

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022**

1. Call to Order – Mayor Gerry called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call –

Present:

Mayor Brent Gerry

Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink (virtual)

Councilmember Richard Bloom

Councilmember David Fetto

Councilmember May Hays

Councilmember Kate Moran

Councilmember John Smart

Councilmember Ken Stoker

Police Chief Thomas Grego

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

HR Manager Selena Smathers

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

3. Old Business

a. Strategic Focus Area Summary

Finance Director Erin Gwinn provided a summary of the Strategic Focus Areas that Council reviewed at the May 10th Retreat, as well as the strategies added by staff. Council held a brief discussion regarding some grammatical corrections.

b. Parking Lot Review

Council held a discussion on the proposal to change the form of government, which has been placed in the “parking lot” to be discussed during the budget process. Mayor Gerry asked each Councilmember to provide their thoughts and opinions on the matter.

Councilmember Stoker doesn’t think this is the right time to consider the proposal to change the form of government.

Councilmember Smart was previously interested in looking into the change of government, but feels the strong mayor form allows for better citizen input.

Councilmember Bloom agreed with Councilmember Smart, adding that the Citizens have a direct way to fix a bad Mayor, and that’s be not re-electing them.

Councilmember Fetto agreed with the previous three councilmembers, and stated that there is a lot of cost with no benefit.

Councilmember Moran spoke in favor of moving forward with a study on the costs and processes necessary for the change in the form of government. She stated that a city manager could be replaced, our city is no longer a small city, and a city manager has experience to lead a city. Doing the study would be forward thinking and an investment in the City’s future.

Councilmember Hays stated that she doesn’t see the benefit and that there are other useful uses for the money. She suggested it be used to hire more staff instead.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink mentioned he recently attended the AWC Conference and interacted with many people from both forms of government, learning a lot about both types. There are pluses and minuses to both forms. He is content with the current form, there has been zero citizen concern, and he doesn’t believe now is the right time to explore the options.

Councilmember Moran inquired if citizens could sign a petition to change the form, to which Mayor Gerry replied yes.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink reminded Council that even if the City does not fund the study, there is a cost to the City to place it on the ballot.

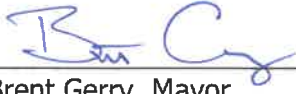
4. New Business –

a. Parks Plan Status Report

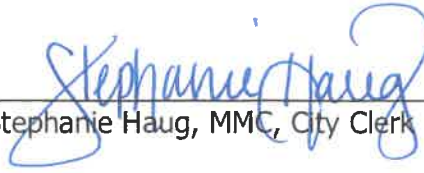
Community Development Director Mendenhall provided Council with an update to the Parks Plan, including what has happened to date, and what they can expect moving forward. Council held a brief

discussion on the level of service for parks and how they are funded.

5. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 4:34 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk