

CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 19, 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 (6:05pm)

Councilmember David Fetto

Councilmember May Hays

Councilmember Kate Moran

Councilmember John Smart

Councilmember Ken Stoker

City Attorney Jessica Foltz

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

Police Chief Thomas Grego

Police Commander Jared Kelly

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

Comm. Dev. Planner Elisha Ransom

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to excuse Councilmember Bloom. It was seconded by Councilmember Moran. Council unanimously approved excusing Councilmember Bloom.

3. Pledge of Allegiance -

Mayor Pro Tem Brink 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 Smart. The City Council unanimously approved the agenda.

5. Presentations-

a. Ed's Disposal – Recycling – Rebecca Francik of Basin Disposal provided the Council with information on the current garbage and recycling markets and the cost to provide those services to the city.

b. Proclamation – September – Attendance Awareness Month – Mayor Gerry read a proclamation proclaiming September as Attendance Awareness Month.

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

a. Payment of Bills

b. Approve Minutes - Regular Meeting September 5, 2023

c. RES 58-23 - Setting Public Hearing date to consider a petition for a frontage improvement waiver for Van Giesen (SR 224) and N. 58th Place – 5811 Van Giesen.

RESOLUTION NO. 58-23

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

d. RES 59-23 - Resolution to set the public hearing for VACA-002-2023 Inspired Home Design LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 59-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER A UTILITY EASEMENT VACATION ON WESTERN RIDGE PHASE 2, LOT 35, PARCEL NUMBER 1-0197-303-0000-035.

e. RES 60-23 - Resolution to set the public hearing for VACA-003-2023 Neuman

RESOLUTION NO. 60-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, SETTING THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER UTILITY EASEMENT VACATION ON WILLAMETTE HEIGHTS SECTION LOT 156, PARCEL NUMBER 1-0698-402-0156-000.

- f. ORD 20-23** - Amending WRMC 17.13.030 to allow Public Agriculture Facilities as a Conditional Use in the Commercial Limited zone and remove it from the Commercial General zone.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-23

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE WEST RICHLAND MUNICIPAL CODE TO (1) AMENDING SECTION 17.13.030 COMMERCIAL LAND USE MATRIX, REMOVING PUBLIC AGRICULTURE SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE COMMERCIAL GENERAL AND ALLOWING IT IN THE COMMERCIAL LIMITED AS A CONDITIONAL USE.

Councilmember Moran moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Bloom seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the consent agenda.

7. Citizen Public Comments-

Dan Evans – President of the Greater Richland Little League – Said thank you to the city for their work in getting the safety foul ball netting up, especially to Jeremy Gwinn, who was flexible in working with the volunteers’ schedules to get the project done. He indicated how much they value the partnership and are looking forward to hosting the 11-year-old state tournament next year.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions, and Public Hearings-

a. ORD 21-23- Amending 2023-2024 Biennial Budget

Finance Director Gwinn presented a staff report on the proposed budget amendment to reflect changes in the spending plans of the city. This amendment authorizes an increase in the 2023/2024 appropriations in the amount of \$414,000 and recognizes an increase in total resources in the amount of \$60,000 bringing the revised budget to a total of \$138,585,513.

ORDINANCE NO. 21-23

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

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Ordinance No. 21-23, amending the 2023/2024 budget. Councilmember Smart seconded the motion. Council unanimously approved the motion.

- 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

Staff Reports

Chief Thomas Grego reminded Council that he will be leaving for the FBI academy this month and that Commander Kelly will be acting Chief in his absence, that Officer Riojas graduated from the first local academy on September 14th, and that on October 31st, the police department will host a haunted house with age-appropriate areas.

Council Reports

Councilmember Moran attended the BFCOG meeting on September 15th. She reported that they approved a TIP amendment and there will be an open house for the TIP draft online on Wednesday, September 20th from 3-5pm, that there are surveys currently open to provide feedback on Safe Routes to School and congestion, and that the BFCOG budget is finally in the black with the city seeing a small increase in its yearly contribution. There was also discussion on the Carbon Reduction Guidebook. The next meeting will be October 20th.

Councilmember Fetto announced that the Veterans Day Parade will be Saturday, November 11th, and the Chamber will be reaching out for a list of Councilmembers who would like to participate and thanked the Greater Richland Little League for their work putting up the foul nets at the baseball fields.

Councilmember Hays announced that the Punkin Chunkin’ event planned for November is being put on hold for another year to allow more teams to build launchers and train for the

event. She also commented that she is looking forward to the haunted house at the police department on 10/31.

Councilmember Bloom stated that the city is benefiting from its relationship with Basin Disposal and warned of what can happen when you mix green waste and snow. It's fire.

Councilmember Stoker thanked the GRLL for the foul nets and stated it is nice to be protected while watching the games. He also wished everyone a belated Constitution Day, which was Sunday, September 17th.

Councilmember Smart stated he was thankful to be living in a Constitutional Republic, and that he was thankful to live in West Richland after his experience visiting the western part of the state last week. He thanked the Chief & the police department for keeping West Richland safe and hopes to keep it drug-free.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink stated that he is also thankful to live in West Richland. He will be attending the AWC Board retreat for the next few days and they will be working on the legislative priorities, which include #1 – public safety & officer retention, #2 – infrastructure investment, including operations & maintenance, and #3 – addressing behavioral health & drug usage. On December 9th, West Richland will hold the Elected Officials training at the police station and is the only city in the area selected to host the event. He also congratulated Councilwoman Moran, who recently earned her CML and is only the third in West Richland to receive the designation.

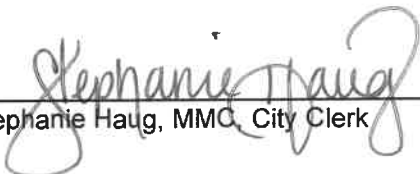
**13. Executive Session –
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110-1c –**

City Council entered an executive session at 6:58 p.m. to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price for 15 minutes. The executive session was extended by 5 minutes and concluded at 7:18 p.m.

14. Meeting Conclusion- The meeting concluded at 7:18 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk