



MINUTES

RICHLAND TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT MEETING
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chamber 505 Swift Boulevard
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 ~ Directly Following the City Council
Meeting

Call to Order:

Mayor Thompson called the Richland Transportation Benefit District meeting to order at 8:57 p.m.

Attendance:

Mayor Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem Christensen, Councilmembers Rose, Lemley, Anderson, Kent and Luzzo Gilmour were present.

Also present were Assistant City Manager Amundson, City Attorney Kintzley, Administrative Services Director Koch, Public Works Director Rogalsky, Community Development Director Jensen, Fire and Emergency Services Director Huntington, Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Police Services Director Skinner, Energy Services Business Manager Edgemon and City Clerk Hopkins.

Staff Presentation:

Mr. Rogalsky explained the purpose of establishing a Richland Transportation Benefit District, how it operates and what it will accomplish.

Public Comments:

Megan Harrison, 329 Rossell Avenue, Richland, WA. She said she was not in favor of the \$20 car tab fee and believes the businesses in the Queensgate area should be taxed to fund the bridge. She also said she posted comments on the City's Facebook and they were removed and she was banned from posting anything further. She was concerned that action limited her free speech rights.

Timothy Sailer, 1217 Cedar, Richland, WA. He suggested that the car tab fee have a limit per family and wanted other options for funding to be explored.

Robert Winter, 1915 Orchard Way, Richland, WA. He suggested to put the car tab fee to the vote of the people.

Phyllis Strickler, 1015 McPherson, Richland, WA. She suggested using a toll on the bridge and supplement by a car tab fee.

Mayor explained that the City does not have the authority, per state law, to implement a toll on the bridge. He explained the options available to the City are limited to fund the Duportail Bridge and street maintenance.

Agenda Items:

1. Ordinance – First Reading
 - a. Ordinance No. 01-17, Transportation Benefit District Funding
- Pete Rogalsky, Public Works Director

MAYOR PRO TEM CHRISTENSEN MOVED AND COUNCILMEMBER KENT SECONDED A MOTION TO GIVE FIRST READING TO ORDINANCE NO. 01-17, TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT FUNDING.

Councilmember Luzzo Gilmour said she would like to have a low-income program implemented to exempt eligible individuals from having to pay for the car tab fee.

Councilmember Kent was not in favor of the car tab fee and would like to look at a low-income program and a limit of car tab fee per individuals. She said she will be voting no on this ordinance.

Councilmember Rose complimented Mr. Rogalsky on the work he has done on the Duportail Bridge over the past ten years. He stated that 40% of the car tab fee would go to the bridge and 60% would go to street maintenance which would maintain the streets per Council policy. He said that even if people do not use the bridge, they do use the streets.

Mayor Pro Tem Christensen said another benefit of the bridge is that it will connect to the downtown area of Richland for revitalization efforts in that area. He also emphasized the need to fund street maintenance through the car tab fee as well.

Mayor Thompson said that \$34 million dollars has been secured from outside sources to fund the bridge and the car tab fee is needed to secure the remaining balance needed to complete the bridge. The street maintenance needs exceed the City's budget capacity and the car tab fee will enable the City to keep the street maintenance at a high standard.

THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1. COUNCILMEMBER KENT OPPOSED.

Adjournment:

Mayor Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcia Hopkins, City Clerk

FORM APPROVED:

Robert J. Thompson
Robert J. Thompson, Mayor

DATE APPROVED:

5/2/17

DATE PUBLISHED:

5/9/17