in the transit's ability to provide services.

Councilmember Moran attended the Benton Franklin Economic Development District meeting, as

well as the BFCOG meeting. She mentioned that she hopes that the City will continue to work towards holding hybrid meetings, and again thanked Eric for mentioning the sign regulations for political signs at the previous meeting.

Councilmember Brown attended a webinar on code enforcement that included information on vacant properties. She stated that the training provided a toolbox that we might be able to use here in West Richland.

Councilmember Smart asked for more technical control in the meetings to allow himself to mute and unmute himself. He spoke about the need for park improvements and getting the park plan going. He mentioned he'd like to see the trail on Fallon Drive happen and he'd like to provide input on the project. He also suggested that the Council starts taking turns reciting the pledge during the Council meetings.

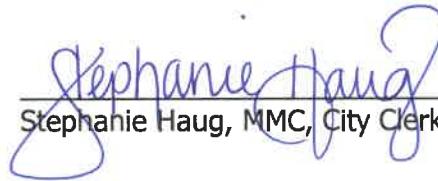
Councilmember Moran inquired about animal control for cats. Mayor Gerry explained that the animal control facility does not accept cats.

13. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

14. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 8:19p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk