

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND
REMOTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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

Finance Director Erin Gwinn

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade

Community Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall

City Clerk Stephanie Haug

HR Manager Selena Smathers

City Attorney Bronson Brown

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** –

Councilperson Moran 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-**

Alicia Seegers Martinelli and Tonia Sugarman from AWC presented Councilmember Brown with her Advanced Certificate of Municipal Leadership.

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

a. Approve Payment of Bills

b. Approve Minutes - Regular & Workshop Meetings on October 5, 2021

c. **RES. 47-21** - Declaring Misc. Public Works Vehicles and Equipment as Surplus

RESOLUTION NO. 47-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO SURPLUS PROPERTY.

d. **RES. 48-21** - Amending a frontage improvement waiver – Cedar Ridge Development

RESOLUTION NO. 48- 21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE FRONTAGE IMPROVEMENT WAIVER FOR FRONTAGE IMPROVEMENTS TO VAN GIESEN (SR 224) PER WRMC 12.04.060 FOR SHORT PLAT APPLICATION 2018-12 AND ASSOCIATED PENDING BUILDING PERMITS AND REPEALING RESOLUTION 12-19.

e. **RES. 51-21** - Authorizing Mayor to execute Agreement for use of CERB Funds for Cooperative Way

RESOLUTION NO. 51-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT FOR USE OF COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD (CERB) FUNDS BETWEEN THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND AND WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE REGARDING COOPERATIVE WAY IMPROVEMENTS.

Upon motion by Councilmember Moran and a second by Councilmember Buel, Council unanimously approved the consent agenda.

7. **Citizen Public Comments** -

a. **May Hays-** Ms. Hays invited the Council and public to attend the annual Veterans Day Parade, to be held on Saturday, November 6th at 9:30am, as well as the chili feed to follow at Flat Top Park. She also announced that the parade is one of three in the state of Washington designated as a

regional site by the Veterans Affairs.

8. Ordinances, Resolutions, Motions And Public Hearings-

a. Public Hearing - Frontage Improvement Waiver – Lot #5, ROS #5496

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade presented a staff report for the proposed Frontage Improvement Waiver, including curb, gutters ADA handicap ramps and sidewalks along the parcel's Keene Road frontage shall not be required, widening of Keene Road from its preexisting edge to the new curb line shall only be required to accommodate a center-left turn lane along the frontage of Lot #5, ROS #5496 and associated pavement tapers, installation of LED street lights shall only be required at the two new intersection of Keene Road and Cooperative Way & Keene Road and secondary access to Lot #5, milling and asphalt pavement overlayment of Keene Road to the centerline shall not be required.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Mike Bradshaw, Benton REA spoke in favor of the waiver. He also stated his appreciation for the working relationship between REA and the City and that they are looking forward to being the Police Departments neighbor.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:23 p.m.

b. RES. 49-21 - Frontage Improvement Waiver – Lot #5, ROS #5496

RESOLUTION NO. 49- 21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, GRANTING A FRONTAGE IMPROVEMENT WAIVER FOR FRONTAGE IMPROVEMENTS TO KEENE ROAD PER WRMC 12.04.060 FOR BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION'S CERB COOPERATIVE WAY PROJECT.

Councilmember Bloom moved to approve Resolution 49-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Fetto. Council held a brief discussion, and then unanimously approved Resolution 49-21.

c. Public Hearing - Amendment #2 to Benton REA's Franchise Agreement, ORD. 09-15.

Public Works Director Roscoe Slade presented a staff report for the amendment to the current Benton REA Franchise Agreement. Amendments include: Section 2.1- Amends term of Franchise from 25 years (currently 18.5 years remaining on existing Franchise) to 30 years; Section 4.2 - Amends the notice period from 15 year to 10 years, if the City elects to get into the electrical utility business. Given BREAs planned investment into a new Headquarters Facility in West Richland, language was added to this section that the City would not provide said 10 year notice before January 1, 2047; Section 21- Section 21.21 language was added so that if circumstances change in the future, both the City and BREAs agree to engage in good faith negotiations to agree on amendment(s) to the Franchise to address changed circumstances; and Section 25.2- Amends Effective Date of Franchise from April 1, 2015 to January 1, 2022. The proposed Amendment #2 to Benton REAs Franchise Agreement has been reviewed by Benton REAs attorney and representatives. The City Attorney, Bronson Brown, has also reviewed the proposed amendment.

Mayor Brent Gerry opened the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

There were no comments.

Mayor Brent Gerry closed the hearing at 6:32 p.m.

d. ORD. 27-21 - Amendment #2 to Benton REA's Franchise Agreement, ORD. 09-15.

ORDINANCE NO. 27-21

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING SECTION 2.1, 4.2, 21 and 25.2 OF ORDINANCE 09-15, BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION'S FRANCHISE TO SET, ERECT, CONSTRUCT, SUPPORT, ATTACH, CONNECT OPERATE, MAINTAIN, REMOVE, REPLACE, REPAIR AND USE FACILITIES, INCLUDING COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, IN, UPON,

UNDER, ALONG, AND ACROSS THE FRANCHISE AREA FOR PURPOSES OF TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY FOR POWER, HEAT, LIGHT AND ANY OTHER PURPOSE FOR WHICH SUCH ENERGY CAN BE USED.

Councilmember Moran moved to approve Ordinance 27-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart. Council held a brief discussion, and then unanimously approved Ordinance 27-21.

e. RES. 50-21- Amending Salary Schedule- OIT

Human Resources Manager Selena Smathers presented a staff report to Council proposing converting the Maintenance Worker 1 position within the Sewer Department to an Operator-in-Training (OIT) position. The 2021-2022 Salary Schedule would need to be amended to accommodate this change.

RESOLUTION NO. 50-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEST RICHLAND, WASHINGTON, AMENDING THE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR THE 2021-2022 BIENNIUM

Mayor Pro Tem Brink moved to approve Resolution 50-21. It was seconded by Councilmember Smart. Council held a brief discussion, and then unanimously approved Resolution 50-21.

9. Unfinished Business – There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business - There was no new business.

11. Citizen Public Comments-

Mike Freepons – Benton REA Board Member- Spoke to the good relationship between REA and the City of West Richland, and indicated he is excited about their new facilities in West Richland.

Troy Berglund – Benton REA- Commented that they enjoy a phenomenal relationship with the City and he speaks highly of the partnership that REA has with the City.

Mayor Gerry thanked REA for their partnership and assistance, including the use of REA’s lobbyist.

Councilmember Bloom reported that Ben Franklin Transit will have improved service to the area due to their new facility to be constructed at Queensgate.

12. Announcements, Reports & Comments

a. Council Reports

Councilmember Brown suggested that the City have a dedicated emergency section on the website so if there is an outage or other important information that citizens can find that information.

Councilmember Moran attended the BF Economic District and the BF Cog meetings. They approved the 2021-2025 CEDS and the 2022-2025 TIP.

Mayor Pro Tem Brink encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election on November 2nd.

b. Staff Reports

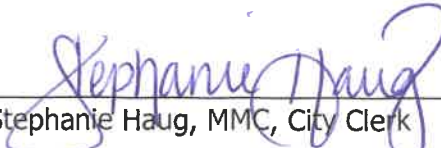
Public Works Director Slade reported that the Paradise 4 connection would be delayed, as the City has issued a grading permit to move dirt what would have gone across the new pavement. It is now scheduled to be paved in April.

13. Executive Session – There was no executive session.

14. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk

