

CITY OF WEST RICHLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 5, 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 Tern Fred Brink

Councilmember Richard Bloom

Councilmember David Fetto

Councilmember May Hays

Councilmember Kate Moran

Councilmember John Smart

City Attorney Jessica Foltz

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall (virtual)

Police Chief Thomas Grego

Police Commander Jared Kelly

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

Comm. Dev. Planner Elisha Ransom

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Absent:

Councilmember Ken Stoker

Councilmember Smart moved to excuse Councilmember Stoker. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Council unanimously approved excusing Councilmember Stoker.

3. Pledge of Allegiance -

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

4. Approval of Agenda -

Mayor Pro Tern Brink moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. The City Council unanimously approved the agenda.

5. Presentations-

- a. 2nd Quarter Financial Report – Finance Director Gwinn**– Finance Director Gwinn presented a presentation to the City Council on the financial status of the City as of the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2023.

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

a. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting August 15, 2023

b. RES 55-23 - Authorizing the Mayor to execute ILA with Benton County regarding Solid Waste Management

RESOLUTION 55-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT REGARDING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT WITH BENTON COUNTY.

c. RES 56-23 - Authorizing the Mayor to sign a Security & Improvement Agreement

RESOLUTION 56-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AND EXECUTE A SECURITY AND IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT.

d. Motion Approving Final Plat of Heights at Red Mountain Ranch Phase 5

e. Motion to authorize submission of Ecology Stormwater Capacity Grant

f. Motion auth. Mayor to execute Amendment #1 to the WSDOT Participating Agreement for SR224/Red Mtn. Transportation Project

g. Motion to approve Benton Co./Tri-Cities Regional Special Weapons and Tactics Interlocal Agreement

h. Motion to approve WSCJTC and West Richland Interagency Agreement

i. ORD 17-23 – Amending WRMC 17.13.020 to allow event centers in the RL-40 zone as a conditional use.

ORDINANCE 17-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO AMEND SECTION 17.13.020, THE RESIDENTIAL LAND USE MATRIX TO ALLOW COMMERCIAL EVENT CENTERS AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN THE RL-40 ZONE AND SECTIONS 17.09.060 AND 17.24.060 TO CREATE A DEFINITION AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR EVENT CENTERS.

j. ORD 19-23 - Amending ORD. 37-13, Cascade Natural Gas Franchise Agreement

ORDINANCE 19-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON AMENDING THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT EXTENSION AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE 37-13 BETWEEN THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND AND CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION.

k. RES 57-23 – Auth. the Mayor to execute the WA RCO Authorization Form for deferred maintenance grant application.

RESOLUTION 57-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE APPLICANT RESOLUTION/AUTHORIZATION FORM REGARDING DEFERRED MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION.

Peggy Panisko – Spoke in opposition of the Council’s process to adopt Ordinance 17-23 and allowing Conditional Use Permits

Dwayne Juhnke – Questioned where the event center will be placed.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Brink seconded the motion. Council approved the consent agenda, with Councilmember Moran voting nay.

7. Citizen Public Comments-

Peggy Panisko – Requested that the City Council listen to the tape of the Planning Commission regarding the pot store and to listen to the people.

Dan Ritchie – agreed with Ms. Panisko and announced that there will be a gold tournament to raise money for Bikes for Tikes on Saturday, September 16th and challenged everyone to attend. The Bikes for Tikes build day will be on December 1st.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions, and Public Hearings- There were no Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions, and Public Hearings.

9. Unfinished Business - There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business - There was no new business.

11. Citizen Public Comments –

Dwayne Juhnke – Spoke of his concern over the RL40 zone and the issues the city went through with the dog kennel, and his concern with the growing homelessness issue.

12. Announcements, Reports & Comments

Staff Reports

Chief Thomas Grego reported that the Police Department will begin interviews for the part-time code enforcement officer on the following Monday and they are hoping the position will start in October. Officer Riojas will be graduating from the local academy on Thursday, September 14th, and he reported that the Public Safety Sales Tax currently funds 54 officers, 4 deputy prosecutors, and 1 judge for the region.

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade provided an update to the Bombing Range Road/Keene Road Intersection Modification Project, stating that there will be delays on Wednesday, September 6th and one day in September, the intersection will close for a day. The project is in the final stages and is currently on time and budget.

Council Reports

Councilmember Moran voiced her concern over the consent agenda and indicated that she had missed the item in her review, which is why she voted against it. She didn’t feel like

that item should have been on the consent agenda. She also reported that BFCOG approved a TIP amendment, and that more money was now available for projects.

Councilmember Bloom addressed his thoughts on the passing of Ordinance 17-23 via the consent agenda, stating that the items that were brought up at the last meeting were addressed in the revised ordinance. He also stated his concern with the lack of public comment proposed for the next Planning Commission meeting.

Councilmember Hays reported on the recent Hanford Site Tour she attended with Mayor Pro Tem Brink and Councilmember Bloom. She was happy for the opportunity to visit something so important to our community, encouraged the City Staff to attend a future tour, and reported that the B Reactor tours would be closed to the public for two years due to renovations, so interested individuals should try to go before November.

Mayor Gerry spoke of the importance of clean energy and the significant accomplishments that have been made at Hanford in the cleanup effort of the Manhattan Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink also attended the tour and appreciated the importance of Hanford to the community. He reported that he is serving the AWC Legislative Priorities Board and asked for suggestions for any priorities that should be evaluated by the board.

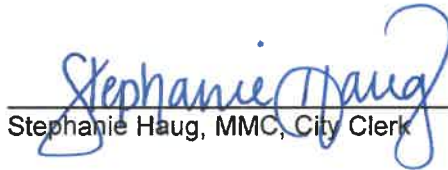
Chief Grego made a final announcement that he will be leaving to attend the FBI Academy later in September and will be back in December. Commander Kelly will be acting Chief while he is away.

13. Executive Session - There was no executive session.

14. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 6:53 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk