ORDINANCE NO. 62-18

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Richland repealing Richland Municipal Code Chapter 2.54 related to the Environmental Review Committee.

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2001, Richland City Council passed Ordinance No. 24-01, authorizing creation of the Environmental Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Review Committee was intended to facilitate compliance with RCW 36.70A.172, which requires cities to include best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas; and

WHEREAS, City records indicate that no appointments have ever been made to the Environmental Review Committee; and

WHEREAS, the work intended to be performed by the Environmental Review Committee is properly performed by Richland's Planning Commission, who has responsibility for making recommendations to City Council on text amendments to the Richland Municipal Code, to include the City's Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program; and

WHEREAS, the City has need, from to time, to amend the Richland Municipal Code to bring the code into alignment with current practices and to eliminate conflicts and ambiguities; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with an overall effort to streamline administration of the City's various boards, commissions and committees, the City is undertaking this housekeeping action to repeal the 2001 Environmental Review Committee and reassign its functions to the Planning Commission pursuant to Ordinance No. 54-18.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Richland as follows:

Section 1. RMC Chapter 2.54, entitled Environmental Review Committee, enacted by Ordinance No. 24-01 and last amended by Ordinance No. 31-03, shall be amended to read as follows:

~~**Chapter 2.54**~~
~~**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**~~

~~**Sections:**~~

~~**2.54.010 Purpose.**~~
~~**2.54.020 Membership.**~~
~~**2.54.030 Removal – Vacancies.**~~
~~**2.54.040 Meetings, officers, records, and quorum.**~~

~~2.54.050 Duties.~~
~~2.54.060 Expenditure – Budget.~~

~~2.54.010 Purpose.~~
~~The purpose of the environmental review committee (ERC) is to facilitate compliance with RCW 36.70A.172 that requires cities to include best available science in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas.~~

~~2.54.020 Membership.~~
~~The ERC shall be composed of five members. Members of the ERC shall be selected based on their scientific training and experience in fields relating directly to aquatic biology, geology, ground water hydrology and soils science. At least one of the committee members shall be a professional engineer. Members shall be appointed by the city council for a term of three years. The initial appointments to the commission shall be staggered three-year terms. One member shall serve an initial term of one year; two members shall serve an initial term of two years and two members shall serve an initial term of three years.~~

~~2.54.030 Removal – Vacancies.~~
~~The committee may, by majority vote, recommend to the city council removal of an appointed member upon grounds as may be deemed appropriate. The city council, by majority vote, may remove an appointed member of the committee and declare the position vacant. Vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled for any unexpired term in the manner used for regular appointments.~~

~~2.54.040 Meetings, officers, records, and quorum.~~
~~The ERC shall elect its own chairperson and vice-chairperson. The ERC shall hold regular meetings no less than twice a year or as deemed necessary to fulfill the purpose of the committee. The ERC shall adopt rules for transaction of business and shall keep a record of its meetings, findings, and determinations, which record shall be open to public inspection. All meetings shall be open to the public to allow for public participation. A majority of the membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. In the event of a vacancy, quorum shall be a majority of the remaining members, however, not to be less than four members.~~

~~2.54.050 Duties.~~
~~ERC shall evaluate and monitor the sensitive area policies and regulations to determine whether they are effective and, if not, how they should be improved to effectively protect the functions and values of critical areas. The division of long range planning will assist in providing available scientific information on issue(s) under consideration to the ERC. ERC may consider any additional reliable scientific information on such issue(s). The ERC shall make recommendations, together with supporting documentation, to the planning commission.~~

~~**2.54.060 Expenditure – Budget.**~~
~~**The expenditures of the ERC, exclusive of gifts, shall be limited to appropriations made through, and approved by, the community and development services group of the city council for the planning function of the city. The services and facilities of the city's planning division may be utilized by the ERC in performing its duties.**~~

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect the day following its publication in the official newspaper of the City of Richland.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Richland, Washington, at a regular meeting on the 20th day of November, 2018.

ROBERT J. THOMPSON
Mayor

ATTEST:

MARCIA HOPKINS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

HEATHER KINTZLEY, City Attorney

Date Published: November 25, 2018